

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

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New Sunday (Anti-Pascha)

Commemoration of the Act of Thomas the Apostle, Called “The Twin,” and the Holy Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Apolytikion for Thomas Sunday (Tone 7)

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

Apolytikion for St. George (Tone 4)

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. George)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hear my voice, O God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (12:1-11)

in those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to

the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

THE GOSPEL (for Thomas Sunday)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(20:19-31)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and

my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

The Synaxarion

On April 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

Verses

George, the cutter-down of all his foes in battles,
is gladly cut down of his foes by beheading.

On the twenty-third, George’s neck was seized by the brazen blade.

George was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, and came into the service of Emperor Diocletian. The most famous George’s miracles are depicted in iconography. Near Mount Lebanon was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and the breath from its nostrils poisoned the air. George rode up on his horse with spear in hand. Crossing himself, he rushed at the serpent saying, “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” After George killed the serpent, twenty-five thousand men, plus women and children, were then baptized. Diocletian eventually had George and his wife, Alexandra, beheaded in 303. George is known as the Victory-bearer, or Trophy-bearer, not only for his military achievements, but for enduring martyrdom.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior’s side.

Verses

If the seals of the Virgin’s womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee,
How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy might, O Savior?

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means “in place of Pascha” because Thomas did not immediately

hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Marcelle Chaffin for the six-month memorial of her beloved husband, Ed Chaffin (+24 October, 2022). Wheat is being offered by DeAnne & Robert Abraham. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread and Wheat are also being offered this morning for the year memorial of Paul Ajalat (+8 April, 2022) by his daughter Christina. Memory eternal.

The coffee hour is being hosted by Charles & Marilee Ajalat in memory of Paul Ajalat (+8 April, 2022). Memory eternal.

A special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the repose of the newly-departed Subdeacon Magued Wassef (+16 April, 2023), and for his surviving family: Sahar, Andrew, Justina; Nabil and Eddie. Christ is risen!

[Funeral Service: Thursday, April 27th at 12:30 p.m. (St. Michael Church) with Graveside Trisagion at 2:30 p.m. (Valhalla Memorial Park; No. Hollywood) and reception following at St. Michael Church Assembly Hall.

for the healing of the servant of God, John Elac.

for Waleed & Michelle Moujaes who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary. May God grant them many years!

for the traveling mercies and protection of Scott & Mary Lou Prewett.

for the repose of the Khouriye Patricia Romley (+14 April, 2022).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*NOTE: There is **no** fasting for the forty-day period:
from Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (June 10th)*

**Commemoration of The Myrrh-Bearing Women,
The Pious Joseph of Arimathea and the Righteous Nicodemus**

Great Vespers – Saturday, April 29th, 5 p.m.

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



The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar — representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, May 25th). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (Antimension; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), at the second part of the Divine Liturgy, when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth sign by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

A WORD WE NEED TO KNOW: PASCHA (*PAAS-kah*)

Easter is the focal point of the church calendar when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word *Pascha* is the Aramaic derivation of the Hebrew word: *Pesach*, which means Passover. Jesus and most of the early Christians spoke Aramaic, and as the faith spread, the word was retained. We understand Christ to be our *passage* (or Passover) from death to life, our Pascha!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food for the Hungry Collection - Last Call!

All Food for the Hungry collection boxes should now be turned in to the Church Office. Please write your name on your box or mail a check for the total amount to the Church Office, earmarked “FFHP” for credit on your Contribution Statement. One check from our parish will be sent to the Archdiocese for the collection. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Weekly Bible Study to Resume This Tuesday, April 25th

Join us on Tuesday evenings, beginning this week, April 25th, at 7 p.m. for our weekly Bible Study. We will begin our study of the Book of Exodus. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on Tuesday. The one hour study is recorded and available by request

Save the Date for our St. Michael Golf Classic

Our 30th Annual Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023 at the Wood Ranch Golf Club. Mark your calendars for a fun-filled gathering for our parish community. Any questions? Contact Don Meena or Fred Milkie.



The following dialogue is exchanged by the priest and the people at the end of the service

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Truly, He is risen! [repeated in various languages]

Al Maseeah qam! **Haq qan qam!** (*Arabic*)

Christos Anesti! **Alithos Anesti!** (*Greek*)

Kristos voskrese! **Voistinu voskrese!** (*Slavonic*)

Kristo esta resusitado! **Verdaderamente resusitado!** (*Spanish*)

Khristi ungal! **Vertet ungal!** (*Albanian*)

Le Christ est ressuscite! **En verite il est ressuscite** (*French*)

Kristos Inviat! **Adervaret inviat!** (*Romanian*)

Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! **Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!** (*Hawaiian*)

Christus is opgestaan! **Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!** (*Dutch*)

Kristus ist Auferstanden! **Sicherlich ist Auferstanden!** (*German*)

Khristus Zmartvikstau! **Zaiste Zmartvikstau!** (*Polish*)

Christos harjav i merelotz! **Orhniale harutjun Christosi!** (*Armenian*)

Kristos Tensiah! **Be-a-man Ten-si-a!** (*Tigrigna*)

Massih Miyayat! **Hatman Miyayat** (*Farsi*)

Kristo azukidde! **Kituufu azukidde** (*Luganda*)

Ha Mashiyach qam! **Ken hoo qam!** (*Hebrew*)

Christu uyirthezhunnettu! **Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!** (*Indian/Malayalam*)

Kristo samawa, yomi gaimashta! **Hontoni yomi gaimashta!** (*Japanese*)

Priest: Glory to His holy, third-day Resurrection!

People: We adore His holy, third-day Resurrection!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by Death, and upon those in the tombs... **People: Bestowing life!**

30th St. Michael Golf Classic — Monday, May 22, 2023

The St. Michael 30th Anniversary Golf Tournament and Banquet will take place on Monday, May 22, 2023. One of the enjoyable events is the Golf Ball Raffle. The Raffle Grand Prize is a surprise TRIP! We have begun soliciting parishioners for donations of \$50 cash/check, \$50 gift cards, or a gift item with a \$50 value or more — used to purchase additional raffle prizes. Your gifts or donations may be brought or mailed to the church. Please contact DeAnne Abraham (661) 259-7897 or Samia Habib (818) 919-3870 should you have questions. The deadline for all donations is: Sunday May 14, 2023. Looking forward to another glorious day in the sun!

Also, Bobbi Monsue is collecting photographs of our Golf Classic from the past 30 years. If you have a photo or photos to add to our display, please contact her at: bobbi_monsue@att.net or visit her in the bookstore.

Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr at: <RaiesMurrScholarship@gmail.com>. The applications must be returned by mid-July 2023.

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=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

58th St. Nicholas Sweetheart (Debutante) Ball

April 29, 2023; Hilton Universal City

The Enthronement of Metropolitan SABA — Saturday, May 13
(St. Nicholas Cathedral; Brooklyn, New York)

St. Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund Dinner — Saturday, May 13
St. Nicholas Cathedral Heritage Ballroom; RSVP by May 7

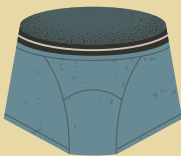
St. Michael 30th Annual Golf Classic — Monday, May 22, 2023
Wood Ranch Golf Club; Simi Valley

Diocesan Parish Life Conference hosted by St. Luke Church
(Garden Grove) June 28 to July 2, 2023; Irvine Marriott; www.lapl.org

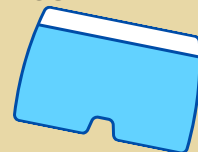
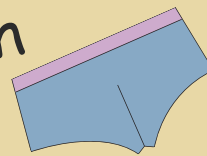
St. Michael Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Monday-Friday, July 10-14, 2023; Ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade

56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention hosted by
St. George Church (Phoenix, Arizona); July 23-30, 2023
Go to: www.ac2023az.org

Help our Antiochian Women with:



**UNDIE
SUNDAYS**
May 7th & 14th



Supporting Loaves & Fishes
Neighborhood Pantry
Serving Those In Need

We're collecting new - must be packaged - underwear/boxers for men,
women & children - in all sizes

Collection box
in the kitchen



Save The Date

St. Michael 30th Annual Golf Classic

COME HELP CONTINUE THE LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF
 “GETTING OUT FOR THE DAY” BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR
 ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC AND BBQ

MONDAY, MAY 22nd – WOOD RANCH GOLF CLUB:
12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

GOLFERS – or those who claim to be!!!!

Make up your own foursome or we’ll pair you up.
 Shotgun Start – 4 Golfer Scramble Format – 2 Mulligans –
 Participation in Putting Contest
 Closest to the Line – Team and Individual Awards – Raffles
 Continental Breakfast – Box Lunch – Barbecue Dinner
 Sodas – Water – Beer – and More!!!!
 \$200.00 Per Player!



NON-GOLFERS



Can’t get out the whole day,
 then join us later for an evening of fun & frolic!
 Barbecue Dinner
 Chinese Auction – Golf Ball Raffle – Door Prizes
 \$60.00 each



For reservations or more information contact:
 Don Meena (661) 623-0340 or donmeena@sbcglobal.net

Fred Milkie, Jr. (818) 535-4243 or milkief@aol.com

HOLE SPONSORSHIP

Michael Srour (818) 314-9363 or mcsrour@gmail.com



The People of LEBANON Need Our Help!!

Join us for a Complimentary Fundraising Dinner
Hosted by St. Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund

Saturday | May 13th, 2023 | 6:30 PM

St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

2300 W. 3rd Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dinner by [Sunnin Lebanese Cafe](#)
and performance by [Sons of Antioch](#)



Seating is Limited, Please RSVP by May 7th, 2023!

St. Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund is a newly incorporated 501(c) (3) organization, whose mission is to directly help the people of Lebanon with food, medicine, heating, medical care, child and elder care. Our event has the blessing of the Hierarchy of our Archdiocese.

To register and donate online please [click here](#) or fill in the registration form below.

Please make your check payable to: "St Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund"

Mail to: 17516 Sarita Ave, Canyon Country CA 91387

✂-----

First and last name: _____ # of people attending the dinner _____

Email: _____ Phone#: _____

Home address: _____

For questions call: Ramona Blanski (661) 433-9561 | Kh. Miray Katrib (786) 346-9094
John Andonian (626) 253-8293 | Esper Kanaan (626) 255-8080
Spiritual Advisor: V. Rev. George Ajalat
<https://stbarbaralebanonrelief.org/>

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**10-14
JULY**



SUPER SAINTS
LITTLE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**



9am-12pm
PRE-K
THROUGH 5TH

**ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

MORE INFO TO COME!



Saint Nicholas LA Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Paschal

HAFLEH

SATURDAY MAY 6TH

**VESPERS @ 6PM
HAFLEH TO FOLLOW**

**Location: St. Nicholas Cathedral Hall
2300 W 3rd St. Los Angeles, 90057**

Join us for a Paschal Celebration with young adults from all nearby parishes. The evening will include dinner/drinks, dancing, photo booth and egg cracking!

Dress Code: Semi Formal Attire



\$25 Early Bird by 4/19

\$30 Regular by 4/30

No tickets at the door!

Use the QR code or link in bio to RSVP

Sanctuary Chairs Available for Sponsorships

A sample of our new solid oak upholstered seats have arrived. So see them please contact Father Timothy for sponsorships: \$300/chair, or \$3,000 for a “gang-tied” row of ten that form a pew. Each seat includes a book pocket (front and back) beneath the seat, and a vinyl kneeler. Twelve custom high chairs are also available for choir sponsorship seating (\$350).



**Pastor's Sermon
Thomas Sunday
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
April 23, 2023**

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

Today's Gospel, highlights the experience of Thomas. The many lessons that our Lord taught the disciples prior to His passion began to be brought back to their remembrance in His numerous appearances, which took place in the forty-day period following His Resurrection, prior to his Ascension.

The appearance of our Lord mentioned in today's Gospel is one of eleven Gospel readings heard in the early Orthros service each Sunday, called "The Eothinon" Gospels. Each Sunday, the Eothinon Gospel announces the Resurrection before the Divine Liturgy, similar to the Gospel read at the doors of the Church during the "Rush Procession" at the midnight service before the Liturgy.

The experience of the Apostle Thomas was unique. It is very possible that Thomas, more than any of the other Apostles was the one who actually *heard* what the Lord was saying before his death. It just sounded impossible that a Messiah, who was expected to restore the Kingdom of Israel, would face such a tragic death. Last night's Vespers service includes a section that helps us to understand what took place. In a section of the Apostika we hear: "*What a miraculous wonder, that a lack of faith became a conviction of faith...*" "*...the obstinate soul turned with fervor to true faith, 'My Lord, and my God.'*"

The transformation, which began taking place among the disciples, was significant; significant because once the disciples experienced a personal dawning and illumination they were ignited with faith and love to act with conviction. Until this happened nothing would have changed. The Lord who appeared in their midst imparted His Spirit to them (John 20:22). The content of the Gospel message that our Lord taught them had become their own message. It was the good news of the forgiveness of sins that is at the very heart of the Paschal message.

New Sunday or "Anti-Pascha"

**THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ACT OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE,
CALLED "THE TWIN;" ST. GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER**

قُدَّاسُ الْأَحَدِ الْجَدِيدِ. أَحَدُ الرِّسُولِ تَوْمَا الرِّسُولِ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ التَّوَأْمُ
الْقَدِيسِ الْعَظِيمِ فِي الشُّهَدَاءِ جَاورْجِيُوسِ اللَّابِسِ الظَّفَرَ

المسيحُ قام من بين الأموات, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

طروبارية توما على اللحن السابع

لما كان القبر مختوماً أشرقَت منه أيها الحياة، ولما كانت الأبوابُ مقفلةً وقفتَ بالتلاميذ،
أيها المسيحُ الإلهُ، قيامةُ الكلِّ، وجددتَ لنا بهم روحاً مستقيماً، بعظيمِ رحمتِكَ.

طروبارية للقديس جاورجيوس باللحن الرابع

بِما أَنَّكَ للمأسورينَ مُحَرَّرٌ ومُعْتَقٌ، وللفقراءِ والمساكينِ عاصِدٌ ونَاصِرٌ، وللمرضى
طبيبٌ وشَافٍ، وعنِ المؤمنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ ومُحَارِبٌ أيها العظيمُ في الشَهادَةِ
جاورجيوسُ اللابسُ الظفرَ، تَشْفَعُ إلى المسيحِ الإلهِ في خِلاصِ نفوسِنَا.

قنفاق القيامة على اللحن الثامن

ولئن نزلتَ إلى القبرِ يا من لا يموتُ، إلا أَنَّكَ حطَّمتَ قِدرَةَ الجحيمِ، وقمتَ ظافراً، أيها
المسيحُ الإلهُ. وقلتَ للنسوةِ الحاملاتِ الطيبِ افرحن، ووهبتَ لرسلكِ السلام، يا مانحَ
الواقعينِ القيام.

الرسالة

الرسالة (للقديس جاورجيوس)

يَفْرَحُ الصِّدِّيقُ بِالرَّبِّ، اسْتَمِعْ يَا اللهُ لِصَوْتِي.

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين

الأطهار. (11:1-12)

هو ربنا وعظيمة هي قوته، سبحوا الرب فإنه صالح

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار

فِي ذَلِكَ الزمانِ ألقى هيرودسُ المَلِكُ الأيادي على قَوْمٍ مِنَ الكَنِيسَةِ لِيُسَيِّئَ إِلَيْهِمْ.
وَقَتَلَ يَعْقُوبَ أَخَا يُوحَنَّا بِالسَّيْفِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّ ذَلِكَ يُرْضِي اليَهُودَ، عَادَ فَنَقَبَضَ عَلَى
بَطْرُسَ أَيْضاً، وَكَانَتْ أَيَّامُ الفَطِيرِ. فَلَمَّا أَمْسَكَهُ جَعَلَهُ فِي السِّجْنِ وَأَسْلَمَهُ إِلَى
أَرْبَعَةِ أَرْبَعٍ مِنَ العَسْكَرِ لِيَحْرُسُوهُ، وَفِي عزمِهِ أَنْ يُقَدِّمَهُ إِلَى الشَّعْبِ بَعْدَ الفِصْحِ.

فَكَانَ بَطْرُسُ مَحْبُوساً فِي السَّجْنِ، وَكَانَتِ الْكَنِيْسَةُ تَصَلِّيْ اِلَى اللّٰهِ مِنْ اَجْلِهِ بِلَا انْقِطَاعٍ. وَلَمَّا اَزْمَعَ هَيْرُودُسُ اَنْ يُقَدِّمَهُ، كَانَ بَطْرُسُ فِي تِلْكَ اللَّيْلَةِ نَائِماً بَيْنَ جُنْدِيَيْنِ مُقَيِّداً بِسِلْسِلَتَيْنِ، وَكَانَ الْحُرَّاسُ اَمَامَ الْاَبْوَابِ يَحْفَظُوْنَ السَّجْنَ. وَاِذَا مَلَكَ الرَّبُّ وَقَفَ بِهِ وَنُوِّرَ اَشْرَقَ فِي الْبَيْتِ، فَضَرَبَ جَنْبَ بَطْرُسَ وَاَيْقَظُهُ قَائِلاً: «قُمْ سَرِيْعاً». فَسَقَطَتِ السِّلْسِلَتَانِ مِنْ يَدَيْهِ، وَقَالَ لَهُ الْمَلَكُ: «تَمَنَّقْ وَاشْدُدْ نَعْلَيْكَ». فَفَعَلَ هَكَذَا. فَقَالَ لَهُ: «الْبَسْ رِدَاءَكَ وَاتَّبِعْنِي.» فَخَرَجَ يَتَّبِعُهُ - وَهُوَ لَا يَعْلَمُ اَنْ مَا فَعَلَهُ الْمَلَكُ كَانَ حَقّاً بَلْ يَظُنُّ اَنَّهُ يَنْظُرُ رُؤْيَاً. فَلَمَّا جَازَا الْمُحْرَسَ الْاَوَّلَ وَالثَّانِي، اَنْتَهَيَا اِلَى بَابِ الْحَدِيْدِ الَّذِي يُؤَدِّي اِلَى الْمَدِيْنَةِ فَاَنْفَتَحَ لَهُمَا مِنْ ذَاتِهِ، فَخَرَجَا وَتَقَدَّمَا زُقَاقاً وَاحِداً وَلِلْوَقْتِ فَاَرَقَهُ الْمَلَكُ. فَرَجَعَ بَطْرُسُ اِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: «الْآنَ عَلِمْتُ يَقِيْنًا اَنَّ الرَّبَّ اَرْسَلَ مَلَكَهُ وَاَنْقَذَنِي مِنْ يَدِ هَيْرُودُسَ وَمِنْ كُلِّ مَا تَرَبَّصَهُ بِي شَعْبُ الْيَهُودِ.»

الإنجيل

(الإنجيل لأحد توما)

فَصَلُّ شَرِيْفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيْسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْاِنْجِيْلِيِّ الْبَشِيْرِ وَالتَّلْمِيْذِ
الطَّاهِرِ. (20:19-31)

لَمَّا كَانَتْ عَشِيَّةَ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ، وَهُوَ اَوَّلُ الْاُسْبُوعِ وَالْاَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ حَيْثُ كَانَ التَّلَامِيْذُ مُجْتَمِعِيْنَ خَوْفاً مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، جَاءَ يَسُوْعٌ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ". فَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا اَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَجَنْبَهُ، فَفَرِحَ التَّلَامِيْذُ حِيْنَ اَبْصَرُوْا الرَّبَّ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ ثَانِيَةً: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ، كَمَا اَرْسَلَنِي الْاَبُ كَذَلِكَ اَنَا اَرْسَلُكُمْ". وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَفَخَ فِيهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "خَذُوا الرُّوْحَ الْقُدُسَ. مَنْ غَفَرْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ تَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَمَنْ اَمْسَكْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ اَمْسَكْتُمْ". اَمَّا تُوْمَا اَحَدُ الْاِثْنِيْ عَشَرَ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ التَّوَامُ فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَهُمْ حِيْنَ جَاءَ يَسُوْعُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ التَّلَامِيْذُ الْاٰخَرُونَ "اِنَّا قَدْ رَاَيْنَا الرَّبَّ"، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "اِنْ لَمْ اَعِيْنَ اَثْرَ الْمَسَامِيْرِ فِي يَدَيْهِ، وَاَضَعَ اِصْبَعِي فِي اَثْرِ الْمَسَامِيْرِ، وَاَضَعَ يَدِي فِي جَنْبِهِ لَا اُوْمِنُ". وَبَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ اَيَّامٍ كَانَ تَلَامِيْذُهُ اَيْضًا دَاخِلًا وَتُوْمَا مَعَهُمْ،

فَأَتَى يَسُوعُ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ وَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ"، ثُمَّ قَالَ لَتُومَا: "هَاتِ إصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هَهُنَا وَعَايِنِ يَدَيَّ، وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ وَضَعُهَا فِي جَنْبِي، وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ مُؤْمِنًا". أَجَابَ تُومَا وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي". قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي يَا تُومَا أَمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا". وَأَيَاتٍ أُخْرَى كَثِيرَةً صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ لَمْ تُكْتَبْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَأَمَّا هَذِهِ، فَقَدْ كُتِبَتْ لِنُؤْمِنُوا بِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكَيْ تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا آمَنْتُمْ، حَيَاةً بِاسْمِهِ.