

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 stmichaelvannuys.org

His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X, of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
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The Holy Apostle James the “Brother of God” and the Sixth Sunday of Luke

Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople;
James of Borovichi, Wonderworker of Novgorod

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Tone 2; Eothinon 8

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion for the St. James the “Brother of God” (Tone 4)

Since thou art a Disciple of the Lord, thou didst receive the Gospel, O righteous James. And since thou art a martyr thou art never rejected, and since thou art a brother of God, thou art privileged, and since thou art a High Priest, it is thy right to intercede. Wherefore, beseech thou Christ God to save our souls.

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 for the Theotokos (Tone 2)

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.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. James)

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sixth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (8:26-39)

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

The Synaxarion

On October 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr and Apostle James, the Brother of God and First Bishop of Jerusalem.

Verses

Of Him condemned to wood, thou art called the brother,
Dying for His sake, with a piece of wood beaten.

On the twenty-third they smote with wood God's goodly brother.

James is called God's brother because he was the son of the righteous Joseph, the betrothed of the Most-holy Theotokos; he greatly loved Jesus. According to tradition, James traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. The Lord numbered James among His Seventy Apostles and he compiled the first Liturgy. James was Bishop of Jerusalem for thirty years and converted many Jews and Greeks to the Christian Faith. When Ananias became High Priest, he and other Jewish elders determined to kill James during the feast of Passover. They forced James to climb onto the roof of the Temple and tried to make him speak against Christ. Instead, he spoke of Christ as the Son of God and the true Messiah, and of His

Resurrection. The infuriated priests and elders pushed him off the roof, but he survived. Then, one man ran up and struck James on the head with a fuller's club and, thus, this most glorious apostle died a martyr's death.

On October 23, we also commemorate Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople; and James of Borovichi, wonderworker of Novgorod. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Florentina Manea for the three-year memorial of Vincent Streech (+23 October, 2019). Memory eternal.

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

for the repose of Jack Malouf (+23 October, 2011). Memory eternal.

by Daphne Thabet for her cousin Fran Carty, celebrating her birthday on October 26.

by Sal Chala for the repose of Brother Ricardo Luiz Andrade (+28 October, 2021). Memory eternal.

for Subdeacon Richard Mitry Ajalat celebrating his Feast Day (October 26). May God grant him many years!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Feast of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr – Wednesday, October 26

**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost and
The Fifth Sunday of Luke**

Saturday, October 29th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 30th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual Parish Council Meeting - Monday, October 24, 5 p.m.

Church Offering Options

Your church offering may be made on-line via our website “Donation” tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406. Mailing your check to the church will save our church a 3% service fee on our website. Other options for your contributions include: a) automatic bill pay; b) recurring automatic withdrawal, both of which may be arranged with your bank. You may contact us for assistance with any of these options; especially when information of our bank routing and account numbers are needed.

October is “Youth Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Reading the epistle this morning is: Natalie Dawud

Weekly Bible Study Tuesday (October 25 at 7 p.m.)

We will continue our study of Genesis, chapters 10-11. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out in an e-mail. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. All sessions are also available for anyone interested. Plan to join us.

New Prayer Books Now in the Bookstore

The new Archdiocese and Faithtree prayer books are now on sale!
Stop by and see our many other gift items.

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar.

Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Teen Event (7-12th Graders) - Sunday, October 23

10 a.m. (Liturgy) to 2:30 p.m. (including lunch)

Fourth Installation of Iconography - October 26 to November 1

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration - Sunday, November 6

[The end of Daylight Saving Time; we “fall back” and gain a full hour!]

Father Timothy on Vacation: November 7-14

The Nativity Fast: November 15 to December 24

Fall Teen Event (7-12th Graders) - Saturday, November 19
beginning with Great Vespers at 5 p.m.

**Special Meeting of the Voting Membership for Parish Council
Nominations - Sunday, November 20**

Young Adult Christmas Tree Decorating - November 20

Church School Christmas Program - Sunday, December 11

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 30 - open
Nov 06 - Charmaine Darmour
and Mae Tortolano
Nov 13 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Feast Day Lunch (Patio)

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelyannuys.org) to sign-up
to offer Holy Bread or host the coffee hour.

Sponsoring Coffee Hour Refreshments

Anyone is welcome to provide items for the Coffee Hour each Sunday. Just speak with Father Timothy for instructions should you be interested. Also, please provide him with the date that you choose to provide “finger food” with easily disposable wrappings to prevent additional clean-up. However, should you desire to provide a hot meal that may pertain to a special occasion, you will be responsible for the paper goods and the clean-up following the coffee hour. All beverages (coffee, tea, soft drinks and water) will be provided.

Building Funds Capital Funds Campaign

As 2022 is coming to an end and we anticipate worshipping in our new church sanctuary in a relatively short time, we must consider the continued financial support needed to complete our Building Project.

We pray that the City of Los Angeles will issue a TEMPORARY Certificate of Occupancy in the near future, however to secure a PERMANENT Certificate of Occupancy we will be required to fund additional capital expenditures on the exterior of our property to obtain it.

Our project is divided in two parts: Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 is the actual church building and includes the exterior property improvements required by the City of Los Angeles Building Department. The exterior property improvement requirements include: a) a new Vanowen Street base wall and fence, electric gate, landscaping (currently underway), b) parking lot repairs, including slurry sealing, stripping, c) disabled persons and low emission vehicle signs; d) a trash shed enclosure must also be erected, with water and power provided to the structure. St. Michael Church will also be required to complete: e) electrical vehicle parking space connections and f) a bicycle rack.

One of the very large expenses on our plans, that the City has allowed us to temporarily postpone, is g) a covered parking with solar panels.

Phase 2 of the Project includes the interior Byzantine church iconography and furniture that many of you have witnessed in the course of construction. The fourth installation of iconography is scheduled to begin at the end of this month. The work has been overseen by our Pastor, the V. Rev. Timothy Baclig.

We need everyone's continued financial support of Phase I of the Project since we have fallen short in funding the external requirements.

As you consider your possible tax liability to the IRS for 2022, we ask that you consider making a donation to the St. Michael Church Building Fund which can be a substantial tax deduction for you. It truly is a win-win situation for you and St. Michael. Please consider a financial contribution according to your situation, with a cheerful heart.

If you have any questions with regards to Phase 1 please direct them to our Project Manager Michael Malouf michael@jacksonia.com, Ron Zraick ronaldzraick@gmail.com, and for any questions regarding Phase 2 Sponsorships to Fr. Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org Bear in mind that your first responsibility is an annual pledge to the General Fund of our parish in support of our month-to-month expenses. Pledge Forms for the new year will be made available soon.

ST MICHAEL FEAST DAY

FAMILY FRIENDLY

TACO LUNCHEON

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH
AFTER DIVINE LITURGY
OUTSIDE ON THE PATIO



**BLESSED
FEAST!!**



**\$8 adults
\$5 kids
11 & under**

**Family of 4
or more
\$25**

**CHICKEN, BEEF & SPICY PORK TACOS
RICE, BEANS GUACAMOLE, & ALL THE FIXINGS
CHIPS & SALSA -- BEVERAGES & DESSERT**

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 20, 2022 we will be holding a brief virtual and in-person Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2023 to December, 2025). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor.

It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month.

We sincerely thank Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla [ending his second (2nd) term; unable to be nominated; able to be appointed]; John Khouri [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated or appointed]; and Dan Raju [completing his first (1st) term; able to be nominated or appointed]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Adam Lamar [completing his second year appointed and a three-year term], Michael Paraskevas [completing his first year appointed]; and Maria Safady [completing his first year appointed].

If necessary, the Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 27 and December 4. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Joe Ayoub, Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Julie Bitar, Britton McLinn, Deacon Andrew Monsue and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her twelfth (12th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Kris Thabit, Nominations Chair at: kthabit66@hotmail.com or speak with Father Timothy.

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Michael:

The Feast of our patron, the Holy Archangel Michael, will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 with a divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. **However, on Sunday, November 6, a fully sponsored family friendly patio lunch is planned following the Divine Liturgy.** We will have benefitted from an additional hour of sleep on Saturday evening since we will “fall back” in returning to Pacific Standard Time. **A count is needed of those attending for our caterer, please e-mail your plans to be with us at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org.**

The Antiochian Women are the beneficiaries of this annual event, 100% of the proceeds is to will be dedicated to the support of St. Barbara Monastery. Your donation is welcome if you are unable to attend.

May we all have a blessed Feast!

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
Pastor

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Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. Michael,

St. Michael continues to support Loaves & Fishes, a local pantry serving the impoverished areas in Van Nuys and throughout the San Fernando Valley areas. Should you be able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection the following are suggested:

1. Monetary donation: Write a check made out to “St. Michael Church,” earmarked “Holiday Food Collection” (a tax incentive).
2. If you are doing your own shopping at Ralph’s or Food-4-Less stores, don’t forget to use your Ralphs Reward Card to help St. Michael Church to benefit from your purchases.
3. Loaves and Fishes is also in need of the following items: Personal care items including, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors; baby items such as size 4-5 diapers, 5T Pull-Ups or larger, and baby formula; bottled water, canned food items (preferably with pull-up tabs), i.e., tuna, chicken, baked beans, fruit, vegetables, chili, soups, pasta/ravioli, peanut butter, Ensure, Carnation Instant Breakfast, coffee, tea; also any store gift cards for \$10.

All food items must be delivered to our Church Kitchen by Sunday, November 20th and Sunday December 18th. A cart marked Food Collection will be placed in the kitchen for your donations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy Tamoush

Charity Coordinator

St. Nicholas Winter Camp - Friday to Monday, February 17-20, 2023

Registration for Winter Camp will be open on November 1, 2022. Here is the link to the Camp Website: <https://www.campstnicholas.com/site/home/> The Camp Committee is currently receiving applications for Camp Staff and Counselors. The following is the link for the application process: <https://www.mycircuitree.com/AV/HR/Application> Staff and Counselor qualifications include anyone who is: a) 18 years of age by the date of the Camp, b) graduated from High School, c) a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church (provided with a favorable recommendation from a Pastor).

PASTORAL SERMON
The Sixth Sunday of Luke
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
October 23, 2022

Today's Gospel lesson graphically illustrates how being abandoned to the power of evil leads to death and destruction. It is also not uncommon to find, as the lesson reveals: that cases of demonic possession is characterized in their last throes, by a certain fury; and how the presence of such a power of evil invokes fear.

The Gospel passage also shows us that there was complete perversion (with distortion and corruption) in the region of the Gerasenes by the Sea of Galilee. St. Luke also records that after the healing of the demon-possessed man, the people of the region of the Gerasenes, who were horrified, begged Jesus to leave them alone. In verse 35 we hear: "...they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid."

Evil had pervaded in the region to the degree that it infected the environment, and the people considered abnormality to be normal. In other words, their familiarity with evil was pervasive to the extent that it was accepted as the norm. This is spoken about in the New Testament as a reprobate condition (see Romans, chapter 1).

Soon we will celebrate the feast of St. Raphael, and the Feast of our Patron, Michael, the Archangel, who together with Gabriel and the bodiless powers are celebrated in the Church among the leading forces of good, obedient to the will of God. Contrary to these forces are those who rebel against God and whose work is evil. These are demons or devils (which literally means those who *pull* apart and destroy), spoken about in the Old and New Testaments as well as in the lives of the Saints of the Church. Satan (which literally means *enemy* or *the adversary*, and who is specifically identified as "*the Evil One*" in the Lord's Prayer) are among the names for the devil, the leader of evil spirits. He is identified with the serpent in chapter three of the book of Genesis, and as the tempter of both the Righteous

Job (Job 1:6) and Jesus (Mark 1:33). He is labeled by Christ as the deceiver and “the father of lies” (John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11). He has fallen from heaven together with his evil angels to do battle with God and his servants (see Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12). It is this same Satan who “entered Judas” to effect the betrayal, the crucifixion and death of Christ (Luke 22:3).

St. Paul provides us with a clear challenge: (Ephesians 6:10ff) *...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness...* St. Paul highlights something that we can easily overlook: That our struggle and spiritual warfare is not easily perceived; it is not something that can be easily identified. It can be deceptive and very cunning. It is a spiritual delusion that promotes a false reality.

As parents and Godparents, we have to know how to be spiritually proactive. Being proactive does not mean that we have to go witch hunting. It does mean that we have to: 1) maintain a self-discipline of daily prayer and repentance, 2) fast when necessary, 3) not be negligent in preparing or participating in the Sacraments, 4) fill our minds with good thoughts (*Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about [these] things, Phil. 4:8*); be involved positive conversations (seeking truth, avoiding gossip), and become educated in matters of the faith, 5) guarding (protecting) our hearts from becoming inclined to affections that separate us from God, 6) cultivate a godly environment (at home, in the workplace, and at school) – who we associate with, the friendships we establish; the atmosphere we create with the things we use and adorn ourselves and our space – where we live, work, play, even the places and the environment we choose to be entertained at. We should never procrastinate in doing and maintaining these things. Yes, it requires discipline, but should be motivated by our relationship with God: our love for God and His love for us. For children it is especially important because the earliest (formative) years of a child determine a great deal.

Today's Gospel lesson, which presents to us a very dramatic image of the force of evil, provides a very important message to us: Anyone who identifies with demons is driven, or in bondage to the power of evil, looses his own personality and independence. One's loss of personal identity and self-worth, therefore, is a symptom of demonic activity. God, on the other hand never "possesses" a person. Any possession is demonic. The work of God, one can be sure, is always the opposite of demonic activity. God frees, liberates, renews, unites, builds up, regenerates, heals and affirms. It builds godliness and preserves purity. Evil suppresses, demeans, deceives, constricts, possesses, fosters idolatry, promotes filthiness and uncleanness, tears apart, steals, kills, and destroys.

In the Lord's encounter with the demon possessed man, he asks: "What is your name?" His purpose was to bring the man back to an awareness of his own identity and to restore him to his own personality and independence. When a person is sunk in habits driven by the power of evil, Christ desires that there be a disassociation and an end to a relationship with these attachments, and a recollection of one's own name – the name one receives from God: "I have called thee by name; thou art mine..." (Isaiah 43:1). In this name, by which God calls us, is found our true liberty and vocation.

In answering the Lord, the demon possessed man said: "My name is Legion", and the Gospel explains that this was "because many demons had entered into him" (verse 30). Here lies an important lesson. Satan is cunning. He is known as "an angel of Light". His ways are subtle. His purposes are evil. His objective is deception and his goal is destruction. With each temptation, one's instincts, mental images, and psychic elements are prompted to take on a chaotic independence. One's will, weakened by successive falls, looses self-control to the point that one's personality becomes disassociated with good and disintegrates. Only God can gather these broken fragments and heal them.

The Bible teaches that the final victory between the forces of good and evil belongs to God and to those with Him. Satan and his hosts are ultimately destroyed. It is important, however, that we become aware that the devil, commonly depicted at this time of year, dressed as a "red-suited gentleman with

horns” and a grossly physical tempter, is in fact, a subtle, intelligent spirit, who acts mostly by deceit and hidden actions, having as his greatest victory man’s disbelief in God’s existence and power. Thus, the devil attacks “head-on” those whom he can deceive in no other way: Jesus and the greatest of saints. However, his greatest effectiveness is his concealed and indirect methods and means with the spiritually weak and vulnerable.

Finally, in the epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter we hear this caution: “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour” (I Peter 5:8). There is probably no greater opportunity for us, during the annual season of Halloween, to take a sober look at evil as a very present reality, and one that we should never glorify, celebrate, or allow to flourish.

Prayer

O Lord, our God, the King of the ages, Almighty, All-powerful, the security of those who hope in Thee, we pray and ask: Remove, drive away and banish from us every diabolic activity, every Satanic scheme, every plot, evil curiosity and injury of the mischievous and wicked. Stretch forth your mighty hand and your powerful and lofty arm and send to all who are in fear an angel of peace, a mighty guardian of soul and body who will rebuke and drive away the wicked intentions of every destructive and envious person that are cleverly thrown against us. Enable us to say with confidence: “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid...” and “I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me...” For you are our God, our strength, the All-powerful, the Prince of Peace, and the Father of the age to come, and blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-men.

EOTHINON 8

الايوثينا 8

TONE 2

اللحن 2

THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES THE “BROTHER OF GOD” AND THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

IGNATIUS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; JAMES OF BOROVICHI, WONDERWORKER OF NOVGOROD

طروبارية القيامة باللحن الثاني

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت، أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت، حينئذ أمتّ الجحيم ببرق لاهوتك،
وعندما أقتت الأموات من تحت الثرى، صرخ نحوك جميع القوات السماويين: أيها
المسيح الإله المعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

بما أنك تلميذ للربّ قبلت الإنجيل أيها الصديق. وبما أنك شهيد لك عزم لا ينتهي. وبما أنك
رئيس كهنة لك حق الشفاعة. فاشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفونا بظلّ أجنحة مجدكم غير الهيولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

شفيعة المسيحيين غير الخازية. الوسيطة لدى الخالق غير المردودة. لا تعرضي عن أصوات
طلباتنا نحن الخطاة. بل تداركينا بالمعونة بما أنك صالحة. نحن الصارخين إليك بإيمان: بادري
إلى الشفاعة وأسرعني في الطلبة. يا والدة الإله المتشفعة دائماً بمكرميك.

الرسالة

إلى كل الأرض خرَج صوته.

السماوات تذيع مجد الله.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية.

يا إخوة، أعلمكم أن الإنجيل الذي بشرت به، ليس بحسب الإنسان. لأنني لم أَسَلَمُهُ
أو أتعلّمه من إنسان، بل بإعلان يسوع المسيح. فإنكم قد سمعتم بسيرتي قديماً
في ملة اليهود أنني كنت أضطهد كنيسة الله بأقراط وأدمرها. وأزيد تقدماً في ملة
اليهود على كثيرين من أترابي في جنسي، بكوني أوفر منهم غيرة عليّ تقليدات
آبائي. فلما ارتضى الله، الذي أفرزني من جوف أمي ودعاني بنعمته. أن يعلن ابنه
في لبشر به بين الأمم، لساعتني لم أضغ إلى لحم ودم. ولا صعدت إلى أورشليم
إلى الرسل الذين قبلي، بل انطلقت إلى ديار العرب، وبعد ذلك رجعت إلى دمشق.

ثُمَّ إِنِّي بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ، صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِأُزَوِّرَ بُطْرُسَ، فَأَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَمْ أَرْ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ سِوَى يَعْقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ.

الإنجيل المقدس

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الانجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

في ذلك الزمان، وصل يسوع إلى ناحية الجدرين، مقابل شاطئ الجليل. ولما نزل إلى البر استقبله رجل من المدينة فيه شياطين، وكان لا يلبس ثياباً من زمان طويل، ولا يسكن في بيت، بل بين القبور. فلما رأى يسوع، صرخ وارتقى على قدميه وصاح بأعلى صوته: "ما لي ولك يا يسوع ابن الله العلي! أسألك ألا تعذبني." قال هذا لان يسوع أمر الروح النجس أن يخرج من الرجل. وكثيراً ما استحوذ الروح النجس عليه، فكان يضبط مكبلاً بالسلاسل والقيود. ولكنه كان يحطم كل رباط ويسوقه الشيطان إلى البراري. فسأله يسوع: "ما اسمك؟" أجاب: "جيش"، لان كثيراً من الشياطين كانوا قد دخلوا فيه. فتوسلوا إلى يسوع أن يأمرهم بالذهاب إلى الهاوية. وكان هناك قطع كبير من الخنازير يرعى عند الجبل، فطلبوا إليه أن يأذن لهم بالدخول في الخنازير، فأذن لهم. فخرج الشياطين من الرجل ودخلوا في الخنازير، فاندفع القطيع من المنحدر إلى البحرية فغرق. فلما رأى الرعاة ما جرى، هربوا ونشروا الخبر في المدينة والقرى. فخرج الناس ليروا ما جرى. وجاءوا إلى يسوع، فوجدوا الرجل الذي خرج منه الشياطين جالساً عند قدمي يسوع لابساً صحيح العقل، فاستولى عليهم الخوف. وأخبرهم الشهود كيف شفاه يسوع، فطلب إليه أهل ناحية الجدرين كلهم أن ينصرف عنهم، لِمَا نالهم من الخوف الشديد. فركب القارب ورجع من هناك. أما الرجل الذي خرج منه الشياطين، فالتمس من يسوع أن يصحبه، ولكن يسوع صرفه، قال: "ارجع إلى بيتك وحدّث بما صنع الله إليك." فمضى الرجل ينادي في المدينة كلها بما صنع يسوع إليه.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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

**NOV
20**



**CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATING PARTY**

**Young adult party after
church with lunch and
Christmas music**