

her because she was not washed with the waters of holy Baptism and not sealed with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Catherine returned again to the elder deeply saddened, and after being instructed by him in the faith of Christ, she was baptized. And again Saint Catherine had a vision of the Mother of God with her Child. Now the Lord looked tenderly at her and gave her a ring—a wondrous gift of the heavenly Bridegroom.

At this time the emperor Maximinus was himself in Alexandria for a pagan feast day. Human victims were brought—because they consigned to death in the fire the confessors in Christ, those not recanting from him under torture. The saint’s love for the Christian martyrs and her fervent desire to lighten their fate impelled Catherine to go to the emperor Maximinus. Introducing herself, the saint confessed her faith in the one true God. In order to convince her and show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor gave orders to gather 50 of the most learned men (rhetoricians) of the empire, but the saint got the better of the wise men, such that they themselves came to believe in Christ. Saint Catherine shielded the martyrs with the sign of the cross, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burnt by order of the emperor.

Maximinus, no longer hoping to convince the saint, tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Having received an angry refusal, the emperor gave orders to subject the saint to terrible tortures and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the saint, wanted to see her. Having prevailed upon the military-commander Porphyry to accompany her with a detachment of soldiers, Augusta went to the prison. The empress was impressed by the strong spirit of St. Catherine, whose face glowed with Divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian teaching to them, and they in believing were converted to Christ.

The next day St Catherine was again brought to the judgement court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, they urged that she recant from the Christian faith. The saint confessed Christ and she herself approached the wheels; but an angel smashed the instruments of execution. The empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyry with 200 soldiers then confessed their faith in Christ in front of everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximinus again tried to entice the holy martyr, proposing marriage to her, and again he received a refusal. St. Catherine firmly confessed her fidelity to Christ, and with a prayer to him she herself put her head on the block under the sword of the executioner. The relics of St. Catherine were taken by the angels to Mount Sinai. In the 9th or 10th century, through a revelation, the incorrupt relic of the holy martyress were found and transferred with honour to the church of Sinai monastery. To this day, the Great Martyr’s venerable head and left hand are presented for veneration at the Holy Monastery at Sinai. (*Source: Orthodox Wiki Saints*)

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British
Isles and Ireland
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East**

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Tone 7.

**24th Sunday after Pentecost and 9th Sunday of Luke; Afterfeast of the
Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple; Amphilochius, Bishop of
Iconium; Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum; Dionysios, Patriarch of
Constantinople; Ischyriion, Bishop of Egypt; Sisinius the Confessor**

**Epistle Reading
Ephesians (2:14-22)**

Prokeimenon in Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength unto His people, the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.

Verse: Bring unto the Lord, O ye sons of God, bring young rams unto the Lord; bring unto the Lord glory and honour.

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that He might create in Himself of the two one new man, thus making peace, and might reconcile them both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby having slain the enmity in Himself, and He came and preached peace to you, to those who were far off and to those who were near, for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Now therefore you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, fitly framed together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Thy name, O Most High.

Verse 2: To proclaim Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth every night.

Gospel Reading
Luke (12:16-21)

At that time, Jesus told them a parable, saying, “The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. He thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!’ Then the man said, ‘This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. Then I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward God.”



Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 7.

By Thy Cross, thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open paradise! For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping in to joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, grating the world greaty mercy.

The Entrance of the Theotokos
Troparion

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.

St Martin the Merciful
Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen
Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

The Entrance of the Theotokos
Kontakion

The most pure temple of the Saviour, the very precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She bringeth with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

St Katherine of Alexandria (25 November)

The holy and glorious Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria was the daughter of the governor of Alexandrian Egypt, Constatas, during the reign of the emperor Maximinus (305-313), and she suffered for her Lord in the year 305.

Catherine received a most splendid of educations, having studied the works of the finest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Catherine, but none of them was chosen. She declared to her parents that she would be agreeable to enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in illustriousness, wealth, comeliness, and wisdom.

Catherine’s mother, a secret Christian, sent her for advice to her own spiritual father—a saintly elder pursuing prayerful deeds in solitude in a cave not far from the city. Having listened to Catherine, the elder said that he knew of a youth who surpassed her in everything, such that “His beauty was more radiant than the shining of the sun, his wisdom governed all creation, his riches were spread throughout all the world—this however did not diminish but rather added to the inexpressible loftiness of his lineage.” The image of the heavenly Bridegroom produced in the soul of the holy maiden an ardent desire to see him. Truth, to which her soul yearned, revealed it to her. In parting, the elder handed Catherine an icon of the Mother of God with the God-Child Jesus on her arm and bid her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven—the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom—for the bestowing of the vision of Her Son.

Catherine prayed all night and was given to see the Most Holy Virgin, who sent her divine Son to look upon the kneeling of Catherine before Them. But the Child turned his face away from her saying, that he was not able to look at