Seventh Sunday after Pentecost; The Holy Grand Prince Vladimir (Volodymyr) Equal to the Apostles Named Basil at Holy Baptism (1015) and the Holy Martyrs Cyricus and Julitta His Mother – July 15

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 349 & Pg. 860 (St. Volodymyr)

Troparion (**Tone 6**): Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,* glory be to You.

Troparion (Tone 4): You resembled the merchant who sought the pearl of great price,* O Vladimir, glorious in might:* seated on the throne of Kiev, the divinely saved mother of the cities of Rus',* as a seeker you sent envoys to the Imperial City to know the orthodox faith,* and found Christ the pearl, who chose you as another Paul,* and removed your blindness both spiritual and bodily in the holy font.* Therefore we, your people, feast your falling asleep.* Pray the leaders of Rus' be saved with those entrusted to them.

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

Kontakion (**Tone 6**): With his life-giving hand* Christ our God, the Giver of life,* raised all the dead from the murky abyss* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity.* He is for all the Saviour,* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 8): You emulated Paul the great apostle,* O glorious Vladimir;* late in life you abandoned your zeal for idols as childish thinking,* and as a full-grown man you were adorned with divine baptism's royal purple.* Standing with joy in the presence of Christ the Saviour,* pray that the leaders of Rus' may be saved with those entrusted to them.

Prokimenon (Tone 6): Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance (Ps 27:9).

verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence (Ps 27:1).

Prokimenon (Tone 3): Sing to our God, sing;* sing to our King, sing (Ps 46:7).

Epistle: (Romans 15:1-7) (Sunday): *Brethren*, we who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Epistle: (Galatians 1:11-19) (Saint): *Brethren*, I want you to know, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.

Alleluia (Tone 6):

verse: He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven (Ps.90:1).

verse: He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope (Ps 90:2).

verse: I have exalted one chosen from among My people (Ps 88:20).

verse: Indeed, My hand shall sustain him, and My arm shall make him strong (Ps 88:22).

Gospel: (Matthew 9:27-35) (Sunday): At that time as Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then he touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith let it be done to you.' And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, 'See that no one knows of this.' But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district. After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, 'Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.' But the Pharisees said, 'By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.' Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

Gospel: (John 10:1-8) (Saint): The Lord said: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

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

Second Communion Verse: The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear (Ps 111:6-7). Alleluia! (3x)