

## LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

*The Placing of the Honorable Sash of the Most-Holy Theotokos;  
Cyprian the Hieromartyr & Bishop of Carthage; Gennadius Scholarus,  
Patriarch of Constantinople; Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne*

### FIRST ANTIPHON

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy Name, Most High!  
**Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**  
To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy and Thy truth by night. **(Refrain)**  
Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. **(Refrain)**  
Glory...Both now...**(Refrain)**

### SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord is King; He is clothed with majesty! The Lord is clothed with strength  
and hath girt Himself.  
**Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing  
to Thee. Alleluia!**  
For He established the world which shall not be shaken. **(Refrain)**  
Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days. **(Refrain)**  
Glory...Both now...O Only-begotten Son...

- During the Little Entrance, chant the Apolytikion of the Resurrection.  
Then, the following Entrance Hymn:

### ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God,  
**Who art risen from the dead**; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

- After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below:

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty  
act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the  
first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades,  
granting the world the Great Mercy.

### APOLYTIKION FOR PLACING OF THE VIRGIN'S SASH (TONE 8)

Thou hast bestowed upon thy city, O ever-virgin Theotokos and shelter of  
mankind, the robe and the belt of thy pure body, as a secure mantle, which by  
thy seedless birth-giving have remained without corruption; for by thee are  
nature and time regenerated. Wherefore, we implore thee to grant thy city  
safety, and our souls the Great Mercy.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock, as a rule of faith, a model of meekness  
and a teacher of self-control. Therefore, you have won the heights by humility,  
riches by poverty. Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God  
that our souls may be saved.

### KONTAKION FOR PLACING OF THE VIRGIN'S SASH (TONE 2)

Thy precious sash, O Theotokos, which encompassed thy God-receiving  
womb, is an invincible force for thy flock, and an unfailing treasury of every  
good, O only Ever-virgin Mother.

### TRISAGION HYMN

**English:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
**Arabic:** Qudduson ullah, Qudduson ulqawi, Qudduson ullahdhi, la yamut  
urhamna.  
**Greek:** Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas.  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto  
ages of ages. Amen.* Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

### THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior.  
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His servant.*

### *Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (9:1-7)*


Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an  
earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were  
the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the  
Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies,  
having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on  
all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and  
Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the  
cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we  
cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the  
priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but  
into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not  
without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the  
people.

*Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (19:16-26)*

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, 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 said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

**SYNAXARION**

On August 31, we commemorate the Placing of the Sash of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos in Constantinople's Halkoprateia district during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. At her Dormition, the Most Holy Mother of God left her Sash to the Apostle Thomas. This Sash was later taken to Constantinople and kept there in a sealed casket in the church of the Mother of God at Blachernae. This casket was never opened until the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise (886- 912). Leo's wife, the Empress Zoë, was taken sick in soul and, as the result of a mysterious vision, desired that the Sash of the holy Theotokos be placed upon her. The Emperor asked the Patriarch, who opened the casket and found the Sash completely whole and undamaged by time. The Sash was taken out and placed upon the sick Empress, who immediately recovered. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, and then returned the venerable Sash back into the casket and resealed it.



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Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.