

The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross September 17, 2023

Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope

The First Antiphon

O God, my God, attend to me; why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

My God, I will cry by day, and wilt Thou not hearken? And by night, and it shall not be unto folly for me. But as for Thee, Thou dwellest in the sanctuary, O Praise of Israel. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

The Second Antiphon

O God, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end? Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast crucified in the flesh; who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

This is Mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt. (*Refrain*)

God is our King before the ages. He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... Only begotten Son and Word of God...

The Third Antiphon

The Lord reigneth, let the people rage; He sitteth upon the cherubim, let the earth be shaken. The Lord is great in Zion; and He is high above all peoples. Let them confess Thy great Name, for it is terrible and holy. (*then sing the troparion of the Holy Cross*)

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, and to thy faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion of the Holy Cross (Tone 4)

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Prokeimenon

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Epistle

Galatians 2:16-20

BRETHREN, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Holy Gospel

Mark 8: 34 – 9: 1

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the

holy angels.” And He said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power.”

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke

Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, Katherine, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Sagi, Sky, Carol, Natalia, Alexander, Anthony, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, John, Dominick, Yina, Michael, Debra, Lauren, Yanni, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

Departed:

Online Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 20, at 8 PM. We will begin a study of Old Testament saints. We will begin with Evening Prayer and then proceed to our study. Look for the Zoom link in your email.

The Synaxarion. On September 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross; and we commemorate the Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope. This blessed family lived and suffered in Rome during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. Sophia was wise, as her name implies; she was widowed, and had established herself and her daughters well in the Christian Faith. When Hadrian’s persecuting hand extended over the virtuous home of Sophia, Faith was only twelve years old; Hope, ten; and Love, nine. Brought before the emperor, these four held each other’s hands “like a woven wreath,” humbly but steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan idol Artemis. Before their suffering, the mother encouraged her daughters to endure to the end: “Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and eternal life. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars.” The torturers inflicted cruel torments on each daughter and killed them. Sophia took the bodies of her daughters and honorably buried them. She remained at their grave for three days and nights, praying to God. Then she gave her spirit to God, flying off to Paradise, where the blessed souls of her daughters awaited her. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Thank you to Mike Zarou for his gift of olive-wood crosses from Jerusalem to those who attended last Sunday. What a wonderful and generous way to help us celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Thank you to Presbytera Vicki and Lisa Hamm for providing the basil for the Procession of the Holy Cross this past Wednesday evening.

Thank you to all who brought such tasty food for our potluck last Sunday!



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate

Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village

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