

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent**  
**St John of the Ladder**  
**Hebrews 6: 13 – 20      Mark 9: 17 – 31**

**Beatitude Verses**  
8 from Octoechos for Resurrection

**People:** In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.  
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth!  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled!  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

**Reader:** O Christ the Savior of the world, remember us as You remembered the robber on the Cross; and count us all worthy of Your heavenly kingdom, O You who alone are compassionate.

**People:** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!

**Reader:** Listen, O Adam, and rejoice with Eve; for he who of old stripped you both naked, and took all of us captive by deception, has been defeated by the Cross of Christ.

**People:** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God!

**Reader:** O our Savior, of Your own will You were nailed to the Tree of the Cross. You freed Adam from the curse which came through the tree of the fruit, and as You are compassionate, You rewarded Your creation made in Your image with a dwelling in paradise.

**People:** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

**Reader:** Today Christ is risen from the tomb, granting incorruption to all the faithful; and He renews the joy of the myrrh-bearing women after His suffering and resurrection.

**People:** Blessed are you when people revile you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake!

**Reader:** Rejoice, O wise myrrh-bearing women, who were first to behold the resurrection of Christ, and who proclaimed to the apostles the glad tidings of the restoration of the whole world!

**People:** Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven!

**Reader:** O apostles, you are manifestly the friends of Christ and are to be enthroned with Him in glory: entreat Him with boldness, that He intercede for us, for you are His disciples.

**People:** **Glory** to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** O Trinity without beginning, indivisible Essence, Unity equally enthroned, equal in honor and glory, transcendent Nature and Kingship: Save us who praise You with faith!

**People:** **Now** and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** Rejoice Theotokos, spacious habitation of God! Rejoice, ark of the new covenant! Rejoice, jar from which the heavenly Manna is given to all!

### ***Troparia & Kontakia***

#### **Resurrection Troparion Tone 8**

**People:**

You descended from the heights O Compassionate One,  
You accepted a three-day burial  
to free us from our passions,  
Glory to You O Lord, our Life and Resurrection.

#### **Troparion of St John of the Ladder Tone 1**

**People:**

O John our father, saint of God, /  
you were revealed as a citizen of the desert, /  
an angel in a body and a worker of miracles. /  
Through fasting, prayer and vigils /  
you have received heavenly gifts of grace, /  
and you heal the sick and the souls of those who turn to you with faith. /  
Glory to Him who gave you strength; /  
glory to Him who crowned you; //  
glory to Him who through You grants healing to all men.

**People:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Kontakion of St John of the Ladder**  
**Tone 4**

***People:***

Truly the Lord has set you as a fixed star in the sky of abstinence, /  
giving light to the ends of the earth, //  
O father John our teacher.

***People:*** Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Kontakion of the Resurrection**  
**Tone 8**

***People:***

Having risen from the tomb, You raised the dead /  
and resurrected Adam. /  
Eve also rejoices at Your Resurrection, /  
and the ends of the world celebrate Your arising from the dead //  
O Greatly-merciful Lord.

**Resurrection Prokeimenon**  
**Tone 8**

***Deacon:*** Let us attend.

***Priest:*** Peace be to all.

**Reader:** And to your spirit.

***Deacon:*** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone: Make your vows to the Lord Your God  
and keep them.

***People:*** Make your vows to the Lord Your God and keep them.

**Reader:** In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

***People:*** Make your vows to the Lord Your God and keep them.

**Reader:** Make your vows to the Lord Your God.

***People:*** And keep them.

***Deacon:*** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

**Epistle**  
**Hebrews 6: 13 – 20**

**Reader:** Brethren, God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless and multiply you." Thus, having patiently endured, Abraham obtained the promise. For mankind indeed swears by someone greater, and in every dispute they have, the oath is final to get things settled. In this way, being determined to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His purpose, God intervened with an oath. And so, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, may we have a strong encouragement, since we have sought refuge and taken hold of the hope set before us. We have this hope as an anchor of the soul, a hope which is both sure and solid. It reaches beyond the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Priest:** Peace be to you the reader.

**Reader:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Alleluiarion Tone 8**

**Reader:** Alleluia in the 8th Tone.

**People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Reader:** Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord; let us shout aloud to God our Savior.

**People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Reader:** Let us come before His face with thanksgiving, and let us shout aloud to Him with psalms.

**People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel**

**Deacon:** Bless Master, him who proclaims the Holy Gospel of the Holy, Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

**Priest:** May God, through the intercessions of the holy, glorious, all praised Apostle and Evangelist Mark, enable you to proclaim the Good News with great power, for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deacon:** Amen.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

**People:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**Priest:** Let us attend.

**Deacon:** **Mark 9: 17 – 31**

**People:** Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

## **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

Instead of "It is truly right..." we sing *All Creation Rejoices...*

**People:**

All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace: /  
the assembly of angels and the race of men. /  
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, /  
the glory of virgins, /  
from whom God was incarnate and became a child, /  
our God before the ages. /  
He made your body into a throne, /  
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. /  
All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace. //  
Glory to you.

## **Communion Verse (Koinonikon)**

**People:**

**Sunday:** Praise the Lord in the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

**Feast:** O you righteous, rejoice in the Lord; praise is worthy for the upright.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.