**The Nativity of the Holy Virgin**

**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**1220 CRANE STREET**

**MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025**

**(650) 326-5622**

**tserkov.org**

**19-е Воскресенье После Троицы – Первомученицы и Равноапостольной Феклы– Глас 2**

**Тропари и Кондаки после Малого Входа:**

**Тропарь Воскресный Глас 2:**

Егда снизшел еси к смерти, Животе Безсмертный,/ тогда ад умертвил еси блистанием Божества:/ егда же и умершия от преисподних воскресил еси,/ вся силы небесныя взываху:// Жизнодавче, Христе Боже наш, слава Тебе.

**Тропарь Феклы Глас 4:**

Словесем Павловым научившися, богоневестная Фекло,/ и верою утвердившися от Петра, богозванная,/ первомученица явилася еси и первострадальница в женах,/ возшла еси на пламень, яко на место благоцветущее,/ звери и юнцы устрашишася тебе, вооружися бо Крестом./ Тем моли, всехвальная, Христа Бога,// спастися душам нашим.

**Тропарь Xрама Глас 4:**

Рождество Твое, Богородице Дево, / радость возвести всей вселенней: / из Тебе бо возсия Солнце правды Христос Бог наш, / и разрушив клятву, даде благословение, // и упразднив смерть, дарова нам живот вечный.

**Кондак Воскресный Глас 2:**

Воскресл еси от гроба, Всесильне Спасе/ и ад, видев чудо, ужасеся,/ и мертвии восташа;/ тварь же видящи срадуется Тебе,/ и Адам свеселится,// и мир, Спасе мой, воспевает Тя присно.

**Кондак Феклы Глас 8:**

Девства добротою просияла еси,/ и мученичества венцем украсилася еси,/ Апостольству вверяешися, дево, яко преславная,/ и огня убо пламень в росу преложила еси,/ юнца же ярость молитвою твоею укротила еси,/ яко первострадальная.

**Кондак Храма Глас 4:**

Иоаким и Анна поношения безчадства/ и Адам и Ева от тли смертныя свободистася, Пречистая,/ во святем рождестве Твоем./ То празднуют и людие Твои,/ вины прегрешний избавльшеся,/ внегда звати Ти:/ неплоды раждает Богородицу и Питательницу Жизни нашея.

**Второе Послание к Коринфянам (11:31-12:9):**

31Бог и Отец Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, благословенный во веки, знает, что я не лгу. 32В Дамаске областной правитель царя Ареты стерег город Дамаск, чтобы схватить меня; и я в корзине был спущен из окна по стене и избежал его рук. 1Не полезно хвалиться мне, ибо я приду к видениям и откровениям Господним. 2Знаю человека во Христе, который назад тому четырнадцать лет (в теле ли - не знаю, вне ли тела - не знаю: Бог знает) восхищен был до третьего неба. 3И знаю о таком человеке (*только* не знаю - в теле, или вне тела: Бог знает), 4что он был восхищен в рай и слышал неизреченные слова, которых человеку нельзя пересказать. 5Таким *человеком* могу хвалиться; собою же не похвалюсь, разве только немощами моими. 6Впрочем, если захочу хвалиться, не буду неразумен, потому что скажу истину; но я удерживаюсь, чтобы кто не подумал о мне более, нежели сколько во мне видит или слышит от меня. 7И чтобы я не превозносился чрезвычайностью откровений, дано мне жало в плоть, ангел сатаны, удручать меня, чтобы я не превозносился. 8Трижды молил я Господа о том, чтобы удалил его от меня. 9Но *Господь* сказал мне: "довольно для тебя благодати Моей, ибо сила Моя совершается в немощи". И потому я гораздо охотнее буду хвалиться своими немощами, чтобы обитала во мне сила Христова.

**Евангелие От Луки (5:1-11):**

1Однажды, когда народ теснился к Нему, чтобы слышать слово Божие, а Он стоял у озера Геннисаретского, 2увидел Он две лодки, стоящие на озере; а рыболовы, выйдя из них, вымывали сети. 3Войдя в одну лодку, которая была Симонова, Он просил его отплыть несколько от берега и, сев, учил народ из лодки. 4Когда же перестал учить, сказал Симону: отплыви на глубину и закиньте сети свои для лова. 5Симон сказал Ему в ответ: Наставник! мы трудились всю ночь и ничего не поймали, но по слову Твоему закину сеть. 6Сделав это, они поймали великое множество рыбы, и даже сеть у них прорывалась. 7И дали знак товарищам, находившимся на другой лодке, чтобы пришли помочь им; и пришли, и наполнили обе лодки, так что они начинали тонуть. 8Увидев это, Симон Петр припал к коленям Иисуса и сказал: выйди от меня, Господи! потому что я человек грешный. 9Ибо ужас объял его и всех, бывших с ним, от этого лова рыб, ими пойманных; 10также и Иакова и Иоанна, сыновей Зеведеевых, бывших товарищами Симону. И сказал Симону Иисус: не бойся; отныне будешь ловить человеков. 11И, вытащив обе лодки на берег, оставили всё и последовали за Ним.

**Слово от Св Феофана Затворника:**

Целую ночь трудились рыбари и ничего не поймали; но когда Господь вошел в их лодку и, после проповеди, велел забросить мрежу, поймалось столько, что вытащить не могли и мрежа прорвалась. Это образ всякого труда без помощи Божией, и труда с помощью Божией. Пока один человек трудится, и одними своими силами хочет чего достигнуть - все из рук валится; когда приближится к нему Господь, - откуда потечет добро за добром. В духовно-нравственном отношении невозможность успеха без Господа осязательно видна: "без Мене не можете творити ничесоже ", сказал Господь. И этот закон действует во всяком. Как ветка, если не сращена с деревом, не только плода не приносит, но иссыхая и живность теряет, так и люди, если не состоят в живом общении с Господом, плодов правды, ценных для жизни вечной, приносить не могут. Добро какое и бывает в них иногда, только на вид добро, а в существе недоброкачественно; как лесное яблоко и красно бывает с виду, а попробуй - кисло. И во внешнем, житейском отношении тоже осязательно видно: бьется, бьется иной, и все не в прок. Когда же низойдет благословение Божие, - откуда что берется. Внимательные к себе и к путям жизни опытно знают эти истины.

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost –– The Holy Protomartyr Among Women, Thekla –– Tone 2**

**Troparion (Resurrection) (Tone 2):**

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the Hosts of Heavens cried out: O Lifegiver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

## Troparion (Thekla) — Tone 4:

You were enlightened by the words of Paul, O Bride of God, Thekla, / And your faith was confirmed by Peter, O Chosen One of God. / You became the first sufferer and martyr among women, / By entering into the flames as into a place of gladness. / For when you accepted the Cross of Christ, / The demonic powers were frightened away. / O all-praised One, intercede before Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**Parish Troparion –– Tone 4**

Your Nativity, O Virgin, / Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / Has shone from You, O Theotokos! / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. / By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.

**Kontakion (Resurrection) (Tone 2):**

Thou didst arise from the tomb, O omnipotent Savior, and Hades was terrified on beholding the wonder; and the dead arose, and creation at the sight thereof rejoiceth with Thee. And Adam also is joyful, and world, O my Savior, praiseth Thee for ever.

**Kontakion (Thekla) — Tone 8**

## O glorious Thekla, virginity was your splendor, / The crown of martyrdom your adornment and the faith you trust! / You turned a burning fire into refreshing dew, / And with your prayers appeased pagan fury, O First Woman Martyr!

## Parish Kontakion — Tone 4

By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; / Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. / And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: / The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!

**2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9  *(Epistle)***

**31** The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; **33** but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. **1** It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. **3** And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows –  **4** how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. **5** Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. **6** For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. **7** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Luke 5:1-11  *(Gospel)***

**1** So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, **2** and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. **3** Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. **4** When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” **6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. **7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” **9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” **11** So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

**On the Protomartyr among women, Thekla –– from OCA.org:**

The Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thekla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At eighteen years of age they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But after she heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, Saint Thekla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel.

Saint Thekla’s mother was opposed to her daughter’s plans and insisted that she marry her betrothed. Saint Thekla’s fiancé also complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. The prefect locked up Saint Paul in prison.

During the night Saint Thekla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, giving them all her gold ornaments, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. Thekla’s disappearance was discovered, and servants were sent out everywhere looking for her. Finally, they found her in the prison and brought her home by force.

At his trial Saint Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. Again they urged Saint Thekla to consent to the marriage, but she would not change her mind. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the prefect could separate Saint Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Her mother in a insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and Saint Thekla was sentenced to be burned. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, blessing her present deed, and inexpressible joy filled her holy soul.

The flames of the fire shot up high, but the martyr was surrounded by a light and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and a strong downpour of rain and hail extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear. Saint Thekla, kept safe by the Lord, left the city and with the help of a certain Christian youth, searched for the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions, among whom was Saint Barnabas, were hidden in a cave not far from the city, praying fervently, that the Lord would strengthen Saint Thekla in her sufferings.

After this, Saint Thekla went with them preaching the Gospel in Antioch. In this city she was pursued by a certain dignitary named Alexander, who was captivated by her beauty. Saint Thekla refused his offer of marriage, and so she was condemned to death for being a Christian. Twice they set loose hungry wild animals upon her, but they would not touch the holy virgin. Instead, they lay down meekly and licked her feet.

The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through all her torments. Finally, they tied her to two oxen and began to chase her with red-hot rods, but the strong cords broke asunder like cobwebs, and the oxen ran off, leaving Saint Thekla unharmed. The people began shouting, “Great is the God of the Christians!” The prefect himself became terrified, realizing that the holy martyr was being kept safe by the Almighty God, Whom she served. He then gave orders to set free the servant of God Thekla.

With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Saint Thekla then settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Saint Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as “Equal-to-the-Apostles.” Even a pagan priest, trying to assault her purity and punished for his impudence, was brought by her to holy Baptism. More than once the Enemy of the race of man tried to destroy Saint Thekla through people blinded by sin, but the power of God always preserved this faithful servant of Christ.

When Saint Thekla was already a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis was her special helper. Envious of Saint Thekla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, Saint Thekla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. Thus did Saint Thekla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

The holy Church glorifies the Protomartyr Thekla as “the glory of women and guide for the suffering, opening up the way through every torment.” From of old many churches were dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal of the Apostles Constantine (May 21). The Protomartyr Thekla, a prayerful intercessor for ascetics, is also invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.