

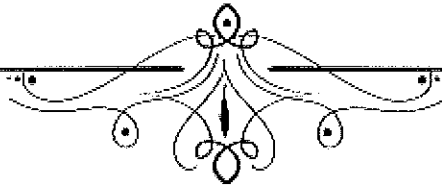
Sunday, May 28, 2017

Sunday of the After-Feast of the Ascension

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Tone 6

Eothison 10



APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

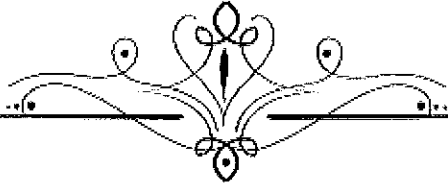
Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou hast done.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

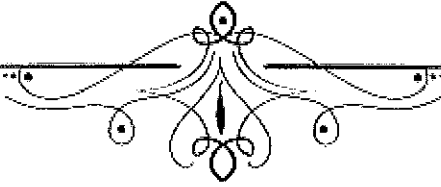


الأحد 28 أيار, 2017

الأحد الواقع بعد عيد الصعود وأحد اباء المجمع المسكوني الأول

الإيوثينا العاشرة

اللحن السادس



طروبارية عيد الصعود باللحن الرابع

صعدت بمجدٍ أيها المسيح إلهنا وفرحت تلاميذك بموعد الروح القدس إذ أيقنوا بالبركة أنك أنت ابن الله المنقذ العالم.

طروبارية الاباء باللحن الثامن

أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا الفائق التسبيح، يا من أسست آباءنا القديسين على الأرض كواكب منيرة، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً إلى الإيمان الحقيقي، أيها الجزيل الرحمة، المجد لك

الرسالة

مبارك أنت يا رب إله آبائنا، لأنك عدلٌ في كل ما صنعت بنا

فصلٌ من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار 20: 16-18، 28: 36

في تلك الأيام ارتأى بولس أن يتجاوز أفسس في البحر لئلا يعرض له أن يُبطى في آسية، لأنه كان يعجل حتى يكون في أورشليم يوم العنصرة إن أمكنه. فمن ميلينس بعث إلى أفسس فاستدعى فسوس الكنيسة، فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: احذروا لأنفسكم ولجميع الرعية التي أقامكم الروح القدس فيها أساقفة لترعوا كنيسة الله التي اقتناها بدمه. فإني أعلم هذا أنه سيدخل بينكم بعد ذهابي ذئاب خاطفة لا تُشفق على الرعية، ومنكم أنفسكم سيقوم رجال يتكلمون بأمر ملتوية ليجتذبوا التلاميذ وراءهم. لذلك اسهروا متذكرين أنني مدة ثلاث سنين لم أكف ليلاً ونهاراً عن أن أنصح كل واحد بدموع. والآن أستودعكم يا إخوتي الله وكلمة نعمته القادرة على أن تبنيكم وتمنحكم ميراثاً مع جميع القديسين. إنني لم أشته فضةً أحدٍ أو ذهبه أو لباسه. وأنتم تعلمون أن حاجاتي وحاجات الذين معي خدمتها هاتان اليدان. في كل شيء يثبت لكم أنه هكذا ينبغي أن نتعب لنساعد الضعفاء وأن نتذكر كلام الرب يسوع. فإنه قال «إن العطاء هو مغبوط أكثر من الأخذ». ولما قال هذا جثا على ركبتيه مع جميعهم وصلّى.

The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17: 1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

الإِنْجِيلُ الْمَقْدَسُ

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ

(17: 1-13)

في ذلك الزمان رفع يسوع عينيه إلى السماء وقال: يا أبتِ قد أتت الساعة، مجد ابنك ليُمجِّدك ابنك أيضًا، كما أعطيتَه سلطانًا على كلِّ بشرٍ ليُعطي كلَّ من أعطيتَه له حياةً أبديةً. وهذه هي الحياة الأبدية أن يعرفوك أنت الإله الحقيقي وحدي والذي أرسلته يسوع المسيح. أنا قد مجدتك على الأرض، قد أتممتُ العمل الذي أعطيتني لأعمله. والآن مجدني أنت يا أبتِ عندك بالمجد الذي كان لي عندك من قبل كون العالم. قد أعلنتُ اسمك للناس الذين أعطيتهم لي من العالم. هم كانوا لك وأنت أعطيتهم لي وقد حفظوا كلامك. والآن قد علموا أن كلَّ ما أعطيتَه لي هو منك، لأنَّ الكلام الذي أعطيتَه لي أعطيتَه لهم، وهم قبلوا وعلموا حقًا أنني منك خرجتُ وآمنوا بأنك أرسلتني. أنا من أجلهم أسأل، لا أسأل من أجل العالم بل من أجل الذين أعطيتهم لي لأنهم لك. كلُّ شيء لي هو لك وكلَّ شيء لك هو لي وأنا قد مُجِّدت فيهم. ولستُ أنا بعد في العالم، وهؤلاء هم في العالم، وأنا آتي اليك. أيها الأب القدوس احفظهم باسمك الذين أعطيتهم لي ليكونوا واحدًا كما نحن. حين كنتُ معهم في العالم كنتُ أحفظهم باسمك. إن الذين أعطيتهم لي قد حفظتهم ولم يهلك منهم أحد إلا ابن الهلاك لیتَم الكتاب. أمّا الآن فإني آتي اليك. وأنا أتكلّم بهذا في العالم ليكون فرحي كاملاً فيهم.

المجد لك يا ربّ المجد لك!

Announcements
Luncheon on Sunday June 4th, 2017

On Sunday June 4th, following the Divine Liturgy, a Luncheon will take place in the Centre as part of the celebrations for Fr. Ghattas' 40th Anniversary in Holy Priesthood and 25th in Ottawa. Tickets are being sold in the Hall, following today's service, for 20\$ or by phone, contact Nadea Saikley 613 558 6948 .

Parish Life Conference

Dear Parishioners, our parish will be hosting the Annual Diocesan Parish Life Conference between June 29 and July 2 2017. Our Diocese will meet for prayer, brotherhood and to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary.

We encourage all of you to participate in the events taking place. The Hotels allocated for the PLC are the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn (On Hunt Club Rd.). We do know that most of our parishioners will not need Hotel Reservations, because the event is happening in Ottawa.

However, you still need to register for the PLC and reserve tickets for the various events taking place.

No tickets will be available on the day of the events.

Registration and tickets can only be done online on the following website:

<https://www.antiochianevents.org/event/140>

To know the full schedule visit:

http://www.antiochianevents.com/ottawa_gen_schedule.html

Lunch and Meeting with Bishop THOMAS

His Grace Bishop THOMAS will be presiding over the services next weekend representing His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH in the celebrations for Fr. Ghattas' 40th Anniversary. On Saturday June 3rd, His Grace will preside over the Souls Saturday Liturgy at 10 am, and following that he will have a lunch and Q&A session with the following organizations: **Church School – Teen SOYO – Young Adults – Altar Boys – Fellowship of St. John the Divine. Please spread the word to the members of these organizations.**

الاجتماعات الروحية باللغة العربية

Upcoming Meeting of the New Arabic Study Group:

الاجتماع القادم: الإثنين 29 أيار 2017 الساعة 7.30 مساءً.

Memorial

40 Day Memorial Service for Antoine Al Haj on Sunday May 28th at 6.30 pm at St. Charbel Maronite Church.

Camp St. Elias 2017

Our annual Day camp will take place between July 10 and 14, 2017.

Parishioners between 6 and 17 are welcome.

Deadline: June 12, 2017. **(We apologize for not being able to accept any applicants after the deadline). (Kids that are not part of the Church School will be on a waiting list).**

Camp is Free of Charge. Drop off time 8.00 am, pick up time 5.00 pm.

To register your children, send your applications to fr.nektarios@steliascathedral.com

Application forms can be found on the Church's website or in the Basement.

Upcoming Services

Service	Date	Time
Saturday of Souls السبت الأموات		
Matins	Saturday June 3 rd	8.45 am
Divine Liturgy		10.00 am
Holy Pentecost عيد العنصرة		
<u>Great Vespers</u>	<u>Saturday June 3rd</u>	<u>5.30 pm</u>
Matins	Sunday June 4 th	8.45 am
Divine Liturgy followed by kneeling prayers		10.00 am

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

By Fr. Milad Medakovic

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we hear our Lord pray in the Gospel today for the Father to “keep through Your own name those whom You have given me, that they may be one, as we are” (John 17:11).

Our Lord prays these words because He knows the attacks that the Church will undergo after His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. He further confirms these struggles in the Gospel of Saint Matthew when he says, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

The Church commemorates the fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, today, that were victorious over one of these wolves that attacked the unity of the Church. This attack came from a priest of the Church of Alexandria by the name of Arius.

What Arius had taught was that our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ was a creature created by God, from nonexistence, when God created all of creation. In other words, Arius denied that the divinity of Christ was the same as His Father’s. There are many that still believe this today and many other false teachings about Christ and God.

These false teachings are stated in the decisions of the Seven Ecumenical Councils. As a result of these false teachings, these councils affirmed the teachings of the Church regarding Christ and the All-Holy Trinity.

To affirm the Church’s teachings about Christ, the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council formulated the first part of the Creed.

The Creed starts by confirming the person of God as Father. The Son of God taught us to pray to God with the following words: “Our Father, who art in heaven ...” (Matthew 6:9). This name of God and character of God was previously unknown to the world of the Old Testament. God was known in the Old Testament as God, Creator, Lord, King and Judge. It is through His Son that we are given this intimate relationship with God.

As it says in today's Gospel, this intimate relationship is confirmed by the words, "Yours they were, and You gave them me" (John 17:6). This confirms that Christ takes men, who were creatures and servants of God that knew God only as their Creator and Judge, making them His own. Through making men His own, Christ makes all men sons of God by adoption. As it says in the Epistle to the Galatians: "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:5). The second section of the Creed that was developed by the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council confirmed the person of the Son of God. In this portion of the Creed, the Son of God is shown to have both divine and human natures. It also confirmed that the divine nature of Christ was the same as the Father's.

Jesus refers to His divine nature in His prayer from today's Gospel when He says: "And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was" (John 17:5). Through this phrase, we can clearly see that Jesus is no ordinary man or creature of God. Our Lord tell us that He was with the Father before the worlds creation, as it says in the beginning of the Gospel of Saint John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Through these words, we should be able to see the errors of Arius' teachings that are still proclaimed to this day.

Saint Nikolaj Velimirovic reminds us that this prayer KEEP THEM is "not only for the apostles ... This prayer ... was also for the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council ... And the Father kept them from the errors of Arius, and inspired, illumined and strengthened them ... to defend and confirm the Orthodox faith. This prayer is for all of us who are baptized in the Apostolic Church who have ... come to know the saving name of Christ the Savior, Jesus."

So, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, my prayer for you is the same as our Lord's, that you may be kept in the Orthodox Catholic faith so that you may be illumined and strengthened like the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, against all errors that surround you, and that you may worship the one True God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the Trinity consubstantial and undivided.

آباء المجمع الأول المطران جورج خضر

أرادت الكنيسة اليوم، في هذا الأحد المُعترض بين عيدي الصعود والعنصرة، أن تقيم ذكرى الآباء الذين اجتمعوا في المجمع المسكوتي الأول السنة ٣٢٥. هذا الحدث غاية في الأهمية لأنّ هؤلاء الآباء قد أقرّوا دستور الإيمان، أو القسم الأكبر منه، وأعلنوا المسيح إلهاً خالقاً، نوراً من نور، إلهاً حقّ من إله حقّ، مولوداً من أبيه منذ الأزل، غير مخلوق. أعلنوا ذلك لأنّ كاهنًا من الإسكندرية يُدعى آريوس علم أنّ المسيح لم يكن منذ الأزل ولكنه خلق خلقاً كما يُخلق الناس. وقد نيهتنا رسالة اليوم إلى أنّ المؤمنين يجب أن يتجنبوا التعاليم الفاسدة والهرطقة الذين يعلمون كلاماً باطلاً.

خَصَّ هذا التعليم الكنيسة خصّاً كبيراً واجتمع الآباء القديسون بدعوة من قسطنطين الملك ليعلموا إيمان كنائسهم وشهادتها بأنّ المسيح غير مخلوق، وأنّه قائم منذ الأزل في أحضان الأب قبل أن يولد من البتول، وقبل أن يكون العالم هو كائن. «به العالم كُؤن وبغيره لم يكن شيء مما كُؤن» (يوحنا ١: ٢). فيه كانت الحياة أي أنّه سابق للحياة. اليوم، كما حصل في كلّ العصور، تتكرّر هذه التعاليم وتأتيكم شيئاً مستوردة من الغرب لتجدد القول إنّ المسيح ليس إلهاً، وأشهر هذه الشيع شهود يهوه الذين يقولون إنّ المسيح ليس إلهاً وإنّه مخلوق.

واجهت الكنيسة هذا التعليم الخاطئ بفكرة بسيطة قالها القديس أنثاسيوس الكبير في مجمع نيقية، وأظهرها في كتاباته لاسيّما في كتابه الشهير «في تجسّد الكلمة» إذ قال: إنّ الذي علّق على الصليب ينبغي أن يكون إنساناً لأنّه لو لم يكن إنساناً، أي لو شُبّه لهم على أنّه إنسان أو كان خيالاً فقط، لو لم يكن المصلوب إنساناً لما مات أحد على الصليب، ولما افتدينا وكثنا بعد في خطايانا. لأنّ الإنسان كيف يفندي الإنسان؟ كيف الإنسان يخلّص الإنسان؟ انطلق آباؤنا من هذا الأمر البسيط أننا مُخلّصون، وحتى يكون خلاصنا حقيقياً ينبغي أن يكون هذا المُعلّق على الصليب إلهاً وإنساناً في آن واحد، إلهاً يفعم الخلاص وإنساناً يتلقّى الموت. هذا ملخّص الإيمان المسيحيّ وينبغي أن تتمسك به. جوابنا على الهرطقة بسيط: أن لم يكن المسيح إلهاً فالخلاص لم يحصل.

الآباء الذين اجتمعوا في نيقية من كلّ أنحاء المسكونة، وعلى الأخص من أنحاء الشرق، عُدّوا من أجل المسيح. لم يكونوا اختصاصيين في اللاهوت، كان بعضهم فقيهاً وأكثرهم لم يكن كذلك من الناحية العلمية. لم يأتوا بنظريات علمية لكنهم أتوا بشهادة الدم التي على أجسادهم. الأمر العظيم فيهم أنّهم تألّموا جميعاً في سبيل المسيح. معظمهم كانوا أساقفة في زمن اضطهاد المسيحيين وكثير منهم كانوا يحملون آثار التعذيب في أجسادهم. تعلمون أنّ حرّية الدين المسيحيّ في الإمبراطورية الرومانية أعلنت السنة ٣١٣ وعُقد المجمع المسكوتي الأول السنة ٣٢٥ أي بعد ١٢ سنة.

عندما نعلن مثل آباء نيقية أنّنا نؤمن بالمسيح الظافر الصاعد الجالس عن يمين الأب، فإنّنا نقول إنّنا مفديّون وإنّنا محبوبون. ونعلم أنّ ربّنا هنا الآن معنا وفي وجودنا وإنّنا ملتصقون به، ونعلم أنّنا ذاهبون إليه.



“Receive this pledge and preserve it whole and unharmed
Until your last breath, because you will be called
To account for it at the second coming
of our great Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.”
(From The Service of the Ordination to Priesthood)

In Honour of his 40 years of Ordination
into the Priesthood

Very Reverend Father Ghattas Hajal

The Parish Council of St. Elias Cathedral
invites you to join them for a Gala Dinner
on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017

St. Elias Centre
750 Ridgewood Ave.

Cocktails 7:00 pm
Dinner 7:30 pm

Ticket \$85

Table No. _____

For tickets please contact
Roulida Salibi at 613-806-3666

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH

Primate of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

The Right Rev. Bishop ALEXANDER

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