

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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**Sunday, 15 October, 2023
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8:30 – 9:00 AM**

**Hieromartyr Cyprian
Afterfeast of the Protection
of the Theotokos**



Пред чудотворною Иконою Богоматери

Как хорошо в твоём храме, Владычица!
Как сладко душе и светло!
Свободно, спокойно в нём каждому
дышится,
На сердце легко и тепло!

Словно Сама Ты, о Мати всепетая,
Сама Ты здесь с нами стоишь:
Любовью матерней к людям согретая,
На всех с состраданьем глядишь.

И лик Твой Божественный, славой
сияющий,
Безмолвно вещает сердцам:
“Придите, молтсея Мне, вам бнимающей,
Я всем вам отраду подам!

Молитесь, убогие, бедные сирые,
Ведь я для вас Мать и покров.
Молитесь и вы, сего мира счастливые,
Познайте в сем счастье – любовь.

Молитесь и вы, грехом отягченные,
Давно я молитв ваших жду,
И покаянья, слезой орошенного,
Услышу я их – и приму.

Молитесь и ты, старчество дряхлое,
хилое,
Молитесь и ты – юности цвет.
Молитесь и вы, малолеточки милые,
Я всех вас поркою от бед!”

О милосердная Мати Пречистая!
Безмерна Твоя к нам любовь!
Ты нам заступница в скорбях пребыстрая,
Ты наша мать и покров!

О не оставь же нас, Мати любимая!
Молиться Тебе вразуми,
И с верою теплою Тебе возносимые
Моления грешных прими!



One of the most touching and loved Holy Days which the Church commemorates is Pokrov, or the Protection of the Mother of God, which occurs on October 1/14. Strange as it might seem, although the event which this day commemorates took place in Constantinople, which was part of the Byzantine Empire, the Greek Church does not celebrate this feast day with such fervency as the Slavic churches.

For those who do celebrate this day, it is a day of great manifestation of love and gratitude to the Most Holy Mother of God; a day of joyous praise and glorification for her protection and intercession.

The Holy Day commemorates the “protection” shown to Christians in the year 911. The Saracens were trying to take the city

of Constantinople. The people were terror-stricken and gathered in the Church of Blachernae where several articles of clothing of the Mother of God were kept. During the evening services, as they were praying for divine intercession, two saints, Andrew and Epiphanius, saw the Mother of God standing with a veil or scarf stretched over her arms. This was a sign to the frightened people that the city would be saved.

Since that time, the Holy Day of the Protection has been celebrated in the Orthodox Church. We beg her to protect and help us: "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we do not perish for our ever-growing sins. Protect us from all evil and cruel misfortune for we put our hope on you and celebrating the Holy Day of your Protection, we magnify you."

Блаженный Андрей, Христа Ради Юродивый

Св. Андрей был славянином и жил в X в. в Константинополе. С юных лет он полюбил храм Божий и Священные книги. Однажды в сонном видении блаженный увидел два войска. В одном были мужи в светлых одеждах, в другом – черные и страшные бесы. Ангел Божий, который держал в руке чудесные венцы, сказал Андрею, что эти венцы – не украшение земного мира, а небесное сокровище, которым Господь награждает Своих воинов, побеждающих черные полчища. "Иди на добрый подвиг, - сказал Ангел Андрею, - будь юродив ради Меня и много получишь в день Царства Моего". С этого времени Андрей начал ходить по улице в рубище. Многие годы терпел святой насмешки и оскорбления. Благодушно сносил он побои, голод и жажду, стужу и зной, прося милостыню и отдавая ее другим нищим. За свое великое терпение и смирение блаженный получил от Господа дар пророчества.

Во время молитвы во Влахернском храме св. Андрей сподобился увидеть Пресвятую Богородицу, покрывающую молящихся Своим омофором (14 Окт).

"And yet behold, the hand of the one who is to betray Me is with Me on the table"(St. Luke 22:21).

It is most difficult for a general to wage war when he has an enemy within the camp; not only external enemies, but internal enemies among his own.

Judas was considered among his own. However, he was the enemy from within. Rows of enemies crowded and closed ranks around Christ and, from within, Judas was preparing betrayal. His hand was on the table which Christ blessed, and his thoughts were aligned with the enemies where darkest evil, hatred and malice seethed against the gentle Lord.

Is it not also the same today, that the hand of the many traitors of Christ are at the table with Him? Which table is not Christ's? On what table are not His gifts? He is the Householder and He nourishes and feeds His guests. The guests have nothing of their own, nothing! All good and all abundance which is given to them is given to them by the hand of Christ. Therefore, is it not so that Christ is present at every table as a Householder and as a Servant? Therefore, are not those also the hands of all who even today betray Christ on the table together with Him? They eat His bread and they speak against Him. They warm themselves by His sun and they slander His name. They breathe His air and they rise up against His Church. They live off His mercy and they banish Him from their homes, from their schools, from their courts, from their books and from their hearts. They trample His commandments willfully, maliciously and ridicule His law. Are they not then the betrayers of Christ and the followers of Judas? Do not be afraid of them! God did not command that we be afraid of them but wait to see their end. Our Lord was not afraid of Judas nor is He afraid of all the traitorous hordes until the end of time. He knows their end and He already has His victory in His hands. Therefore, do not be afraid either. Adhere faithfully to Christ the Lord, both when it appears to you that His causes succeed and go forward in the world and then, again, when it appears to you that His causes collapse and perish. Do not be afraid! If you become frightened, perhaps your hand will be found clenched under the hand of Judas at the table of Christ.

O Lord, All-Victorious, sustain us with Your power and mercy. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.
(St. Nikolai Velimirovich)