

churches, and a bright Christian future for the Rus' people.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra from where the Apostle preached throughout all Achaia. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness and Maximilla and Stratokles, the wife and brother of the governor of Patra, were healed. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle, and his fiery sermons enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra, bringing them to the True Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeates. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeates. Caring only for the prefect's salvation, the holy Apostle appealed to him with love and humility, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of eternal life, through the lifegiving power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

Saint Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution saying, "O, good Cross, made beautiful by the body of my Lord. So long desired, so anxiously loved, so unceasingly sought after, and now at last ready for my soul to enjoy! Take me from amidst men, and restore me to my Master, that by you He may receive me, who by you redeemed me."

In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeates gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to an X-shaped cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take the saint down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeates gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. It was the year 62 AD.

Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honour, and lived out the remainder of her days in faith.

The saint's relics and cross are now venerated in the magnificent church of Saint Andrew in Patra at the place of his martyrdom.

(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 8.

**They Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called; Frumentios, Archbishop
and Englightener of Ethiopia; Alexander, Bishop of Methymna.**

**Epistle Reading
I Corinthians 4:9-16**

Prokeimenon in Tone 8

His voice has gone forth into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the Glory of God.

Brethren, God has revealed us, the apostles, last of all, as those appointed to death; for we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are glorified, but we are dishonored. Even to this present hour we both hunger and thirst, we are naked, and are buffeted, and are restless; and we labor, working with our own hands. While reviled, we bless; while persecuted, we endure, while blasphemed, we exhort; we have become the filth of the world and the off-scouring of all things, even until now.

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children; for though you have a myriad of tutors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for I begat you in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I beseech you, therefore, be imitators of me.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders O Lord.

Verse 2: God is glorified in the council of His saints.

Gospel Reading
John (1:35-51)

At that time, John was standing with two of his disciples. He looked at Jesus as he was walking by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they began to follow Jesus. Turning and seeing them following, Jesus asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" Jesus said to them, "Come and see!" They came therefore and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. (It was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John and who began to follow Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother, Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which translated means Christ). And Andrew brought him to Jesus who looked at him, and said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Kephas" (which translated means Peter). On the next day, being determined to go out into Galilee, Jesus met Philip and said to him, "Follow me!" Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!" Nathanael asked him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see!" As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, he said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!" Jesus said to him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" He said to Philip, "Amen, amen, I tell you; hereafter, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."



Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 8.

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

Apostle Andrew
Troparion

O Andrew, first-called of the Apostles, and brother of the foremost disciple, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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!

Preparation of Christ's Nativity
Kontakion

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

Apostle Andrew

Andrew was a fisherman by trade, born in Bethsaida. A disciple of John the Forerunner, he left St. John to follow Jesus Christ following his baptism and brought along his brother, the Apostle Peter. Both are numbered among the Twelve Great Apostles. After Pentecost, the lot fell to St. Andrew to preach in: (i) Byzantium, where he appointed St. Stachys as its first bishop, (ii) Thrace, Peloponnese, Greece, and Epirus, where he converted many to the Faith and ordained bishops and priests for them, (iii) Georgia, which he entered from Ajara, preached Christianity in Atsquri, built small church there and left miracle-working icon of Theotokos, (iv) Rus' lands, where he planted a cross on one of the high hills of Kiev, and prophesied a city that would have many golden-domed