

Sunday February 21st, 2016
Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

Tone 5

Eothinon 5



KONTAKION FOR THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN IN TONE FOUR

*Let us flee the Pharisee's * conceited vaunting; * let us learn the Publican's * humility, and cry with groans * unto the Savior: Thou Who alone * art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.*

THE EPISTLE

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy. (3: 10– 15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الأحد 21 شباط، 2016

أحد الفريسي والعشار

الإبوتينا الخامسة

اللحن الخامس



قنّاق أحد الفريسي والعشار (باللحن الرابع)

مِن شُمُوخِ الْفَرِيسِيِّ لِنَهْرَيْنِ، وَمِن تَوَاضِعِ الْعَشَّارِ نَتَعَلَّمُ، هَاتِفِينَ بِزَفَرَاتٍ لِلْمُخَلَّصِ:
إِرْحَمْنَا يَا مُصَالِحًا حَسَنًا وَحَدِّكْ.

الرسالة

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهُنَا، اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى تيموثاوس (3: 10 - 15)

يا وكلي تيموثاوس، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي وَسِيرَتِي وَقَصْدِي وَإِيمَانِي
وَأَنَاتِي وَمَحَبَّتِي وَصَبْرِي، وَاضْطِهَادَاتِي وَأَلَامِي وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي أَنْطَاكِيَّةَ وَإِيقُونِيَّةَ
وَلِسْتَرَةَ. وَأَيَّةَ اضْطِهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا، وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ
يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعِيشُوا بِالتَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمُغْوُونَ
مِنَ النَّاسِ فَيَزِدَادُونَ شَرًّا مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضِلِّينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّي أَنْتَ عَلَيَّ مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيَقَنْتَ
بِهِ عَالِمًا مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتِ. وَأَنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ
تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخِلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18: 10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

الإنجيل المقدس

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا البشير والتلميذ الطاهر

(18: 10-14)

قال الربُّ هذا المثل. إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فريسيُّ
والآخر عشارٌ. فكان الفريسيُّ واقفاً يصلي في نفسه هكذا: اللهم إني
أشكرك لأنني لست كسائر الناس الخطفة الظالمين الفاسقين ولا مثل هذا
العشار، فإني أصوم في الأسبوع مرتين وأعشر كل ما هو لي. أمّا العشارُ
فوقف عن بعد ولم يرد أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء، بل كان يقرع صدره
قائلاً: اللهم ارحمني أنا الخاطيء. أقول لكم، إن هذا نزل إلى بيته مبرراً دون
ذاك. لأن كل من رفع نفسه اتضع، ومن وضع نفسه ارتفع.

المجد لك يا رب المجد لك!

Lenten Triodion

(Prepared by Fr. Nektarios Najjar)

"O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly, receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song, and from us men a noble and reverent Triodion." (From today's Matins).

Today we start the journey towards Pascha. This period is called the "Triodion", which means the "3 odes" (an ode is a prayer or praise). The Triodion carries a repentant ambience par excellence, resembling the Pharisee and crying out loud "God, be merciful to me a sinner". It is called Triodion because it is divided into 3 parts: The pre-Lenten period, the 40 day lent, and the Holy Week.

In each of the 11 Sundays, starting today, until Easter, we learn an important lesson and experience a spiritual encounter with the Lord.

A. Pre-Lenten Period:

1. Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee: We learn and experience Humility.
2. Sunday of the Prodigal Son: We learn that without repentance, fasting is just a diet.
3. Sunday of Judgement (Meatfare Sunday): Our brothers and sisters are a must in our journey to salvation. *(On Meatfare Saturday we also commemorate our brothers and sisters in Christ who departed this life).*
4. Sunday of forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday): Forgiving each other and entering the Lent with a pure heart is what the Lord wants from us.

B. The 40 Day Lent:

During lent we increase the pace of our spiritual struggle with prayer and fasting and spiritual readings. Thus the Church blesses us with daily Lenten services such as the Great Compline, the Pre-sanctified Liturgy, and the Akathist for the Theotokos. As for the 5 Sundays of this period we experience the following:

1. Sunday of Orthodoxy in which we celebrate the victory of the Holy Icons and the Righteous faith.

2. Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas who imprinted our Orthodox Theology with his spirituality and teachings.
3. Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, in which we remind ourselves in the midst of the journey to pick up our cross and continue in perseverance.
4. Sunday of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) who reminds us that perseverance in spiritual life is essential, because we might fall even after getting close to the finish line.
5. Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt who teaches is the real meaning of Metanoia (repentance).

C. Holy Week:

Then, the Great Holy Week comes: A Jewel of Spirituality and a treasure of liturgics. In this week we get closer to witnessing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We experience His entrance to Jerusalem and go with him in his journey to Golgotha and the grave and then to life again, victorious.

On Saturday we start by remembering that the Lord raised up Lazarus from the dead and we foresee Christ's resurrection. On Sunday we enter with the Lord to Jerusalem and cry out loud "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest".

A magical liturgical experience carries the faithful on Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday: The Bridegroom Matins Service. Then, on Wednesday night, some Orthodox traditions adopted the practice of anointing the faithful with Holy Oil.

While on Thursday, we enter the Passions of our Lord; we remember the Last Supper in the morning Liturgy, and the crucifixion in the evening when we celebrate the well known 12-Gospel Matins Service.

On Friday, we go in a journey with Joseph and Nikodimus; we witness the Lord's death and burial in a new Tomb.

This long Spiritual journey comes to an end when we see the great Light on Saturday morning shining from the empty Divine Tomb, and then celebrate the Lord's Resurrection on Pascha Sunday.

Beloved in Christ, the best way to live this beautiful Triodion is to attend all Church services during this period, because the real meaning lies in the liturgical texts that we inherited from our holy fathers. We strongly ask you to do this and pray that we all have a blessed Triodion!



Bible Time

Luke 18: 10-14 ☞ February 21, 2016

Genuine Humility is Above All The story in today's Gospel is a very simple one – two men go to pray in the Temple, the Pharisee (the one who follows all the rules of God's law) prays a very proud and boastful prayer, while the Publican (the cheating tax collector) prays a very humble and repentant prayer. Jesus tells us very clearly, God was *not* pleased with the Pharisee's prayer, but the tax collector's prayer pleased God. Why does the Bible give us this short but very powerful account of these two very different men? What lessons does God want to remind us of today?

The Pharisee Why was God not pleased with the Pharisee's prayer? The simple answer is that the Pharisee was proud. He raised himself up tall when he prayed. You know the sad thing is that the Pharisee in today's Gospel did a lot of good things – he fasted all the days he was supposed to and he gave tithes (he gave 10% of everything he earned to God). How many of us can say we do only these two things? The problem with the Pharisee was that the good things he did were *outwardly*, he was a show-off, and so these good things were counted as empty and worthless. We should remember that when we do good, it is Christ who is working in us, we should never boast or be filled with pride. Anything good in us is from God, and this good should be used for His glory – not our own!

The Tax Collector The tax collector also came to the temple to pray. The tax collector's prayer was very different from the Pharisee's. He did not even look up to heaven, when he prayed. He was very lowly and humble, and he spoke quietly. The difference between these two men is the tax collector acknowledged his sinfulness and asked for God's forgiveness and mercy, while the Pharisee did not.

Who are We? Are we not all sinners? Do we pray like sinners in need of God's mercy (the tax collector), or do we pray to let God (and others) know how good we are (the Pharisee). Who was forgiven – the Pharisee or the tax collector? The tax collector's prayer pleased God, and he was forgiven, the Pharisee was not. Pride is the root of sin. We need to confess that we are sinners, and profess that the Lord is merciful, and that He alone can forgive us. We cannot live our lives with an attitude of entitlement or arrogance. We must be humble, and know that if we have good in us, it is from God!

Today we are being reminded that we need to humble ourselves before the Lord. We should not forget, that no matter how hard we try to *be good* and *do good*, we are all sinners. We can not think we are better than anyone else. When we pray, we need to humble ourselves before the Lord because the forgiveness and mercy He gives us is a gift that we cannot earn, and we do not deserve. Humbling isn't it?

Dear Jesus, Thank You Lord Jesus for Your humble and loving example. You are the King of Kings, and You saw it fit to be born in a lowly manger. You are Lord of Lords, and You had no earthly house to call home. You alone are the Son of God, and You desire that we be called children of God. Help us to be humble, loving and merciful. We cry out to You today, 'Lord Jesus, have mercy on us sinners.' Amen.

Your Friends in Jesus,

Roula & Alyssa Thomas

Try This *Most of us are happy when others praise us, or applaud our good works; we enjoy the praise, and pat ourselves on the back for a job well-done. Yes, it is good to strive to be our best for the Lord! We are asked to faithfully 'run the race', not 'sit on the side-lines', but when we boast or take pride in 'our' accomplishments, we are giving glory to ourselves instead of God. The Bible clearly teaches us that all glory must be given to God. In all our successes we must sincerely know that God is the source of all good things, and that glory must be given to Him, and Him alone.*

As a church, we often do things together as one body for the glory of God. We work together, and expect the praise of our brothers and sisters for our hard work. My mom used to say 'I'd rather get my thanks from God, and not from anybody else' and this is something we too need to practice in our lives. So let us try to exercise our 'humility muscles' and try to lift others up instead of wanting praise for ourselves. Instead of expecting applause or praise from others, quietly say to yourself 'God sees my efforts, and I thank Him that I am able to do good. My reward comes from the Lord, not from man.'

Announcements

Summer Day Camp:

St. Elias Camp will be organized, with the blessing of the Lord, for the first time this summer, from July 11th to July 15th 2016. It will be a day camp that starts at 8.30 am and end at 4 pm. Information about applying for your children will be soon posted in the bulletin.

We are looking now for volunteers. If you think that you can help in counselling, supervising or in any type of service in the camp, kindly contact Fr. Nektarios.

Fundraiser Tickets:

The Fundraiser organized by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine is next Sunday February 28th)! Kindly buy your tickets today following the service in the basement

Upcoming Services

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday, February 27th

- Great Vespers 6 pm

Sunday, February 28th

- Matins 8.45 am
 - Divine Liturgy 10 am
-

Memorials This Week, February 21st, 2016

† 40 Day Memorial Service for Joseph Ghattas offered by his children Phil (Sandy), Mona (George), Ida, George (Emma), Wadad Absi (George) and Naif Maroun (the late Norma); and his grandchildren Katherine (Jason), Andrew (Shayna), Ann Saab (Joe), Elie Absi (Randa), Jerry Absi (Mira), Sophie Absi (Jose) and Nada Semaan (Tony).

Please join the family for a coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy.

† 1 Year Memorial Service for Samir Issa Ghantous offered by his wife Amal and his Children Chris (Jocelyn) and Justin (grace), and his siblings and grandchildren.

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

Memorials Next Week, February 28th, 2016

† 40 Day Memorial Service for Christopher Thomas, offered by His parents George and Noelle, his brothers David and Joseph, his sons Matthew and Nicholas and his fiancé Nathalie Lapensée.

† 40 Day Memorial Service for Mari Hanna Gharib who fell asleep in the Lord in Lebanon, offered by her children Joseph (Yvette) and Nassib (Nisrine) of Ottawa, and Hayat and Ghada (Richard) of Lebanon, and her grandchildren.

† 20 Day Memorial Service for Marguerite Nehme Zakharia, offered by her brother Georges Nehme (Zeina) and her sister Nelly Nehme (Sam Zougheib) and their families.

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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The Right Rev. Bishop ALEXANDER

Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York

The Very Rev. Father Ghattas Hajal

Archpriest and Dean of the Cathedral

The Rev. Father Nektarios Najjar

Assistant Pastor