

*calls him Lord, how is he his son?"* <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions. [(92) Matthew 22:35-46 (RSV)]

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



### About the Saints we commemorate today:

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: St Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and St Elizabeth was the sister of St Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, "walking in all the commandments of the Lord (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God. Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, St Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord" (Luke 1:15) and "will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1:17).

Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name.

They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.



## 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 6 Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth

### Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

### Troparion, Tone 1 (St. Mark)

O blessed Mark, O voice of God. As an apostle of Christ you were taught by the chief apostle Peter. Like the sun you brought light to the nations, enrichment of Alexandria. Liberator of Egypt from pagan delusions, as a pillar of light to the church you enlightened all by your evangelical teachings. Therefore we honor your memory with great festivity, pray to God the giver of the gospel that He will grant the forgiveness of sins.

### Troparion, Tone 4 (Prophet Zachariah)

Robed in the vestments of the priesthood, according to the Law of God you offered whole-burnt offerings in a sacred manner, wise Zachariah. You became a luminary and a seer of the mysteries, bearing within yourself the signs of grace, all-wise one. Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, intercede together with the Forerunner that our souls may be saved!

### Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### Kontakion, Tone 2 (St. Mark)

You received the grace of the Spirit from above most glorious Mark! And destroyed rhetorical snares, O Apostle. You captured all nations bringing them to your Master by the preaching of the Divine Gospel.

### **Kontakion, Tone 3 (Prophet Zachariah)**

Today the Prophet Zachariah, priest of the Most High and parent of the Forerunner, has prepared a banquet to his memory to nourish the faithful, mixing the drink of righteousness.// Therefore we praise him as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

### **THE EPISTLE READING**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

**Reader: And to your spirit!**

Deacon: Wisdom!

**Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone. O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

**Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.**

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

**Reader: O Lord, save Thy people**

Choir: and bless Thine inheritance.

Deacon: Wisdom!

**Reader: The reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.**

Deacon: Let us attend!

**Reader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live we are always being given up to

death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. [(176) 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (RSV)]

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

**Reader: And to your spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone.**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Reader: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Reader: He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.**

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **THE GOSPEL READING**

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sad'ducees, they came together. <sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup>And he said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.* <sup>38</sup>*This is the great and first commandment.* <sup>39</sup>*And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* <sup>40</sup>*On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.*"

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup>saying, "*What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?*" They said to him, "The son of David." <sup>43</sup>He said to them, "*How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,* <sup>44</sup>*'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet?'* <sup>45</sup>*If David thus*