

**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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Sunday 23 August 2026. Issue 43.

Tone 3

**Leavetaking of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos; Saint
Lupus; Holy Hieromartyrs Irenaeus and Pothinus, Bishops of Lyons;
Saint Irenaeus, Bishop of Sirmium; Venerable Callinicus, Patriarch
of Constantinople; Thirty-Eight Holy Martyrs of Thrace; Saint
Anthony, Bishop of Sardis; Venerable Nicholas of Sicily; Venerable
Charalambos of Kalyvia; Translation of the Holy Relics of
Venerable Cassian**

**Epistle Reading
I Corinthians (15:1-11)**

Prokeimenon in Tone III

Sing praises unto our God, sing praises, sing praises unto our King,
sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all ye nations, shout unto God with the voice
of gladness.

Brethren, I make known to you the gospel which I preached to you,
which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you also
are saved, if you hold fast to the words which I preached to you, unless
you believed in vain. For I handed over to you first of all that which
was also handed over to me: that Christ died for our sins according
to the Scriptures; and that He was buried; and that He rose again the
third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen by Cephas;
then by the twelve; after that, He was seen by more than five hundred
brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain until present, but
some have fallen asleep; after that, He was seen by James, then by all
the apostles; and last of all, as to one born out of due time, He was

also seen by me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am; and His grace, which was bestowed on me, was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than them all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it was I or they, so we preach, and so you believed.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed, deliver me in Thy righteousness.

Verse 2: Be Thou unto me as God, protector and a house of refuge in order to save me.

Gospel Reading Matthew (19:16-26)

At that time, a man came to Jesus and asked, “Good teacher, what good thing shall I do in order to have eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” The man asked him, “Which ones?” Jesus replied, “You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother; and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man then said to him, “All these things I have observed from my youth! What do I still lack?” Jesus replied, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have [a] treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me!” But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad because he was a person with great possessions. Jesus said to his disciples, “Amen I say to you: it will be hard for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Indeed, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.” When his disciples heard this, they were extremely astonished and said, “Who then can be saved?” Gazing at them, Jesus answered, “By human resources, this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!”



Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 3.

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world 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!

The Dormition Kontakion

Neither the grave nor death had power over the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in intercession and whose protection is an unchanging hope; for being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

Beheading of St John the Forerunner (29 August)

John the Baptist, also known as the Forerunner, prepared the way for Christ through his preaching, ascetic life, and by baptising Him. A

cousin of Christ through his mother Elizabeth, he became one of the most revered saints of the Orthodox Church. He was later beheaded by Herod at the request of Herodias and Salome.

The Prophet Isaiah foretold his coming. His father, Zacharias, was a priest, and his mother, Elizabeth, was of the family of Aaron, giving John priestly authority to baptise. His birth, six months before Christ's, was announced by an angel, and Zacharias regained his speech at John's circumcision.

A Nazarite from birth, John lived an austere life in the Judean wilderness, wearing simple clothing and eating locusts and wild honey. As an adult he preached repentance, condemned hypocrisy and injustice, and baptised thousands in the Jordan.

Jesus came from Galilee to be baptised by John, "to fulfil all righteousness." After this, John continued to testify that Jesus was the Messiah, calling Him "the Lamb of God," before being imprisoned by Herod for condemning his unlawful marriage. John was beheaded at Machaerus, and his disciples buried him before informing Jesus.

Christ described John as "a burning and a shining light." He is regarded as the last of the Old Testament prophets, bridging the Old and New Covenants. Orthodox tradition also holds that after his death he descended into Hades to proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

Source: Orthodox Wiki

Holy Liturgy this week

Saturday 29 August, 9:30am

Beheading of the Forerunner, St Martin's Church.