

## THE 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS, BISHOP OF SINOPE  
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLE CODRATUS,

Whose Feast is transferred to this Day from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September because of the  
Apodosis of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross.

### AT VESPERS

At "Lord, I have cried ...," six Stichera; three to the Apostle, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Called from on high ...":

**O** glorious Codratus, as a sacred hierarch, as a divine preacher, as a divinely chosen witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a co-heir of the ineffable glory which is to be revealed, thou didst all-wisely preach the sacred Gospel, O most sacred one, and with light guided those who are in the darkness of ignorance. Wherefore, joyously keeping festival, we honor thy most sacred and holy memory, O blessed God-bearer.

**H**aving most gloriously been taught divine things, like the sun thou didst traverse the earth in the lightning flashes of thy preaching, O initiate of the sacred mysteries, and enlightening the souls of those who were in darkness, thou didst thus drive away the prince of darkness and his terrible demons, who could not endure the radiance, or the divine grace, or the all-accomplishing activity of the Spirit which dwelt within thee, O sacred hierarch Codratus, blessed intercessor for those who praise thee.

**S**trengthened by thy confession of God, and adorned with the beauties of wounds, thou wast driven from thine Athenian flock by wicked men, O all-blessed one, but like a saving spring thou didst water the earth and show forth as fertile the hearts of those who before were frozen by the darkness of vanity, in that thou art an apostle and a disciple of Christ, O most sacred and true hierarch Codratus, thou supplicant on behalf of those who praise thee.

And three Stichera to the Hieromartyr, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven ...":

**H**aving cast down the vanity of idols \* by thy sacred discourse, \* thou didst make steadfast unstable hearts by faith, \* and guide them to life, O hierarch, \* and having suffered under the law, \*\* thou didst become a martyr of the Lord, O Phocas.

**H**aving dyed thy sacred vesture \* in the blood of thy sacred body, O most sacred father, \* thou didst truly receive from Christ a twofold crown, \* O all-blessed one, \* and with the angels thou dost hold chorus in the heavens, \*\* praying that we be saved.

**T**hou didst illumine the whole world \* with the rays of thy miracles, O father; \* ever helping those who are at sea, \* and dispelling the carnal weakness of every soul, \* having received grace from the Lord, \*\* O divinely blessed martyr Phocas.

Glory ..., in Tone IV, the composition of Cyprian the Studite:

**F**rom thy childhood thou didst love the Lord, O all-blessed Phocas, wise hieromartyr, for, taking the weapon of the Cross upon thy shoulders, thou didst unwaveringly travel the path of salvation, and by Him thou wast revealed to be a co-dweller with the angels, an opponent of the demons, and a most radiant intercessor for the world.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion; or this Stavrotheotokion in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel: "Called from on high ...":

**Stavrotheotokion:** "Lament not for Me, O Mother, \* beholding Me thy Son and God hanging upon the Tree, \* Who hath suspended the earth upon the waters unsupported, \* and hath fashioned all creation; \* for I shall arise and be glorified, \* and shall crush the kingdoms of Hades with strength; \* destroying its power and delivering those in bondage \* from its wickedness, \* for I am compassionate; \* and I shall bring them to My Father, \*\* in that I am the Lover of mankind."

The Aposticha Stichera from the Oktoechos.

Troparion of the Apostle, in Tone III:

**O** holy Apostle Codratus, \* entreat the Merciful God \* that He grant remission of sins \* unto our souls

Glory ..., that of the Hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

**A**s thou didst share in the ways of the apostles \* and didst occupy their throne, \* thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, \* O divinely inspired one. \* Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, \* thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, \*\* O Hieromartyr Phocas, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone IV.

## AT MATINS

One canon from the Oktoechos, and two for the saints.

### ODE I

Canon to the Apostle, in Tone II, the acrostic whereof is: "For thee do I weave praise, O great Codratus ":

**Irmos:** Come, O ye people, \* let us sing a song to Christ our God, \* Who divided the sea, \* and made a way for the nation \* which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; \* for He hath been glorified.

**B**earing thy crown and standing before the King of hosts, entreat Him to enlighten those who radiantly celebrate this thy memorial, O blessed apostle.

**B**uilding on the foundation of the faith, O thou fullness of the pious, with thy most mighty teachings thou didst overthrow all the delusion of idolatry.

**M**inistering the sacred Gospel with thy most sacred words, thou didst consecrate souls to thy Creator through faith and the strength of the Spirit, O ever-memorable Codratus.

**Theotokion:** The Fashioner of creation, born in the flesh from a Maiden who knew not wedlock, preserved her a Virgin after birth-giving, as she was before birth-giving, for so it was well-pleasing to Him.

Canon to the Hieromartyr, in Tone IV, the acrostic whereof is:

"May God grant me the gift of hymning thee, O Phocas," the composition of Joseph:

**Irmos:** Through the deep of the Red Sea, \* marched dry shod Israel of old, \* and by Moses' outstretched hands, \* raised in the form of a cross, \* the power of Amalek was routed in the wilderness.

**E**nlighten my soul today with the luminous rays of the Spirit, that I may hymn thy divine memory, O glorious one, who hast been revealed to be a pastor and a beholder of the Ruler of all.

**T**hou didst splendidly enrich the godly glory of the martyrs, adorning thyself with pastoral beauty and dyeing thy vesture in the blood of thy sacred suffering, O divinely blessed one.

**M**aking thy thoughts firm with the hope of that which is better, O all-wise one, thou didst utterly paralyze him who is mighty in wickedness, and, O most renowned victor, ascend with haste to the heavens, O Phocas.

**Theotokion:** O pure one, the forbidding of our ancestors hath been rescinded, for thou hast given birth unto the pre-eternal God, Who hath revealed Himself as a little Babe and truly refashioned anew all the essence of humanity.

### ODE III

#### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos:** O Lord, who didst slay sin upon the tree, \* firmly establish us in Thee, \* and in the hearts of us who hymn Thee \* plant the fear of Thee.

Working awesome wonders, O Codratus, thou didst lead unbelievers to the divine faith, as a God-pleasing apostle, an honored hierarch, O most sacred one.

With divine teachings thou didst enlighten many, for thou wast revealed to be a servant of the Light, illumining the ends of the earth with divine radiance, O sacred hierarch Codratus.

For thy flock thou wast a mediator of the greatest of blessings, rescuing it from the darkness of unbelief and enlightening it with displays of most glorious miracles.

**Theotokion:** Unbearable Fire dwelt within thee, yet did not consume thy womb, O Theotokos, and doth burn up our passions and reduceth the filth of deception to ashes.

#### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** Thy Church, O Christ, rejoiceth in Thee crying aloud: \* Thou, O Lord, art my strength, \* my refuge and foundation.

Accomplishing healings by evoking the name of Christ, O venerable one, by the grace of God thou didst save a city and people from the deceit of the enemy.

Being a temple of God, thou didst cast down temples of idols, O martyr, possessed of the all-accomplishing power of the Helper and Fellow-worker.

O Phocas, an army of angels and the infinite light of God became visible when the Lord glorified thee before the judges' seats.

**Theotokion:** Taking flesh of thee, God united Himself to mankind in His loving-kindness, and thereby annulled the curse, O thou who alone art the all-blessed Lady.

#### Kontakion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone VI:

As a hierarch who offered sacrifice, O father, \* thou didst ultimately offer thyself as a living sacrifice, \* bearing witness under the law concerning Christ God, \* strengthened by angels, and assenting to death, \* O thou who art ever amongst those who cry to thee: \*\* Come thou with us, O Phocas, and no one shall be against us!

**Ikos:** O ye who desire to live in the heavens, trampling pleasures underfoot on earth, let us cleanse our lips and purify our tongues for hymnody and praise, that we may fittingly fashion hymns for the hierarch Phocas; for, having arrived at the gates of heaven, he obtained entrance without hindrance to that which is beyond nature, and doth behold the Desired One, Who is glorified by the angels. Hence, he is able to move to compassion Him Who alone is compassionate, such that He granteth us healing of our spiritual infirmities, in that he bore witness concerning Him. Therefore, let us sing to him and cry aloud: Come thou with us, O Phocas, and no one shall be against us!

**Sedalion of the Apostle, in Tone III:**

**Spec. Mel.: "The beauty of thy virginity ...":**

**O** Codratus, thou didst preach Him Who is more comely in beauty than the children of mankind, the beginningless Word, Who was incarnate in a manner surpassing understanding. Thus, as a godly hierarch, thou didst enlighten those who were in darkness, becoming a light to the gentiles. Wherefore, keeping thy luminous festival in faith, we hymn thee.

**Glory ..., to the Hieromartyr, in Tone I:**

**Spec. Mel.: "Thy grave, O Savior ...":**

**T**hou hast been sacredly glorified as a martyr and pastor, and, having empurpled thy priestly vesture with blood, and dost now stand before the Lord. Wherefore, the Church of God doth today celebrate thy most glorious memory, O all-blessed Phocas.

**Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone I:**

**O** most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high do thou unceasingly beseech God to Whom, in a manner surpassing understanding and all telling, thou hast given birth, that He grant forgiveness of all our sins and correction of life unto those who with faith and love ever glorify thee.

**Stavrotheotokion: B**eholdings Thee stretched out dead upon the Cross, O Christ, Thine all-immaculate Mother cried aloud: "O my Son, Who with the Father and the Spirit, art beginningless, what is this ineffable dispensation, wherewith Thou hast saved the work of Thy most pure hands, O Compassionate One?"

**ODE IV**

**Canon to the Apostle**

**Irmos: I** have heard report of Thy dispensation, O Lord, \* and have glorified Thee \* Who alone lovest mankind.

**W**orking in the field of the heart with the sickle of thy words, thou hast cut down all the thorns of malice.

**T**hy tomb gusheth forth gifts of healing upon all of us who praise thee, O sacred Codratus.

**M**ercifully inclining thine ear, O sacred Codratus, thou dost rescue from hateful misfortunes those who entreat thee.

**I**llumining with the lamps of thy words those who were darkened in deception, thou didst consume all the underbrush of deceit.

**Theotokion: O** Theotokos, the Creator became incarnate from thy pure blood, renewing all who had been subject to corruption.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** Beholding Thee, the Sun of righteousness, \* lifted up upon the Cross, \* standing in its place, \* the Church worthily crieth out aloud: \* Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

On the summit of the Church hath the Master set thee, O Phocas, as a most radiant star enlightening all hearts with the rays of thy sufferings and wonders, O most sacred one.

Confessing the Master's incarnation before the tyrant's tribunal, O martyred passion-bearer, thou didst splendidly put to shame the idols of the Hellenes and the godlessness of polytheism.

Thou didst traverse the sea of deception, harrowed by the storm of polytheism, by divine guidance, O glorious one; and became a haven most calm for all that sail.

**Theotokion:** O blessed Virgin, who knewest not wedlock, boast of hierarchs and crown of all passion-bearers: from misfortunes and sorrows do thou deliver those who hymn thee.

### ODE V

### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos:** O Lord, Bestower of light and Creator of the ages: \* guide us in the light of Thy commandments, \* for we know none other God than Thee.

The most pure God, finding thy pure soul and abode of His glory, through thee cleanseth souls which have been defiled by grievous falls into sins.

The Hellenes, compelled by thy wise dogmas, were prevailed upon, O blessed one, to confess Christ to be the Creator, the Wisdom and Power of the beginningless Father.

Sacredly proclaiming the Radiance which came down from the Father of lights upon mortals, O Codratus, thou didst enlighten the people to honor and glorify the indivisible Trinity.

**Theotokion:** Thou didst give birth without seed to a Son Who was incarnate for us in two natures and Who was begotten timelessly from the Father before all ages, O pure one, for He alone is supreme.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** Thou, O Lord, who camest into the world, \* art my light, \* a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance \* those who sing Thy praises in faith.

Thou didst manifestly trip the steps of the enemy, directing thine own feet to the paths of divine desire, O most sacred one.

Thy much suffering body, pierced with wounds, tore off the members of godlessness with divine strength, O divinely blessed Phocas.



**As** a wholeburnt offering didst thou bring thyself to God Who offered Himself up for our sake, putting an end to the bloody sacrifices of idolatry, O all-praised one.

**Theotokion: O** Sovereign Lady, the Wisdom of God fashioned a temple for Himself from thy pure blood, for He was well-pleased to do so.

## ODE VI

### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos: Whirled about in the abyss of sin, \* I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: \* Raise me up from corruption, O God.**

**T**hou wast a lofty heaven proclaiming the saving glory of God, in that thou wast a divine hierarch and a glorious apostle, O Codratus.

**P**reaching the one beginningless Being and the one dominion of the Godhead, O all-wise Codratus, thou didst destroy the dark madness of polytheism.

**O** blessed and most sacred one, thy body which now, in accordance with the law of nature, lieth in the tomb, doth work most glorious things in a manner transcending nature, O ever-memorable Codratus.

**Theotokion: H**e Who stretched out the heavens according to His will hath shown thee to be another heaven, one on earth, O Lady Theotokos, and through thee He enlighteneth those who are in darkness.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos: T**he church crieth out unto Thee O Lord, \* 'I will sacrifice unto Thee with a voice of praise' \* having been cleansed of the blood of the demons' \* by the blood that for mercy's sake flowed from Thy side.

**T**hou didst dry up the sea of godlessness, O all-wise one, gushing forth venerable teaching as a wellspring of life; and now thou dost wash away all the stench of the passions with showers of miracles.

**D**espitefully used, thou wast broken and dismembered upon a tree, O sacred hierarch, but a voice strengthening thee from on high didst thou hear, O much-suffering martyr.

**H**aving emulated the sufferings of the Passionless One, O Phocas, thou dost heal divers sufferings and dost deliver those who sail through storm and wave by thy divine prayers unto God.

**Theotokion: L**ike a shower, the saving Word was poured forth through thine incorrupt womb, O all-holy Maiden, and by divine power He hath dried up the streams of wickedness.

## Kontakion of the Apostle, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "As first fruits ...":

**A**s an honored and sacred hierarch and a most steadfast sufferer \* the world doth offer to Thee the Apostle Codratus, O Lord, \* and with hymns it doth honor his precious memory, \* ever entreating the remission of sins \*\* to be granted unto those who hymn him, O Compassionate One.

**Ikos:** **L**et us honor the wise hierarch as a faithful pastor and teacher, for in the meadow of suffering he hath budded forth a most sacred rose and perfumed us, the faithful, having filled the whole world with the radiance of healing and enlightenment, with rays of miracles and virtuous works, for God hath made him wondrous for all who honor his precious memory with hymns, in that He is compassionate.

## ODE VII

### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos:** **W**hen the golden image was worshipped on the plain of Dura, \* Thy three children spurned the impious command, \* and, cast into the midst of the flame, \* they were bedewed, and sang: \* O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**H**aving elevated thy mind to the First Good, thou didst become a temple of the Trinity most divine in appearance, and by thy most exalted teachings thou hast raised up those who are in the abyss of misery and who cry: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**H**aving demolished the temples of idols with the tools of thy prayers, thou didst raise up temples of God through the divine Spirit, O most sacred father, leading multitudes of the saved who cry aloud: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**B**eing fiery, for thou didst ever have within thy heart the divine fire of the Spirit, O all-wise one, thou hast been seen to be a torch consuming all the underbrush of deception, enlightening those who cry aloud: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**Theotokion:** **D**elivered from the curse of our first parents by thee, O divinely joyous one, we know thee to be the cause of good, in that thou hast given birth unto the Word, the Cause of all, in a manner surpassing all understanding and wonder; wherefore we cry aloud to thee, O most pure and blessed one: Thou hast given birth to God in the flesh.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** **I**n the Persian furnace the youths and descendants of Abraham, \* burning with a love of piety \* rather than by the flame of a fire, \* cried out aloud saying: \* Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

**T**hou didst not fear the fury of the tormentors, O glorious one, but, presiding over thy reason-endowed flock, thou didst offer thyself as a lamb to Christ, the Chief Shepherd, O Phocas, who art glorified in martyrdom.



**T**hou wast tried like gold in a crucible, O martyr, and cast into the midst of fiery lime, thou wast in no wise consumed, and cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord my God, in the temple of Thy glory!

**W**ith the divine dew of divine love, which consumed thy heart, thou wast preserved unconsumed in the fire which burnt up the filth of godlessness, O glorious hierarch.

**Theotokion:** **O** most pure Maiden, who by thy birth-giving hast renewed all mankind, in that thou art good, renew the putrid house of my soul with examples of repentance.

## ODE VIII

### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos:** **God Who descended into the fiery furnace \* with the Hebrew children, \* and transformed the flame into dew, \* do ye works hymn, \* and supremely exalt as Lord throughout all ages.**

**H**aving the pillars of thy soul founded upon the noetic Stone, thou didst cause the enemies of the Lord to stumble, O blessed Codratus, making steadfast all who hymn and supremely exalt Christ throughout all ages.

**H**aving a heart and soul adorned with the virtues, thou hast adorned souls with the word of thy teaching, delivering all from the chaos of idolatrous madness, O divinely eloquent Codratus.

**A**s a disciple of Jesus, and a radiant apostle, as a brilliant lightning flash of the Bun of righteousness, O Codratus, sanctify those who keep thy holy memory.

**Theotokion:** **W**ith most sacred voices the most sacred prophets of God clearly foretold thee as the future Mother of Him Who doth rule all things, O most pure one. Him do we bless throughout all ages.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** **Having spread his hands, Daniel closed the lions jaws \* in their den; \* while the zealously pious youths, \* girded with virtue, \* quenched the power of the fire and cried aloud: \* Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.**

**G**race was poured forth into thy mouth, O Phocas, whereby thou didst convert peoples led astray by the counsel of the serpent, and as a true shepherd, thou didst lead to Christ those who cried aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**T**he assemblies of the faithful have thee, O wise one, as an ever-vigilant intercessor calming the raging waves of the sea, subduing temptations, and delivering from every grievous circumstance, those who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

**T**hy temple doth ever pour forth streams of healing upon those who are in need thereof, revealing itself as a haven undisturbed by waves, which driveth away the passions from those who honor thee, O martyr, and who cry out to Christ: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**T**hat we may honor thy precious memory by keeping festival, O Phocas, do thou earnestly entreat the supremely good Lord, that He grant deliverance from vexations to us who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**Theotokion:** **O**bjects of the Law prefigured thee, O most pure one, the ark of the covenant and the jar which contained the manna, the divine table, and, furthermore, the candlestick of shining gold, which bore the Light of revelation for the gentiles, Who illumineth the ends of the earth with the knowledge of God.

## ODE IX

### Canon to the Apostle

**Irmos:** **G**od the Word, God of God, \* Who by ineffable wisdom came to create Adam anew \* after his grievous fall to corruption through eating \* and Who took flesh beyond all telling from the Holy Virgin for our sake, \* Him we faithful with one accord magnify in song.

**A**dorned in mind, thou dost stand before the comely Master as a hierarch ever most splendid and pleasing to God, as a divine apostle, truly asking for peace for the world with all the apostles, O Codratus.

**M**agnesia, possessing the shrine of thy relics as a divine tabernacle, O Codratus, lovingly draweth forth therefrom every benefit; and the heavenly mansions, possessing thy soul, rejoice with all the saints.

**T**hy radiant day, thy light-bearing memorial, thy truly illustrious feast, hath dawned like the sun upon all, and we faithfully celebrate it, O Codratus, asking that through thy prayers we may find remission of sins and great mercy.

**Theotokion:** **S**pare me, O Lord, spare me, when Thou wilt judge me, and condemn me not to the fire, neither reprove me in Thy wrath, for Thou art thus entreated, O Christ, by the Virgin who bore Thee, and the multitude of the apostles, martyrs and prophets.

### Canon to the Hieromartyr

**Irmos:** **A** cornerstone not cut by hand O Virgin, \* was cut from thee the unhewn mountain: \* even Christ, Who hath joined together the separated natures; \* therefore rejoicing we magnify thee, \* O Theotokos.

**C**ome ye all, and with divine and sacred voices let us celebrate most sacredly the most sacred memory of the sacred pastor who prayeth to God, the Benefactor, for us.

**T**hou didst show thyself to be consumed with zeal for the Master, O martyr, when thou wast put into the fiery bath, wherein, in gladness, thou didst surrender thy soul into the hands of God, O martyr.

**T**he choirs of hierarchs, the assemblies of martyrs, the company of sacred apostles and the souls of all the righteous, having thee in their midst, O martyr Phocas, rejoice.

**T**hy memory hath spread throughout the world, illumining the souls of those who with faith praise thy feats and struggles, and thy manifold sufferings, O right wondrous pastor and martyr.

**Theotokion: O** pure one, enlighten my soul which hath been darkened by sin, and by thy mediation deliver me from the everlasting flame of darkness, that, rejoicing, I may praise thy glory.

**Exapostilarion of the Apostle:**

**Spec. Mel.: "In spirit in the holy place ...":**

**T**urning the course of thy comely feet, O Apostle Codratus, thou didst ascend, rejoicing, along the heavenly path; and standing before the Trinity, thou dost behold the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Father. Wherefore, with faith we celebrate thy most sacred and divine memory.

**Glory ..., of the Hieromartyr:**

**Spec. Mel.: "Heaven with stars ...":**

**O** divinely wise father, thou didst show thyself to be the glory of hierarchs, a defender of the poor and a pillar of the virtues. Wherefore, remember us who hymn thee, O Phocas.

**Now & ever ..., Theotokion:**

**T**hee do all we sinners have as an intercessor, O all-holy Virgin, for by thy maternal supplications thou hast rendered thy Son easily reconciled unto us.

## AT LITURGY

### Troparion of the Apostle, in Tone III:

**O** holy Apostle Codratus, \* entreat the Merciful God \* that He grant remission of sins \* unto our souls

### Troparion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

**A**s thou didst share in the ways of the apostles \* and didst occupy their throne, \* thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, \* O divinely inspired one. \* Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, \* thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, \*\* O Hieromartyr Phocas, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

### Kontakion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone VI:

**A**s a hierarch who offered sacrifice, O father, \* thou didst ultimately offer thyself as a living sacrifice, \* bearing witness under the law concerning Christ God, \* strengthened by angels, and assenting to death, \* O thou who art ever amongst those who cry to thee: \*\* Come thou with us, O Phocas, and no one shall be against us!

### Kontakion of the Apostle, in Tone VIII:

**A**s an honored and sacred hierarch and a most steadfast sufferer \* the world doth offer to Thee the Apostle Codratus, O Lord, \* and with hymns it doth honor his precious memory, \* ever entreating the remission of sins \*\* to be granted unto those who hymn him, O Compassionate One.

**Prokeimenon, in Tone VII:** Precious in the sight of the Lord \* is the death of His saints.

**Verse:** What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

### THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS [4:14-5:3]

**B**rethren: seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he

that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**Alleluia, in Tone II:** Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN [10:9-16]**

**T**he Lord said unto the Jews who came unto Him: I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

**Communion Verse:** In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.