The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdioce Of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the west.

St.Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس فيليبس الرسول الأنطاكية الارثوذكسية

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Pastor: Reverend Father Elias Ferzli.

Attached: V. Rev. Archpriest Joseph Sakkab; Rev. Deacon Simon Sakkab.



October 16, 2011

Sunday of Holy Fathers of Seventh Ecumenical Council أحد آباء المجمع المسكوني السابع.

Weekly Service Schedule:

Saturday: 6:00 PM Vesper service Sunday: 9:30 AM Matins' Service 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

اللحن الأول الإيوثينا السابعة Tone 1 Eothinon 7

(Troparion of the resurrection -Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

(Troparion of the Holy Fathers – Tone 8)

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.

(Troparion of St-Philip -Tone 3)

O Holy Apostle Philip intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls, forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion:

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

الطروباريات: (للقيامة – باللحن الأول):

إِن الحجَرَ لما خُتِمَ منَ اليهود / وجسدَكَ الطاهرَ حُفِظَ منَ الجند / قمتَ في اليومِ الثالثِ أيها المخلص/ مانحاً العالمَ الحياة/ لذلك قواتُ السماوات/ هتفوا إلَيكَ يا واهِبَ الحياة/ ألمجدُ لقيامتِكَ أيها المسيح/ ألمجدُ لمُلكِكُّ/ أَلمَجُّدُ لتَدبيرُكَ يا مُحِبَّ البُّشر وحدَك.

(طروبارية الآباء القديسين - باللحن الثامن):

انت ايها المسيح الهنا الفائق التسبيح، يا من اسست آباءنا القديسين على الأرض كواكب لامعة، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً الى الإيمان الحقيقي، ايها الجزيل الرحمة المجد لك

(للقديس فيليبس الرسول _ باللحن الثالث):

أيها الرسول القديس فيليبس، تشفع الى الإله الرحيم، ان ينعم بصفح الز لات لنفوسنا.

The Epistle:

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

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة

مبارك أنت يا إله آبائنا

لأنك عدل في كل ما صنعت بنا.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى تيطس 8:3-15

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد ان تقرر حتى يهتم الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة، فهذه هي الأعمال الحسنة والنافعة اما المباحثات الهذيانية والأنساب والخصومات والمماحكات الناموسية فاجتنبها، فانها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورَجُل البدعة، بعد الإنذار مرة وأخرى، أعرض عنه، عالما ان من هو كذلك قد اعتسف وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه ومتى أرسلتُ اليك أرتيماس او تيخيكوس فبادر ان تأتيني الى نيكوبولس لأنى قد عَزمتُ ان أشتّى هناك اما زيناس معلّم الناموس وأبلّوس فاجتهد في تشبيعهما متأهبَيْن لئلا يُعوز هما شيء. وليتعلّم ذوونا ان يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية حتى لا يكونوا غير مثمرين. يسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلم على الذين يحبوننا في الايمان. النعمة معكم أجمعين، آمين

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير 5:8-16

قال الرب هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليزرع زرعه، وفيما هو يزرع سقط بعض على الطريق فوُطئ وأكلته طيور السماء. والبعض سقط على الصخر فلما نبت يبس لأنه لم تكن له رطوبة. وبعض سقط بين الشوك فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. وبعض سقط في الأرض الصالحة فلما نبت أثمر مئة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه: ما عسى ان يكون هذا المثل؟ فقال: لكم قد أعطي أن تعرفوا أسرار ملكوت الله. وأما الباقون فبأمثال لكي لا ينظروا وهم ناظرون ولا يفهموا وهم سامعون. وهذا هو المثل: الزرع هو كلمة الله، والذين على الطريق هم الذين يسمعون ثم يأتي إبليس وينزع الكلمة من قلوبهم لئلا يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. والذين على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها بفرح ولكن ليس لهم اصل، وانما يؤمنون الى حين وفي وقت التجربة يرتدون. والذي سقط في الشوك هم الذين يسمعون ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذاتها، فلا يأتون بشمر. واما الذي سقط في الأرض الجيدة فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيد صالح ويُثمرون بالصبر. ولما قال هذا، نادى من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

The Sower.

Chronologically, this is the first of the Saviour's parables. It tells how the Divine word is like a seed, and how **differently** people receive it, depending upon the disposition of their souls. This is how the Evangelist Matthew recorded this parable:

"Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Mt. 13:1-23).

In this parable, ethically roughened people are likened to a **wayside**. The word of God cannot penetrate into their hearts, as if it falls on the surface of their consciousness and is soon razed from memory, without getting under their skin or arousing high feelings. People of variable mood are likened to **stony places** because their good impulses are as shallow as a thin coat of earth that covers the surface of a rock. These people, even if the truth of the Good News intrigues them for a moment in their lives, are neither able to give up their ambitions for the sake of this truth, change their habitual way of life, nor start a steady struggle against their sinful nature.

They despond and fall to temptation after the first trial. When speaking of the seed falling amidst **thorns**, Christ means people burdened with earthly labours, greedy for gain, and fond of pleasures. Like weeds, vanity and the chase after illusory comforts has choked up everything good and holy in them. And, finally, people with hearts sensitive to the good, ready to change their life and put it in line with the teaching of Christ, are likened to the **rich earth**. These people hear the word of God, firmly decide to follow Him, and bring forth the fruit of their good works — hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold — depending upon their capabilities and effort.

The Lord ends this parable with the significant words: "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." By these final words the Lord knocks at the heart of every man, calling each to a deeper **look into his own soul,** for better understanding of his own self — does this soul not resemble the barren land, covered only with the weeds of sinful wishes? Even so, He is not calling us to despair, for the earth unsuitable for sowing is not condemned forever. The effort and labor of one who tends the earth can make it fertile. So we can and must put ourselves right by fasting, repentance and good works; and thus struggle to become faithful and pious, even if we be spiritual idlers and lovers of sin.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed — joyful in the highest degree and pleasing to God; poor in spirit — humble, those who are conscious of their imperfections and unworthiness before God, and never think that they are better or more holy than others.

Spiritual lowliness is the conviction that our entire life and all our spiritual and physical blessings, such as life, health, strength, spiritual ability, knowledge, riches, and every good thing of life, all this is the gift of our Creator God. Without help from Heaven, it is impossible to acquire either material well-being or spiritual riches. All this is the gift of God.

Spiritual lowliness is called **humility**. Humility is the foundation of Christian virtue, because it is the opposite of pride, and pride introduced all evil into the world. Due to pride the first among the angels became the Devil; the first people sinned, their descendants quarreled and went to war among themselves from pride. *The first sin was pride* (Ecclesiasticus 10:15).

Without humility it is impossible to return to God. Nor are any of the other Christian virtues possible. Humility permits us to know ourselves, correctly to assess our worth and deficiencies. It acts beneficially in the fulfillment of our obligations to our neighbor, arouses and strengthens in us faith in God, hope and love for Him. It attracts the mercy of God to us and also disposes people well towards us.

The Word of God says, A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart is broken and humbled God will not despise (Ps. 50:17). Surely he scorneth scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly (Prov. 3:34). Learn of me, instructs the Saviour, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls (Matt. 11:29).

Physical misery or privation can result in the acquisition of much spiritual humility if this privation or need is accepted with good will, without a murmur. But physical privation does not always result in spiritual humility; it can lead to bitterness.

Even the wealthy can be spiritually humble if they understand that visible, material wealth is decadent and transitory, fleeting, and that it is substitute for spiritual riches. They must understand the word of the Lord, *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul?* (Matt. 16:26).

It is necessary strictly to reject so-called "noble self-love" or "defense against affronts to one's honor," which reflect prejudices, pernicious superstitions, which were inherited from Roman

paganism hostile to Christianity. The true Christian must decisively renounce these superstitions which resulted in the anti-Christian and shameful custom of the duel and revenge.

In reward for meekness of spirit, humility, the Lord Jesus Christ promises the Kingdom of Heaven, a life of eternal blessedness. Participation in the Kingdom of God for the humble begins here and now — by means of faith and hope in God; but the ultimate reward in all of its fullness will be seen in the future life.

بالإنجيل. منا من لم يقرأه اذ يتكل على ما يسمع منه في قداس الأحد، هذا اذا حضر كل احد. وفي هذه الحال يسمع جزءا صُغيرًا. والإنجيل تتُدرب انت عليه بالقرّاءة الشخصية، بالاستمتاع بها اي بالتأمل فيها وعهد لك مع الرّب ان تطيعها كلياً. كذلك من كلُّمة الله ما تسمعه في العبادات ان كنت من العابدين. والعدد الكبير منا لا يدخل الكنيسة الا قليلا او يدخلها في المواسم. هذا يعنى ان سماع الكثيرين للكلمة قليل

ولكن عُودًا الى هذا المثل الذي ألَّفه يسوع، عندنا فئة تسمع ويجرِّبها إبليس كي لا تحفظ تبقي الكلمة قليلا ثم يأتي روح الشر وينتزعها لأنه لا يريد الناس انْ يتأقلموا مع الكلمة، لأنها اذا بقيت في الناس يكون هو مطرودا من الناس ولا يبقّي له شغل. ثم هناك فئة قال عنها يسوع انها على الصّخر. هذه تقبل الكلمة بفرح ولكن هذه المجوعة ليس لها أصل. تؤمن الى حين وترتد في المحنة. فالعيش مع الله تبات. في مواضع كثيرة من إنجيل يوحنا يقول السيد: "من يثبت في وانا فيه". هذا الكلام يعني انك اتخذت الرب مقاما لك اما اذا استطبت كلامه الى حين، وقت سماعه ولم تسكنه، تكون فقط قائما بمشوار ليس مع الكلمة مشوار. انت تسير دائما فيها او تسمّر نفسك عليها او تبيت فيها بإصرار لأنك تعرفها الإنقاذ. وكلما قويت فيك تصبح ذلك الترس الذي يجعلك تصد التجارب. انت مع الرب في السراء والضراء، اذا بدا لك نافعا واذا بدا انه يعرقل مشاريعك. اي تبقي معه اذا استخدمته لمصالحك الدنيوية ولا تبقى معه في العراء، في الجفاف وهو يريدك ان تعطش اليه كما هو دائما عطشان اليك يريدك معه في الصحة والمرض، في البحبوحة او الفقر، اذا احسست بقربه او أحسست ببعده.

ثم عندك فئة رهيبة هم اولئك "الذين يسمعون ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذاتها فلا يأتون بثمر". تذكّر اننا في النشيد الشاروبيمي في القداس قبل ان نقرم الذبيحة نقول: "لنطرح عنا كل الاهتمامات (او الهموم) الدنيوية". فاذا عرقلك اي هم او هاجس او وسواس او قلق لا تستطيع ان ترفع القربان لله ولا تقدر ان تتحد بجسد المسيح. ينبغي ان تكون حرا من كل

هنا لوقا يوضح أهم الهموم ويقول أنه الغنى والملذات تعرفون جميعا قول السيد: "لا تستطيعون أن تخدموا ربين، الله والمال". المال في خدمتك لا تصر أنت عاشقا له أي أسيرا له أذ لا يبقى عند ذلك موضع لله في قلبك لقد أسلمت نفسك ليسوع بالمعمودَّية التي فيها رفضت الشيطان ووافقت المسيح. بعد هذا صارَّ الطعام والشرابُّ والمسكَّن كلها ثانوية، فلا تقمها في المقاّم الأول من قلبك لئلا بتحجر قلبك

اما الملذات فهي طاغية. كن معتدلا فيها ولو كانت شرعية لئلا تؤخذ بها كل لذة اذا استفحلت آسرة اي صعب الرجوع عنها فقد

الله المعدات هي معادية على معدد على وروك سري المسلح الأساسي انه المحرر. تسجلت في اعصابك وذوقك دور المسلح الأساسي انه المحرر. تبقى المجموعة الحبيبة الى الله، مجموعة الذين "يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيد صالح ويثمرون بالصبر". وكأنه يقول انت يمكنك بالنعمة التي تنزل عليك وبالجهد الموصول ان تجعل قلبك صالحاً. وعندند تستحلي الله فيك. من هنا يأتيك الصبر على المحنة والقوة لتتصَّدى لها. فاذا بقيت على الإخلاص تنزل الكلمة عليك وتصيّر انت بالشهادة والعمل كلمّة من كلمات الله. جاور جيوس مطران جبيل والبترون وما يليهما (جبل لبنان).

Announcements

September special services

Tuesday October 25, at 7:30 PM: Vespers service for the feast of St. Dimitri the myrrh streamer.

Church School

Church school just started this year on Sunday September 22. We are still accepting registrations is on Sunday

Teen Soyo

Our Teen Soyo will be holding a fundraising CHILI LUNCH on Sunday October 30. This is dedicated to the Special Olympic Awareness Day.

Junior Choir Practice: October 22 after vespers.

The Junior Choir will be practicing once a month for one hour. The first practice will be on Saturday October 22 after vespers. Everyone is welcome.

Antiochian Women

- The Antiochian Women will be sponsoring the coffee hour every Sunday after Liturgy. Please join us for fellowship time.
- The Antiochian Women and all ladies of our parish will be hosted in a ladies' fellowship evening at the house of Mrs. Nahia Rustom on Saturday November 26 at 6:00 pm. All ladies are invited.
- Next Antiochian Women general meeting will be next Sunday November 27, after church.

List of feasts

A list of feasts is prepared with families sponsoring each feast. It is requested that the sponsoring family provides holy bread (Korban) for the Sunday preceding or following the feast.

Altar Servers Schedule

A schedule for serving in the altar was sent by email and available in hard copy to all parents. We encourage all parents to bring their children on time according to the schedule.