

**Great Vespers for the Third Sunday in Lent  
on which we celebrate the Adoration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross  
Octoechos 7  
Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus**

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**DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

***Troparia and Kontakia***

*Troparion, Tone 7:* By Your cross You destroyed death;\* You opened Paradise to the thief;\* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,\* and charged the apostles to proclaim\* that You are risen, O Christ our God,\* offering great mercy to the world.

*Troparion, Tone 1:* Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.\* Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies,\* and protect Your community by Your cross.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Kontakion, Tone 7:* No longer does the flaming sword guard the gate of Eden;\* the tree of the Cross has quenched its flames gloriously.\* The sting of death and the victory of Hades are banished,\* and You O my Saviour came and called to those in Hades: "Return again to Paradise!"

***Instead of Holy God, we sing:***

To Your Cross, O Master,\* we bow in veneration,\* and we glorify Your holy Resurrection!

***Prokeimenon, Tone 6***

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

*verse:* Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (Psalm 27:9,1)

***Epistle***

*Hebrews 4:14-5:6*

Brethren, since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honour upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz'edek."

***Alleluia, Tone 8***

*verse:* Remember Your congregation which You acquired from the beginning.

*verse:* But God is our king before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. (Psalm 73:2,12)

***Gospel***

*Mark 8:34-9:1*

The Lord said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

***Hymn to the Mother of God***

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

***Communion Verse***

Let the light of Your countenance, O Lord\* shine upon us.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (Psalm 4:7)