

**16th Sunday after Pentecost; The Holy Priest-Martyr Cyprian; the Holy Martyr Justina; and the Holy Andrew, Fool for the Sake of Christ.**

*Text from [“The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship”](#); Pg. 353 (Tone 7)*

**Troparion (Tone 7):** By Your cross You destroyed death; You opened Paradise to the thief; You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, and charged the apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ our God, offering great mercy to the world.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.***

**Kontakion (Tone 7):** No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity, for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound. The prophets exult with one voice. The Savior has come for those with faith, saying: “Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!”

***Now and for ever and ever. Amen.***

**Theotokion (Tone 7):** O all-praised treasury of our resurrection, we hope in you, bring us up from the pit and depth of sins, for you have saved those subject to sin by giving birth to our Salvation, O Virgin before childbirth, and Virgin in childbirth, and still a Virgin after the childbirth.

**Prokimenon (Tone 7):** The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace (Ps 28:11).

*verse:* Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God; bring to the Lord young rams (Ps 28:1).

**Epistle: (2 Co 4:6-15) (Sunday):** *Brethren*, as we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Alleluia (Tone 7):** It is good to give praise to the Lord; and to sing in Your name, O Most High (Ps 91:2).

*verse:* To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night (Ps 91:3).

**Gospel: (Mt 25:14-30) (Sunday):** *The Lord spoke this parable:* a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). Alleluia! (3x)