

3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS
HYMNS AND READINGS • MARCH 19, 2017

VERSES FOR THE BEATITUDES (Tone 6)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

(Resurrection) The myrrh-bearing women who came to the tomb heard an angel cry out: Christ, Who hath enlightened all things is risen!

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

(Resurrection) Together let us all hymn Christ, Who was nailed to the Cross and hath delivered the world from beguilement.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

(Resurrection) Thou hast crushed death, O Christ, and risen as a mighty King; Thou hast recalled us from the depths of hell and brought us to the land of immortality, granting us the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

(For the Cross) O ye faithful, let us cry aloud with joy and sing triumphantly to God, as we greet the Cross of the Lord; for it is a fountain of holiness to all those in the world.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

(For the Cross) The words of the Psalmist are fulfilled: for see, we bow before the footstool of Thy most pure feet, O Lord all-powerful, at Thy Precious Cross, the thrice-blessed Wood.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!

(For the Cross) O Ewe free from blemish, the greatest wonder of all wonders was revealed in thee: for thou hast borne the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Entreat Him fervently for those who sing thy praises.

TROPARION AND KONTAKION

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone VI —

The angelic powers were at thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by thy grave, / seeking thy most pure Body. / Thou didst capture hell, / not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, who didst rise from the dead: glory to thee!

Troparion of the Cross, Tone I —

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance! Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of thy Cross, // preserve thy habitation!

***Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.***

Kontakion of the Cross, Tone IV —

As thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, thy weapon of peace!

PROKEIMENON AND EPISTLE

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!

Verse: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

EPISTLE (*Hebrews 4:14-5:6*): *Brethren*, we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As *He* also *says* in another *place*: "You *are* a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"

Alleluia Verses:

(*Tone 8*) Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

(*Tone 8*) God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

GOSPEL (Mark 8:34-9:1): The Lord said, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God \present with power."

