

**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 18 October 2026. Issue 51.

Tone 3

Saint Luke the Apostle and Evangelist; Saint Marinus the Elder, Martyr; Venerable Julian of the Euphrates River; the Holy Forty Children; Saints Gabriel and Kyrmidoles, the New Martyrs of Egypt; Venerable Symeon and Theodore, Founders of the Monastery of the Great Cave, and Venerable Euphrosyne the Shepherdess; Saint Mnason, Bishop of Cyprus

**Epistle Reading
Colossians (4:5-11, 14-18)**

Prokeimenon in Tone VIII

Their proclamation has gone forth into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands!

Brethren, walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every one. All my state shall Tychicos make known to you, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that he might know your state, and comfort your hearts; together with Onésimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known to you all things that are done here. My fellow-prisoner, Aristarchos, salutes you, and Mark, the nephew of Barnabas (from whom you received commandments: if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus, who is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of

God, and they have become a comfort to me. Epaphrás, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, salutes you, always striving for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness, that he has a great zeal for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas salute you. Salute the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church that is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, make sure that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. And say to Archippos; “Behold the ministry which you have received in the Lord, so that you may fulfil it”. The salutation by my hand, Paul! Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Alleluia.

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

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

Gospel Reading Luke (10:16-21)

The Lord said: “Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!” Jesus said to them, “I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight.”

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.

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke Troparion

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke, the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles; for his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ. He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities. He heals the wounds of our souls, and constantly intercedes for our salvation.

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!

Theotokos Kontakion

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant; O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee. Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honour thee.

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Saint Luke, the author of the Third Gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, was of Greek origin and was born in the Hellenistic city of Antioch in Syria. He was extremely well educated, studying Greek philosophy, medicine and art in his youth, and he practised as a physician. He is numbered among the Seventy Apostles. He came to Jerusalem, where he came to believe in the Lord, and together with Cleopas he met the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

After Pentecost he returned to Antioch and worked with the Apostle Paul, travelling with him to Rome and bringing Jews and pagans to the Christian faith. Paul writes to the Colossians, “Luke, the beloved physician, . . . greets you” (Colossians 4:14). At the request of the Christians, Saint Luke wrote his Gospel in the first century. After the martyrdom of Saint Paul he preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia and other regions. In his old age he visited Libya and Upper Egypt, and then returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and to convert many with great zeal despite his years. Besides his Gospel he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and he dedicated both works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia.

Saint Luke painted icons of the Most Holy Theotokos, not one but three, as well as icons of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and for this reason he is regarded as the founder of Christian iconography. The first of these, the icon of the Theotokos known as the Directress, or Hodigitria, is mentioned in the Small Paraklesis.

At the age of eighty-four, the Evangelist was tortured by idolaters for the sake of Christ and hanged from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Boeotia. His relics were carried to Constantinople in the fourth century, in the reign of the Emperor Constantius, and in 1204 the crusaders of the Fourth Crusade took them to Padua in Italy.

Source: Adapted from OrthodoxWiki

Holy Liturgy this week

Saturday 24 October, 9:30am

St Demetrius (Saturday of Souls), St Martin's Church.