

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

July 19, 2020 • Plagal of the First Tone • Eothinon 6

VENERABLE MACRINA, SISTER OF BASIL THE GREAT • VENERABLE DIOS OF ANTIOCH
THEODORE, ARCHBISHOP OF EDESSA • UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF VENERABLE SERAPHIM OF SAROV
• HOLY STEPHEN LAZAREVIC, SERBIAN PRINCE & HOLY MILITSA HIS MOTHER

On July 19th in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Macrina, sister of Basil the Great; Venerable Dios of Antioch; Theodore, archbishop of Edessa; Venerable Seraphim of Sarov; Holy Stephen Lazarevic, Serbian Prince and Holy Militsa, his mother. On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

THE HOLY FATHERS were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites (*mono*, meaning *one* and *physis*, meaning *nature*), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

FIRST ANTIPHON: PSALM 91

V. It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy Name, O Most High.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

V. To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

V. Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

SECOND ANTIPHON: PSALM 92

*V. The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty;
the Lord is clothed with strength and hath girt Himself.*

O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto Thee, Alleluia.

V. For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

V. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

HYMN OF ST. JUSTINIAN

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, Who art immortal, Thou didst take on Thee for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change wast made man; and wast crucified also, O Christ our God; and by Thy death hath Death subdued: Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit. O, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON: APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION

Plagal of the First Tone

V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us shout with jubilation unto God our Saviour.

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE GOSPEL

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

~ the Apolytikion of the Resurrection is now chanted again. ~

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Fourth Tone

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, you succeeded to their throne; inspired by God you found the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith to the very shedding of your blood. O holy Martyr among bishops, Ignatius, entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

Second Tone

O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the Mediatrix who was unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honour thee.

TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(thrice)*
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

THE EPISTLE

for the Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Blessed are You , O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

V. For You are just in all You have done.

Titus 3:8-15

TITUS, MY SON, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V. O God, we have heard with our ears.

V. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

for the Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Matthew 5:14-19

THE LORD SAID to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

MEGALYNARION

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

KOINONIKON

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.

V. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.

V. Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts.

V. Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

V. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Alleluia.