

**Sunday, October 22, 2023 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Wonderworker and Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bishop of Hieropolis (c. 200). Holy Father John Paul II, Pope.**

*Troparia and Kontakia Troparion, Tone 4:* When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel\* the glorious news of the resurrection\* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,\* they proudly told the apostles:\* “Death has been plundered!\* Christ our God is risen,\* granting to the world great mercy.”

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

*Kontakion, Tone 4:* My Savior and Deliverer from the grave\* as God raised out of bondage the children of the earth\* and shattered the gates of Hades;\* and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Theotokion, Tone 4:* By your birth, O immaculate one,\* Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness,\* and Adam and Eve\* from the corruption of death.\* And your people, redeemed from the guilt of their sins,\* celebrate as they cry out to you:\* “The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God\* and nourisher of our life.”

*Prokeimenon, Tone 4* How great are Your works, O Lord\* You have made all things in wisdom. *verse:* Bless the Lord, O my soul: O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great. (*Psalms 103:24,1*)

*Epistle – A reading of Paul to the Galatians: Galatians 2:16-20 (NRSV)*  
*Brothers and Sisters,* we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is 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.

### ***Alleluia, Tone 4***

*verse:* Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice.

*verse:* You have loved justice and hated iniquity. (*Psalm 44:5,8*)

### ***Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (NRSV)***

*The Lord spoke this parable:* “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that ‘looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

### ***Communion Hymn***

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalm 148:1*)