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 1 November 2026. Issue 53.

Tone 5
Saints Cosmas and Damian the Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers; Saint Theodota, their mother; Venerable David of Euboea; Saint Helen the Virgin-martyr of Sinope; Saints Cyriaena and Juliana; Saints Caesarius and Dasius and the five Martyrs with them, Sabbas, Sabinian, Agrippa, Adrian and the infant Thomas; Saints John the Bishop and James the Presbyter; Saint Hermenegild; Venerable-Martyr James of Kastoria and his two disciples, James the Deacon and Dionysius the Monk; Saint David the Grand Komnenos, the New Martyr, with his sons Basil, George and Manuel and his nephew Alexius; Saint Theolepte; Saints Cyprian and Juliana; Saint Cosmas of Verkhoturye

Epistle Reading
I Corinthians (12:27-13:8)

Prokeimenon in Tone IV

To the saints that are in His earth, the Lord has shown the wonders of all His will in them.
Verse: I have set the Lord before me at all times; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Brethren, you are the body of Christ, and severally members of it. And God has these in the church, first apostles; second prophets; third teachers; then powers; then gifts of healings, for relief-workers, for administrators, and for speakers in diverse tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of powers? Do all have the gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And moreover I will show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become a sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions for the nourishment of others, and if I give up my body to be burned that I may boast, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long, and is kind; love does not envy; love does not show off, and does not puff up; it does not behave unseemly; it does not seek its own; it is not easily provoked; it does not think evil; it does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing for ever; from generation to generation shall I proclaim Thy truth with my mouth.
Verse 2: For Thou hast said, "Mercy shall be built up forever." Thy truth shall be established in the heavens.

Gospel Reading
Luke (16:19-31)

Now there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, who desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame!' But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from

there to us.' He said, 'I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.' Abraham replied to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!' But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.'

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 5.

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian
Troparion

Holy unmercenaries and wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities. Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

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 Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian

Saints Cosmas and Damian were brothers and physicians from Asia Minor. Their pagan father died while they were small children, and their mother, Saint Theodota, raised them in Christian piety, reading the holy books to them. The Holy Spirit gave them the gift of healing body and soul through prayer, and they treated animals as well as people. They never accepted payment, keeping Christ's command: "Freely you have received, freely give." Their fame spread through the region, and people called them the unmercenary physicians.

When they healed a gravely ill woman named Palladia, whom other doctors had turned away, she offered Damian three eggs, invoking the Holy Trinity, and because of this he dared not refuse them. Cosmas grieved, believing his brother had broken their vow, and on his deathbed asked not to be buried beside him. When Damian died soon afterwards and people disputed his burial, a camel which the brothers had once treated for its wildness spoke with a human voice, saying that Damian should be buried beside Cosmas, since he had accepted the eggs out of reverence for the Name of God and not as payment. Their relics were buried together at Thereman in Mesopotamia, and many miracles were reported after their deaths. They are venerated as protectors of Christian marriage and givers of harmony in married life, and their veneration reached Russia in ancient times.

Source: Adapted from OrthodoxWiki

No Weekday service this week