

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

Charity number: 1192469

Sunday 24 May 2026. Issue 30.

Tone 6

**Sunday of the Afterfeast of the Ascension; Commemoration of the
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Venerable Stylites Simeon the Younger of the Mountain of Wonders
and Nikitas of Pereyaslavl-Zalesski; Martyr Meletios the General of
Galatia and the Martyrs with him; Venerable Vincent of Lerins;
Saint Gregory, Archbishop of Novgorod; Saint Cyriacus of
Evrychou, Cyprus; Saint Agatharchus, Bishop of Lefkada, and the
Holy Five God-bearing Fathers**

**Epistle Reading
Acts (20:16-18, 28-36)**

Prokeimenon in Tone IV

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Your name for ever. **Verse:** For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not

cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: The God of gods, the Lord hath spoken, and He hath called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the setting thereof. **Verse 2:** Gather together unto Him his holy ones who have established His covenant upon sacrifices.

Gospel Reading John (17:1-13)

Jesus said these things, and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, “Father, the time has come! Glorify your Son, so that your Son may also glorify you, even as you gave him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. This is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified you on the earth! I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do! Now, Father, glorify me with yourself with the glory I had with you before the world existed. I have revealed your Name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me; they have kept your word. Now they have known that all things you have given me are from you. The words you have given me, I have given to them. They have received them and they have known for certain that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them; I do not pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but

these are [still] in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your Name which you have given me, so that they may be one, even as we are [one]. While I was with them in the world, I protected them in your Name. Those whom you have given me I have kept. None of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, so that they may have my joy made full in themselves.

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 6.

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Troparion

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God! Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Ascension Troparion

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

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!

**Ascension
Kontakion**

When thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, in no way parted from those who love thee but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you.

Weekday service

Saturday 30 May, 9:30am

**Saturday of Souls, Hours and Holy Liturgy, St Martin's
Church.**