

After-feast (Apodosis) of the Entrance of the Theotokos; The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and The Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Clement, Bishop of Rome; Hieromartyr Peter, Bishop of Alexandria; Hermogenes, Bishop of Agrigentum; Martyrs Philoumenos and Christopher;
Martyr Alexander of Corinth

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Tone 6; Eothinon 1

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL (for the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

The Synaxarion

On November 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Holy of Holies, and we commemorate our father among the saints Clement, bishop of Rome.

Verses

Cast into the depth of the sea with an anchor,
Clement cometh to Christ, the uttermost Anchor.

On the twenty-fourth Clement drowned in the depths of Christ.

Clement was born in Rome of royal lineage. His family had become lost at sea, so Clement, at age 24, went east to find them. In Alexandria, he met the Apostle Barnabas and, afterward, joined the Apostle Peter whom Clement's two brothers, Faustinus and Faustinian, were already following. By God's providence, the Apostle Peter came upon Clement's mother as an aged beggar woman, and then found his father as well. Thus, the whole family was reunited, and all returned to Rome as Christians. Clement served as third bishop of Rome, bringing a great number of unbelievers to Christ. He ordered seven scribes to write the lives of the Christian martyrs who were suffering at that time for their Lord. The Emperor Trajan banished him to Cherson, where Clement found about 2,000 exiled Christians who received him with great joy. In one year, 75 churches were built there. The authorities drowned Clement in the sea in the year 101. His miracle-working relics emerged from the sea in the ninth century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Peter, bishop of Alexandria; Hermogenes, bishop of Agrigentum; Martyr Philoumenos and Christopher; and Martyr Alexander of Corinth. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

The Coffee Hour is being hosted this morning by the young adults of our parish.

The Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Emile F. Skaff and family in loving memory of Carrie D. Skaff. Memory eternal. The cross being mounted on the dome of the new church today was sponsored by the Skaff family in memory of Carrie Deeb Skaff.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the continued recovery of Mary Evans,
by her Godson, Richard Tamoush.

for the continued recovery and healing of Deacon Barsoum
of St. Matthew Church (Irvine) ,

by the Srour and Cruz families in loving memory of the newly-departed
servant of God, Aunt Sally Rihbany (+13 November, 2019)
of West Roxbury, Massachusetts. Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Robert (“Bob”)
Toomey (+12 November, 2019), beloved brother of Ned Toomey.
Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Richard Simon
(+17 November, 2019), beloved husband of Joyce Simon, the father of
Jeannine Ciernia (Simon), Daniel and David Simon. Memory eternal.

[Home Visitation: today, Sunday, November 24 from 2-5 p.m.,
431 Ladera Street; Monterey Park; 91754; Funeral Service: Monday, November
25 at 11 a.m. at St. Nicholas Cathedral, followed by Graveside Trisagon at
Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Glendale), 1712 So. Glendale Ave.; Glendale, 91205

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families

Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families

Dec 08 - open

Dec 08 - open

Dec 15 - open

Dec 15 - Church School Christmas Buffet

The Khouri/Lewin Families

Dec 22 - open

Dec 22 - the Meena family

Dec 24 and 25 - open

Dec 29 - open

Dec 29 - open

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and
Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@socal.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

THE CHRISTMAS FAST – ADVENT

The Church ordains that this preparation begins on November 15. The Fast is forty days long and is sometimes known as Philip's Fast because it begins the day after November 14, which is dedicated to St. Philip the Apostle.

The Fast has very ancient origins. Leo the Great, in the Fifth Century, made mention of it as an ancient, established Fast, which gave importance to the event of the Birth of Christ by the Church, even at that time. The Christians Church did not universally observe the Fast in length and method until the Council of Constantinople in 1166 AD. It was at that Council that the ancient regulations and various customs and traditions of the churches were studied and forty days was chosen to be most representative.

Many of us want the Feast without the penitential note that precedes it. We want Christmas without Advent. The result is that most of us only "observe" the day of Christmas and fail to "keep" the day holy. The Christmas fast gives us time to meditate upon the meaning of our Lord's coming (God born as a man) – in the past, present, and future. Only to the extent that we prepare carefully for His Coming can we receive Him worthily. Hence, as Christmas approaches, we should be aware of the meaning of the Christmas fast (Advent) upon us and our souls. Consciences need examination; sins need to be forgiven. Above all, souls need refreshment with His Sacramental Presence when the Christmas Fast ends and Christ is born.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We are within the period of the Nativity Fast

[Note: The **Fast of the Holy Nativity** is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 through December 19, the traditional fasting discipline is observed (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil), except on Tuesdays and Thursdays when wine and oil are permitted, and on Saturdays and Sundays when fish, wine and oil are allowed. It should be noted that some allow for fish on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays from November 15 to December 18; 2) December 20 through 24, traditional fasting is observed on all days except on Saturday and Sunday when wine and oil are permitted.]

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost and the 14th Sunday of Luke

Saturday, November 30th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 1st, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Festal Celebration at St. Barbara Monastery

Tuesday, December 3rd, Vigil, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4th - 10 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker - Friday, December 6th

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Capital Funds Campaign Committee Meeting - Today

Parish Council Dinner Meeting – Monday, December 9th, 6 p.m.

[at the home of Michael & Mary Ann Mitchell:
26227 Reade Place; Stevenson Ranch; 91381]

Teen SOYO Raffle

Tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle are available each Sunday until the date of the drawing, Sunday, December 15, 2019, during our Church School Christmas Program. Proceeds from the raffle will help Teen SOYO sponsor the Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village and our St. Michael Teen Program.

Christmas Toy Collection

We will again be collecting new toys for the children of prisoners. The toys should not include guns or require batteries. We especially need sports items: soccer balls, basketballs, and games for the children. All financial contributions should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 8th, and all toys should be at the church by the date of our Christmas Program – December 15th. All toys and clothing will be distributed by the Archdiocese Prison Ministry with the assistance of our parish in Palmdale and we welcome your contributions.

For Planning Ahead

This year the Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas) falls on a Wednesday. The weekend of the The Sunday Before Christmas will include Vespers on Saturday, December 21st at 5 p.m., Orthros at 8:45 a.m. and Liturgy at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 22nd. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the Pre-Feast will be served following the Ninth Royal Hour, beginning at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve). The Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated on Christmas Day (Wednesday), December 25th at 10 a.m., preceded by Orthros and the Christmas canon at 8:30 a.m.

Fall Food Collection

We are assisting a local food pantry ("Loaves and Fishes") in their new location in Van Nuys. Please phone Cindy Tamoush at: 818-345-4363 if you are able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection. Here are ways that you may choose to participate:

1. If you'd like me to shop for you, write a check out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "Holiday Food Collection" (tax deductible)
2. You may purchase grocery script in any amount. Don't forget to use your Ralph's Reward Card that will help St. Michael benefit from your purchase.
3. Due to the lack of space, Loaves and Fishes is requested any of the following items: personal care items, deodorant soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors, large disposable diapers, men and women's socks, bottled water, and any store gift cards in \$5 or \$10 denominations. Please do not provide us with clothing or household items.

All food items must be delivered to our church kitchen today, November 24 and/or Sunday, December 22.

Thank you for your support,

Cindy Tamoush
Charity Coordinator

Cathedral "Kicks Off" Debutante Ball Event Fundraising

St. Nicholas Cathedral is hosting the 57th "Sweetheart Ball," scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Universal Hilton in Universal City. The event is being co-chaired by Rose Samore and Georgette Malouf. Some of our teens are participants in this biennial event. Program Book Sponsorships are being solicited and is a lovely way to honor our young women. The form is available on the narthex bulletin board. The deadline is February 21, 2020. Checks are payable to: "St. Nicholas Ladies Society." Tickets for the event and more information is available by contacting: Tania Matar at 818-903-0953 or by e-mail at: [<taniamatta@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:taniamatta@sbcglobal.net).

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

Thanksgiving Weekend Iconography Retreat with Iconographer:
Khouriye Randa Al Khoury Azar - November 25-30; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
with free hour lunch break; (TAHS 1020 Base Line Rd., La Verne 91750)

St. Michael Teen "Friendsgiving!"
Saturday, November 30 at the home of Anna & Cooper Rowe

"Sex Education in Public Schools: What Parents Should Know"
Half-day Seminar by Dr. Keith Buhler, Saturday, December 7;
1:30 to 4:15 p.m., St. Simeon Mission (Santa Clarita)

Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal - Saturday, December 7
with lunch and the visit of St. Nicholas, 10 a.m.

Young Adult "Ugly Sweater Party" - Saturday, December 7
(pot luck dinner at the home of Subdeacon Richard Ajalat)

St. Nicholas (Cathedral) Day Luncheon - Sunday, December 8, 2019,
1 p.m. in the Heritage Ballroom;
\$35/adults; \$20/children 16 years and under

"Breaking the Twin Shackles: Overcoming Anger and Despair in Spiritual
Struggle - December 13-15; St. Andrew Church
[4700 Canyon Crest Dr., Riverside, 92507]

Advent Retreat (St. Michael Church, Whittier) with Fr. Patrick Reardon
"Prayer and the Word of God;" Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
RSVP at: StMichaelWhittier@gmail.com; www.stmichaelwhittier.org

50th Anniversary Church School Christmas Program
at the end of Liturgy, Sunday, December 15

Teen Christmas Caroling Event - Saturday, December 21, 2019

The Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas) - Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Eve Liturgy (Paramon), 3:30 p.m.; Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

St. Mark Men's Club New Year's Party - Tuesday, December 31, 2019
St. Mark Hall [17840 Sky Park Circle; Irvine; 92614] \$75/person,
\$45/under 15 occupying a seat (no babysitting); RSVP by 12/15

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

[The Sacrament of Confession with Absolution is available by appointment or up until 15 minutes prior to the services.]

The Sunday before The Holy Nativity

“The Sunday of the Genealogy”

Saturday, December 21st – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 22nd – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve and *Paramon*)

The Ninth Royal Hour, 3 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

Orthros and the Christmas Canon, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

[There is **no** fasting from December 25th to January 4th]

The Circumcision of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great (New Year’s Day)

Tuesday, December 31st (New Year’s Eve) – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
with prayers for the New Year

Wednesday, January 1st (New Year’s Day) – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.;
Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m., with prayers for the New Year

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Friday, January 3rd - The Prayers of The Royal Hours, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 4th - The Eve of Forefeast (*Paramon*) – [observed as a strict fast day]
Great Vespers of the Forefeast (*Paramon*)

Sunday, January 5th - Orthros, 9 a.m., The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* 10
a.m. followed by the service of The Great Blessing of the Waters
Great Vespers of Holy Theophany, 5 p.m.

Monday, January 6th — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by
The Festal Divine Liturgy

* *Services with Holy Communion*

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
of the San Fernando Valley**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
pastor@stmichaelvanuys.com

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvanuys.com

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things,
at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
(II Corinthians 9:8)*

Dear Members of St. Michael,

We are soon approaching the end of the calendar year and our Parish Council is preparing to provide us with our 2020 Annual Budget. A parish cannot solely rely upon the income of Sacramental offerings because we would not be able to meet our month-to-month expenses based upon anticipating baptisms, weddings, or funerals that takes place each year. Nor can we adequately pay for our ongoing property maintenance without the shared responsibility and the help of volunteers of our membership. Our parish is able to provide its clergy and facilities, the prayer services of the church and its Sacraments because of our faithful parishioners who help to financially support the salaries and the operational costs of our church property.

We are again asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a reasonable annual financial pledge to our parish for the New Year. We have much to be thankful for, in this, our 50th Anniversary year as a parish. We look forward, by God's grace, for continued growth in the future. We are also very grateful for the commitments of those who have provided us with contributions to complete the construction of our new church sanctuary. We encourage others who have not done so to prayerfully consider doing the same. One of our goals is to remain debt free. The New Year will include the second phase of our project that includes completing the interior of our new temple. Additional information will be provided at our Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January.

May you and your family enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving holiday with God's continued blessings as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of our Lord's birth.

In Christ,

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush
Stewardship Chair

Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form

What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of taxes on all investment (income) property (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. Moreover, it is not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family is not enrolled as a regular contributor of the parish. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish that will be presented at our Annual Meeting on January 26.

What is an annual "Fair Share Commitment?"

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. You can see two charts that provide the financial highlights of Archdiocese receipts and expenditures provided in our Annual Report booklet. The annual payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church is currently: \$21,775 or 10% of our parish income (excluding contributions received for the Building Fund, charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts). This money is collected from our parishioners from their first contribution to the church: \$50 for each adult and \$35 for each child (17 years of age or under) in a household. All additional funds pledged by our parishioners assist with the month-to-month expenses of the parish.

Our 2020 Pledge Form is provided in our church narthex.

The form may be completed and returned to the Church Office at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys; California; 91406; or turned in on Sunday to Mary Ann Coury, Comptroller.

The After-Feast (Apodosis) of the Entrance of the Holy Theotokos
 The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke
 Clement, Bishop of Rome; Hieromartyr Peter, bishop of Alexandria; Hermogenes,
 Bishop of Agrigentum; Martyrs Philoumenos and Christopher; Martyr Alexander of Corinth

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الأول

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجَنْدِ، قُفَّتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ أَيْهَا
 الْمَخْلُصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. فَلذَلِكَ قَوَاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ: الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ
 أَيْهَا الْمَسِيحِ، الْمَجْدُ لِمَلِكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لَتَدْبِيرِكَ يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدَّكَ.

الْيَوْمَ الْعِذْرَاءُ الَّتِي هِيَ مُقَدَّمَةٌ مَسْرَّةَ اللَّهِ، وَابْتِدَاءُ الْكَرَاةِ بِخَلَاصِ الْبَشَرِ، قَدْ ظَهَرَتْ فِي هَيْكَلِ
 اللَّهِ عِلَانِيَةً، وَسَبَقَتْ مُبَشِّرَةً الْجَمِيعَ بِالْمَسِيحِ. فَلَنَهْتَفُ نَحْوَهَا بِصَوْتِ عَظِيمِ قَائِلِينَ: إِفْرَجِي يَا
 كَمَالَ تَدْبِيرِ الْخَالِقِ.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أَيْهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ
 بِطَلْبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظُلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِينَ
 وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ، أَنْقِدُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

الْيَوْمَ الْهَيْكَلُ الَّذِي لِلْمَخْلُصِ، الْكُلِّيُّ النَّقَاءِ، الْعِذْرَاءُ الْخَدْرُ ذُو الثَّمَنِ الْجَزِيلِ، وَهِيَ الْكَنْزُ الطَّاهِرُ
 لِمَجْدِ الْإِلَهِ، إِذْ تَدْخُلُ بَيْتَ الرَّبِّ، تُدْخِلُ نِعْمَةَ الرُّوحِ الْإِلَهِيِّ مَعَهَا. فَلْتُسَبِّحْهَا مَلَائِكَةُ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّهَا
 الْمِظْلَةُ السَّمَاوِيَّةُ.

الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ
 إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحْ، إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ أَفَسُسِ (10-2:4)

يا إخوة، إنَّ اللهَ لَكُونَهُ غَنِيًّا بِالرَّحْمَةِ، وَمِنْ أَجْلِ كَثْرَةِ مَحَبَّتِهِ الَّتِي أَحَبَّنَا بِهَا * حِينَ كُنَّا أَمْوَاتًا بِالزَّلَّاتِ، أَحْيَانَا مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ. (فَإِنَّكُمْ بِالنِّعْمَةِ مُخْلِصُونَ) * وَأَقَامَنَا مَعَهُ، وَأَجَلَسَنَا مَعَهُ فِي السَّمَاوِيَّاتِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ * لِيُظَهَرَ فِي الدُّهُورِ الْمُسْتَقْبَلَةِ فَرْطَ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ بِاللِّطْفِ بِنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ * فَإِنَّكُمْ بِالنِّعْمَةِ مُخْلِصُونَ بِوَسِطَةِ الْإِيمَانِ. وَذَلِكَ لَيْسَ مِنْكُمْ، إِنَّمَا هُوَ عَطِيَّةُ اللَّهِ * وَلَيْسَ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ لِئَلَّا يَفْتَخِرَ أَحَدٌ * لِأَنَّا نَحْنُ صُنْعُهُ، مَخْلُوقِينَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لِلْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ الَّتِي سَبَقَ اللَّهُ فَاعَدَهَا لِنَسُكِكَ فِيهَا.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

في ذلك الزمان، دنا من يسوع إنسانٌ ليجربه فقال: "أيها المعلمُ الصالحُ، ماذا أعملُ لأرثَ الحياةَ الأبديةَ؟" فأجابه يسوع: "لماذا تدعوني صالحاً، وما صالحٌ إلا واحدٌ وهو الله. أنتَ تعرفُ الوصايا: لا تزني، لا تقتل، لا تسرق، لا تشهدَ بالزور، أكرمُ أباك وأمك. فقال: "كلُّ هذه الوصايا حفظتها من أيام صباي." فلما سمعَ يسوع ذلك، قالَ له: "يعوزُكَ شيءٌ واحدٌ، بَعْ كُلِّ شيءٍ ووزَّعْهُ عَلَى الْفُقَرَاءِ، فَيَكُونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ فِي السَّمَاءِ، وتعالِ اتبعني." فحزَنَ الرَّجُلُ عِنْدَمَا سَمِعَ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ غَنِيًّا جَدًّا. وَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّهُ حَزِنٌ جَدًّا قَالَ لَهُ: "مَا أَعْسَرَ دَخُولَ ذَوِي الْأَمْوَالِ إِلَى مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، فَدَخُولُ الْجَمَلِ فِي ثَقَبِ الْإِبْرَةِ أَسْهَلُ مِنْ دَخُولِ الْغَنِيِّ إِلَى مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ." فقال السامعون: "من يستطيعُ أن يخلصَ، إذن؟" فأجاب يسوع: ما لا يُسْتَطَاعُ عِنْدَ النَّاسِ مُسْتَطَاعٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية.