17th Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Apostle James, Son of Alpheus

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 357 (Tone 8); Pg. 706 (St. James)

Troparion (Tone 8): You came down from on high, O Merciful One and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

Troparion (Tone 3): Holy apostle James, intercede with the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion (Tone 8): When You rose from the tomb You also raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your resurrection, and the ends of the world celebrate Your rising from the dead, O most merciful One.

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

Kontakion (Tone 2): With praises let us all extol James as a herald of God; he firmly planted the doctrines of wisdom in the souls of the godly. For he stands before the Master's throne of glory and rejoices with all the angels unceasingly praying for all of us.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion (Tone 8): To you, O Mother of God, the invincible leader, we, your servants, ascribe these victory hymns in thanksgiving for our deliverance from evil. With your invincible power free us from all dangers that we may cry out to you: "Hail, O Bride, and pure Virgin!"

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Pray and give praise to the Lord our God (Ps 75:12).

verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel (Ps 75:2).

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world (Ps 18:5).

Epistle: (**2Co 6:16-7:1**) (**Sunday**): *Brethren*, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.' Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Epistle: (**2Co 6:16-7:1**) (**Apostle**): *Brethren*, for I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day. I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me.

Alleluia (Tone 8): Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour (Ps.94:1).

verse: Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms (Ps.94:2).

verse: The heavens shall confess Your wonders, O Lord, and Your truth in the church of the saints (Ps 88:6).

Gospel: (Mt 15:21-28) (Sunday): At the time the Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Gospel: (Lk 10:16-21) (Apostle): *The Lord said to his disciple:* 'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.' The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1).

Second Communion Verse: Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world (Ps 18:5). Alleluia! (3x)