EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 4, Verses 6-15: Brethren, 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. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 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. So death is at work in us, but life in you. 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, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 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.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 22, Verses 35-46: At that time, a lawyer came up to Jesus and asked him a question, to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.” Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?” And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Today’s Apolytikon (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from internal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Οτε κατήλησε πρὸς τὸν ἡμέραν, ὁ δὲ ἡμῖν ἀνεύρετος ἐστίν ὁ δικαιοσύνης τῆς Θεότητος, ὁταν οἱ δύο ἡμέραι τῶν ἐκκλησίων ἀνατίνησεν, τῶν δὲ Σωτῆρος τῶν ἐφορμάσεων ἐκκαθάρζειν ἣ πληρωμή ἡ ἐπικάλεσθαι. Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.