

## Sunday September 3, 2017

### Third Hour

*Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4*

When the women Disciples of the Lord  
learned from the Angel the joyous message  
of the Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the Apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Spirit*

*Troparion for Venerable Theoctistus – Tone 8*

By a flood of tears you made the desert  
fertile,  
and your longing for God brought forth fruits  
in abundance.  
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the  
whole universe!  
Our Father Theoctistus, pray to Christ God  
to save our souls!

*(continue with 3<sup>rd</sup> hour at “Now and ever ...”)*

*Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 4*

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the  
earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

### Sixth Hour:

*Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4*

When the women Disciples of the Lord  
learned from the Angel the joyous message  
of the Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the Apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Spirit*

*Troparion for Hieromartyr Anthimus – Tone 4*

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue,  
you found the way to divine contemplation,  
O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error,  
you defended the Faith, even to the  
shedding of your blood.  
Hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God to  
save our souls.

*(continue with 6th hour at “Now and ever ...”)*

*Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 4*

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the  
earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

Priest: Let us attend! +Peace be unto all!

**Reader: And with your spirit!**

Priest: Wisdom!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

**Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.**

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

**Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!**

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

**Reader: O Lord, how manifold are Your works; ...**

Choir: ... in wisdom have You made them all.

Deacon: Wisdom!

**Reader: The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.**

Deacon: Let us attend!

**Reader: Brothers and sisters, Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! Let all that you do be done in love.**

Now I beg you, brethren (you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to serve the saints), that you also be in service to people like this, and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus; for what was lacking on your part, they supplied. They refreshed my spirit and yours; show therefore your appreciation to such people.

The Churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the Church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss!

This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Priest: † Peace be to you.

Alleluia: Tone 4

**Reader: And to Your spirit. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Reader: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Reader: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Great Vespers –	Divine Liturgy –
<p>May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hieromartyr Anthimus</i> <i>Venerable Theoctistus</i></p> <p>whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.</p>	<p>May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople; of</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hieromartyr Anthimus</i> <i>Venerable Theoctistus</i></p> <p>whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.</p>

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*Gospel: (87) – Matthew 21:33-42*

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**Announcements:**

***Guests – we are honored by your presence and thank you for praying with us! Please join us in our fellowship hour, sign our guest book, and if interested in being a regular part of our community, please see me.***

***Please sign up to straighten up after the Liturgy and Coffee Hour.***

***Please mark your calendar and Save the Date!***

*September 16, 4 to 6:00 PM*

*OCF Welcome Picnic*

*Brookside Park – Maple Shelter closest to the Parking Lot off 6<sup>th</sup> Street.*

***Sign up to Clean up***

*Please sign up to clean and straighten up after our fellowship hour. Not a “deep clean” – just make sure any remaining food is removed and either given to someone to take home or thrown away, that the carpet is vacuumed, and that the tables are wiped down.*

***Little Food Pantry***

*We have our little food pantry and can accept non-perishable food items, as well as household and personal care items. Our friends at UCC Ames will be joining us in keeping the pantry stocked. See Jackie Bayouth for information on contributing.*

## Hieromartyr Anthimus the Bishop of Nicomedia

The Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian and Maximian. The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians of setting the fire and reacted against them with terrible ferocity.

In Nicomedia alone, on the day of the Nativity of Christ, as many as twenty thousand Christians were burned inside a church. However, this monstrous inhumanity did not frighten the Christians, who firmly confessed their faith and endured martyrdom for Christ.

Bishop Anthimus, who headed the Church of Nicomedia, hid himself in a village not far from Nicomedia at the request of his flock. From there he sent letters to the Christians, urging them to cleave firmly to the holy Faith and not to fear tortures.

One of his letters, sent with Deacon Theophilus, was intercepted and given to the emperor Maximian. Theophilus was interrogated and died under torture, without revealing to his torturers the whereabouts of Bishop Anthimus. After a while Maximian managed to learn where Saint Anthimus was, and sent a detachment of soldiers after him.

The bishop met them along the way, but the soldiers did not recognize the saint. He invited them to join him and provided a meal, after which he revealed that he was the one they sought. The soldiers did not know what to do. They wanted to leave him and tell the emperor that they had not found him. Bishop Anthimus was not one to tolerate a lie, and so he would not consent to this.

The soldiers came to believe in Christ and received holy Baptism. The saint ordered them to carry out the emperor's instructions. When Bishop Anthimus was brought before the emperor, the emperor ordered that the instruments of execution be brought out and placed before him. "Do you think, emperor, to frighten me with these tools of execution?" asked the saint. "No indeed, you cannot frighten one who wishes to die for Christ! Execution is frightening only for the cowardly, for whom the present life is most precious." The emperor then directed that the saint be fiercely tortured and beheaded by the sword.

Bishop Anthimus joyfully glorified God with his last breath, and received the crown of martyrdom.

May we who follow Christ, through the prayers of St. Anthimus and the other martyrs of Nicomedia, remain bold and fearless before the rulers of this world.