

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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The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and the Fifth Sunday of Matthew

Hieromartyr Pankratios, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily;
Martyrs Andrew and Probus

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Tone 4; Eothinon 5

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

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 the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans
(10:1-10)**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is

not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

THE GOSPEL (for the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew
(8:28 – 9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

The Synaxarion

On July 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Pankratios, bishop of Taormina in Sicily, and disciple of the Holy Apostle Peter.

Verses

Pankratios, having set himself as foundation,
Raised upon it a house from the stones of his contest.
On the ninth, Pankratios saw the house of the Almighty.

This saint was born in Antioch during the time when the Lord Jesus Christ walked as a man on earth. Hearing about the miracles of Christ, the parents of Pankratios desired to see the Lord. Together with Pankratios, they traveled to Jerusalem where they saw Jesus, heard His words and witnessed His miracles. While there, Pankratios met the Apostle Peter. After the Ascension of the Lord, both parents and Pankratios were baptized in Antioch. Later, the Apostles Peter and Paul appointed Pankratios as the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. There he worked many miracles, destroyed the idols, baptized the unbaptized, strengthened the baptized and governed well the Church of God. A heathen commander, Aquilinus, heard that the entire city of Taormina became Christian and set out with an army to destroy it. Pankratios went with the clergy outside the city carrying the invincible weapon, the Honorable Cross. When the army approached the city, darkness befell them and the soldiers were overcome with great fear. Confused, the attackers turned against one another and slaughtered each other. In the end, Pankratios was stoned to death by envious and evil heathens and found rest in the Lord.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Andrew and Probus. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Wednesday and Friday is observed as days of fasting]

The Sunday of the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council

Saturday, July 15th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 16th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered by Alexis Nassif, Paul & Brittany Nassif and their families for the one-year memorial of their beloved brother Chris Nassif (+6 July, 2022). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by the O'Dea family in loving memory of Father Thomas O'Dea (+10 July, 2011). Memory eternal. The family is also offering prayers for the continued blessings for their dear sister and aunt, Tere Chala, celebrating her birthday; also asking God to grant many healthy and happy years to our dear Father Timothy, celebrating his birthday.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Don Meena in memory of his beloved brother, Albert Meena (+18 July, 2016). Memory eternal.

The choir is hosting the coffee hour this morning in honor of Alice Prewett, celebrating her 98th birthday. May God grant her many years!

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

for Father Timothy Baclig, celebrating his birthday,
with love from the Deeb family. May God grant him many years!

for Jeanice and Edward Deeb, celebrating their birthday with love
from the Deeb family. May God grant them many years!

by Bobbi Monsue for the continued health of her niece Annie Canaday.

by Mae Tortolano for Father Timothy Baclig on the occasion of his
natal day (July 11). May God's infinite grace illumine his path in life
as our spiritual Father and continue to enrich him abundantly with
the blessings of happiness and good health.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Joni Slatko
(+30 June, 2023), the beloved wife of Lenny Slatko of Palm Desert,
California; also survived by her children: Jennifer (& Tim) Lyneis,
Katherine (& Dave) Powell, Stephanie (& Martin) Rodriguez; eight
grandchildren: Andrew, Summer, Matthew, Breanna, Joe, Lexi, Logan,
and Kayla; one great grandson, Luca. Joni's siblings are: the late Lillian
Meena (Don), the late George Butros (Alexa) and her surviving sisters:
Shirley (& Dean) Abraham, Marsha (& John) Gerro, Sharon (& Joe)
Nassar, and Susan (& Allen) Shalat, with many nieces, nephews
and cousins. Memory Eternal. [Viewing at Forest Lawn Memorial Park;
No. Hollywood Hills (6300 Forest Lawn Dr.) on Wednesday, July 19 from
4 to 8 p.m.; Funeral Service at Old North Church (Forest Lawn) at noon
followed by the Graveside Trisagion]

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Shirley Wawee (+7 July, 2022), beloved mother of John (& Sherry) Wawee and grand-daughters, Jaclyn and Heather. Memory eternal.

[Funeral arrangements are still to be determined and will be announced]

for the newly-departed servant of God, Michael Nester (+27 June, 2023) of Grand Rapids, Michigan, beloved father of Carol Steele and Son-in-law Daniel Sanders. Memory eternal.

for the continued health of Daher Ababseh, recently hospitalized.

for the continued health of Mae Theodora Tortolano.

for the continued health of the child Noah Ajalat.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of July are those celebrating their birthday: Jamie Farr (7/1), Jeffery Nasser (7/1), Mary Minassian (7/2), Christopher Murr (7/2), Beverly Kushida Ansara (7/3), Irene Wang (7/3), Julian Haggar (7/4), Courtney Meena, (7/6), Nabil Wassef (7/6), Charles Matarese (7/7), Charlotte Swain (7/7), Marc Abdennour (7/9), David Dawud (7/9), Justin Gruetzmaeher (7/9), Alice Prewett (7/9), Mary Ann Thomas (7/9), Thomas Zraick (7/9), Adrienne Hines (7/10), Waleed Moujaes (7/10), Christopher Andrews (7/11), Tere Chala (7/11), Fadwa Dabbour (7/11), Mateo Zait (7/11), Hani AbuGhazaleh (7/12), Janice Rose Deeb (7/12), Edward Deeb, Jr. (7/12), Josephine Courey (7/14), Caroline Malouf (7/14), Ignacio Mas (7/14), Marc Delaney (7/16), Luc Deraney (7/16), Matthew Tambouras (7/17), Mathias Gregory Habib (7/19), Stephanie Monsue (7/19), Michael Haggar (7/20), Presbyteria Stela-Nicole Sarchizian (7/20), Frank Boyer (7/21), George Sayegh (7/21), Vivian Bitar (7/22), Christopher Abughazaleh (7/23), Kenneth Malouf (7/23), Michael Paraskevas (7/23), Wolfgang Van Fronthoffer (7/25), Elisa Milkie (7/26), Sal Chala (7/28), Fred M. Khoury (7/29); Julie Rubell Delaney (7/30), Shannon Meena (7/30); and celebrating their wedding anniversary: Anna & Cooper Rowe (7/1), Christiana & Chris Matarese (7/2), Mimi & Nichola Hallak (7/3), Basima & Milad Alsaigh (7/4), Linda & Buddy Andrews (7/6), Shiela & Aristides Katerelos (7/12), Mary Ann & Michael Mitchell (7/12), Stephanie & Justin Gruetzmaeher (7/19), Denise & Leandro Cruz (7/19), Regan & Adrienne Hines (7/19), Rita Anne Makhoul & Stephen Christopher Ablahad (7/21), Sharon & Nabeel AbuGhazaleh (7/22), Michael & Pat Malouf (7/31), Babe & Gloria Mitty (7/31). God grant them many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed throughout July are:

Salim Haddad, +2 July, 1956
Margaret Khoury, +27 July, 1965
Maria Mas, +2 July, 1967
Sarah Abood, +25 July, 1972
Victoria Mancini, +26 July, 1972
Sadie J. Fadel, +3 July, 1973
Fred Kabbash, +7 July, 1976
Raymond Salamy, +12 July, 1980
Dema Dawud, +3 July, 1984
Victoria Azal, +1 July, 1988
Douglas Charles, +1 July, 1991
Joseph Dalati, +7 July, 1992
George Skaff, +28 July, 1993
Selma Rafidi, +23 July, 1993
Stella Kovalic, +17 July, 1993
Fred Aboud, +2 July, 1994
Naima Naifeh, +5 July, 1994
Saba Murr, +8 July, 1994
Fred Edwards, +16 July, 1994
Elias Fadel, +18 July
Gayle Collins, +1 July, 1975
Matthew McCarron, +15 July, 1977
Margaret Saade, +9 July, 2012
Mary Haddad, +19 July, 1978
Evelyn Mansour, +30 July, 1983
John Barghash, +26 July, 1987
Joseph Ernest Gorup, +31 July
Grace Edwards, +8 July, 1998
Vittorio Tortolano, +1 July 1994
Oscar Garcia, +1 July, 1996
George Assad, +31 July, 1997
Billy Handal, +10 July, 1998

Ted Mureau, +3 July, 1999
Louise Sadd, +10 July, 1999
Ibrahim Esper, +28 July, 2000
Edmund Kence, +16 July, 2001
Gabriel Kovalick, +19 July, 2002
Jeannette Loussi, +6 July, 2002
Diana Haddad, +17 July 2004
Iancu Ugureanu, +5 July, 2006
Nacha Rihbany Baida, +16 July, 2007
Rodney Khalil, Jr., +31 July, 2010
Neda Toomey, +31 July, 2010
Rev. Thomas O'Dea, +10 July, 2011
Wedad Namay, +9 July, 2011
James "Jimmy" George, +28 July, 2011
Rose Marie Motter, +25 July, 2012
George Boutross, +5 July, 2013
Michael George Ansara, +31 July, 2013
Mousa Tarbouche, +21 July, 2014
Louis Andrews, +18 July, 2015
Loretta Jurado, +2 July, 2016
Anna El-Helou Zabaneh, +25 July, 2016
Albert Meena, +18 July, 2016
Tawfik Latham, +22 July, 2017
Clair Bitar, +24 July, 2018
Samia Kudmani, +29 July, 2018
Jamilie Rabadi, +29 July, 2018
Nora Ayoub, +29 July, 2018
Terry Polley +14 July, 2019
Arlene Horne +7 July, 2020
Jalil Abualezzam +29 July, 2020
Mitry Abdulla Muna +3 July, 2022
Ramona George Darmour +4 July, 2022

Carolyn Cates, +28 July, 1998

Christopher Nassif +6 July, 2022

NOTE: Names and dates mentioned above are from our current Office Records. Please inform us of any error and we will correct it or add any unintentional exclusions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meeting

Our next Bible Study will resume on Tuesday evening, July 18th, at 7 p.m. We will be continuing our study of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on July 18th. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. Plan to join us.

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, July 17, 6 p.m.

[Zoom link to be provided]

Our 2023 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

Have you completed a financial pledge for the 2023 calendar year? Is your contributions up-to-date? Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. Our 2023 budget has included the increase of costs and was expanded to include additional maintenance expenses for our new church sanctuary. A hardcopy of the Pledge Form is provided this bulletin and is available in the church narthex or can be mailed to you by request. As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2023 form. An annual "Fair Share Contribution" is paid by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese (\$50/adult; \$35/17 years of age or under). If you have completed a Pledge Form and would like to receive an six-month update of your contributions, please send your request to our Treasurer, Britton McLinn at: britton@stmichaelvannuys.org Six-month reports will be provided in July following our June Financial Report. Thank you.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

1. All enrolled members must first fulfill a fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese annually (this does not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 18 & above) in your household _____ \$50 each _____

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 17 & under) in your household _____ \$35 each _____

(Please print all names with information in the section below)

2. In gratitude of God's blessings, I / we pledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.

A total annual amount of: ____ (see Treasure self-assessment chart)

\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. How do you wish to pay? We accept personal checks or credit card payments. (See below)

- a. You may write a check to "St. Michael Church" and mail it to the Church Office. (see address above)
- b. You may process an "automatic bill pay" with your bank that will mail a recurring monthly hard-copy earmarked check to St. Michael Church.
- c. You may pay by credit card using our website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) at: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate/> and we will be immediately notified.
- d. You may arrange for a recurring monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account using our church bank routing number and bank account.

Note: Each donation to St. Michael Church should be earmarked, i.e., "Building Fund," "Pledge," etc.

Print names of baptized Orthodox persons in your household.

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

**REGISTER
NOW!**

**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



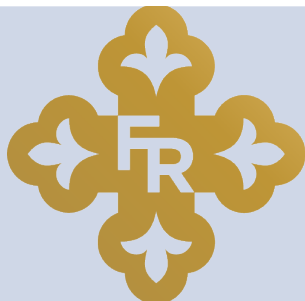
**FAITHTREE
RESOURCES**

**COST
\$50
Per Child**

**\$40 per child
if registered
before June 10**

Faithtree Resources has just released its new course that is worth your time.

Click here to learn more: <https://www.faithtree.org/divine-liturgy>



FAITHTREE
RESOURCES

Divine Liturgy

THE GREATEST INVITATION

Divine Liturgy: The Greatest Invitation—our brand new course that

will help you experience God in the Liturgy like never before—is available now!

Taught by priests, teachers, ministry leaders, and laypeople, **this course will give you perspectives and tools to help you encounter God in a more meaningful way.**

Take a look inside the course now!

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>]

St. Michael Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday-Friday, July 10-14, 2023; Ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Register at: <https://www.faithtree.org/vbs-2023-registration>

Teen Pool Party - Saturday, July 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention hosted by St. George Church (Phoenix, Arizona); July 23-30, 2023

Go to: www.ac2023az.org

Start of Church School - September

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration - Save the date!

Saturday-Sunday, November 4-5, 2023

Sponsorships of Sanctuary Items

Sponsorships or dedications of items and iconography of our new church sanctuary are available. Please contact Father Timothy for more information and questions at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

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 July 24, 2023.

Use of Assembly Hall and In-House Caterer

St. Michael Church will provide its ballroom and kitchen for special events, i.e., parties and receptions, with an established donation fee for parishioner requests made on an individual basis. Also, we welcome licensed caterers who may be interested in use of our kitchen. Please contact either: Connie Barilla: <cmatthews46@yahoo.com>, Michael Mitchell <mgmitchell3@gmail.com>, or Father Timothy for more information.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Jul 16 - open

Jul 23 - open

Jul 30 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jeannette Omeisah

Jeannette Omeisah

Jeannette Omeisah

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

Pastoral Sermon

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

July 9, 2023

Each time we pray The Lord's Prayer we conclude saying, "...lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." "Evil" is correctly translated: "The Evil One."

The most important thing concerning today's Gospel lesson is not the focus upon the presence or the power of evil in this world. Instead, our attention must be upon our choice to acknowledge 1) God's presence in our life, 2) knowing how He has equipped us with all that is necessary to be protected from evil, and 3) to be prepared with: discernment and good judgment against all the forces of evil.

In our day and age what was once "common sense," is now uncommon if not questionable by some.

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes: *Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness... (Ephesians 5:8b-11a).* He then continues in saying, *Be very careful then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. (Ephesians 5:15-17).* It is worth mentioning that this passage immediately precedes our epistle reading in the Wedding Sacrament where a man and a woman is instructed to submit to each other “out of the reverence of Christ;” for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her.

You and I are empowered and protected by the sign of the Cross. It is one of the means by which we guard ourselves from all forms of evil. We do not speak of this in terms of superstition. We recognize that there are unseen spiritual realities and must be cautious about what we find enticing, being very aware of what can become controlling of our will to the degree that we become callous about evil and eventually disregard all that we know in our right mind to be good.

The perpetuation of a wrong “systemic behavior” can be difficult to overcome. This is because change is a struggle from the familiarity with what a person is accustomed to, or grown comfortable with. Very often, this leads to an acceptance of the conditions and behavior. “Well, that’s just the way I am!” becomes the rationale.

Notice that in the Gospel account of the demoniac in the “country of the Gergesenes,” after the men were freed from demonic possession there was fear among the herdsmen of the region. The gospel records: “They fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs... The city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood.” It was very apparent from this account that the forces of evil had pervaded and prevailed in the lives of the people of the region. This is because of delusion and deception, such that, what was good was seen understood to be bad.

What are the ways that we can protect ourselves from becoming callous and God forbid, reprobate in our lives: our way of thinking, and our behavior?

Our concern should be in guarding and protecting ourselves from all evil. This involves our vigilance in spiritual preventive care. We must remain alert by avoiding what are mentioned in the church's prayers of exorcisms:

1. "the spirit of error" (lies, untruths, distortions, delusion, fraud)
2. "the spirit of guile" (devious and cunning behavior)
3. "the spirit of idolatry" (anything that replaces God in one's life)
4. "of every uncleanness" (physical, intellectual and emotional)

One other aspect in the church's prayers of exorcisms concerns evil "of every concupiscence": In its broadest definition, concupiscence is any yearning of the soul for good. In its strict and specific meaning that pertains to the prayers of deliverance, concupiscence is a desire of one's lower appetite contrary to reason. The object of the "appetite" is the gratification of the senses; whereas, the object of the concupiscence with regards to good aspirations pertains to the entire human nature and consists in the subordination of reason to God, its supreme good and ultimate end.

On the other hand the lower appetite is of itself unrestrained, so as to pursue sensuous gratifications independently of the understanding and without regard to the good of the higher faculties. Hence desires contrary to the real good and order of reason may, and often do, rise in it, previous to the attention of the mind, and once raised, dispose the bodily organs to the pursuit and solicit the will to consent, while they more or less hinder reason from considering their lawfulness or unlawfulness. This is concupiscence in its strict and specific sense [definition from: [A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy](#)].

On the contrary: truth, honesty, good company, a clean and spiritually edifying environment atmosphere, being mindful and reminded of God's presence and positive reinforcement is the antidote to what is mentioned above and is the means of preventive spiritual care from harmful and averse behavior.

Prayer

O Master, Lord the Father of compassions and the God of all comfort, bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen, fortify, Thy servants from the Evil One and keep us vigilant in good works. Guide our President, all civil authorities, our armed forces

and the leaders of all peace loving nations; protecting this nation, and every sovereign nation from all foreign invasions, and treasonous acts, granting us all peaceful times that we in their tranquility may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity; for 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 5

الايوثينا5

TONE 4

اللحن 4

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AND THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

THE HIEROMARTYR PANKRATIOS, BISHOP OF TAORMINA IN SICILY;
MARTYRS ANDREW AND PROBUS

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الرابع

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك الكرز بالقيامة البهجة، وطرحن القضاء الجدي،
وخاطبن الرسل مفتخرات وقائلات: سُبِي الموتُ وقام المسيحُ الإلهُ، مانحاً العالمَ
الرحمةَ العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

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

قنداق باللحن الثاني

يا شفيعَةَ المسيحيين غيرِ الخازيةِ، الوسيطةَ لدى الخالقِ غيرِ المرذودةِ، لا تُعرضي
عن أصواتِ طلباتنا نحن الخطاةِ، بل تداركينا بالمعونةِ بما أنك صالحَةٌ، نحنُ
الصارخين إليك بإيمان: بادري إلى الشفاعةِ وأسرعِي في الطلبةِ، يا والدَةَ الإلهِ،
المتشفعةَ دائماً بمكرميكِ.

الرسالة

مَا أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالَكَ يَا رَبُّ! كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولَسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَّةِ. (10-1:10)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ مَسْرَةَ قَلْبِي وَطَلْبَتِي إِلَى اللَّهِ لِأَجْلِ إِسْرَائِيلَ هِيَ لِلْخَلَاصِ. لِأَنِّي أَشْهَدُ لَهُمْ أَنَّ لَهُمْ غَيْرَةَ اللَّهِ، وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَ حَسَبَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ. لِأَنَّهُمْ إِذْ كَانُوا يَجْهَلُونَ بِرَّ اللَّهِ، وَيَطْلُبُونَ أَنْ يَنْتَبِهُوا بِرَّ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، لَمْ يَخْضَعُوا لِبرِّ اللَّهِ. لِأَنَّ غَايَةَ النَّامُوسِ هِيَ الْمَسِيحُ لِلبرِّ لِكُلِّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ. لِأَنَّ مُوسَى يَكْتُبُ فِي البرِّ الَّذِي بِالنَّامُوسِ: «إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي يَفْعَلُهَا سَيَحْيَا بِهَا». وَأَمَّا البرُّ الَّذِي بِالْإِيمَانِ فَيَقُولُ هَكَذَا: «لَا تَقُلْ فِي قَلْبِكَ: مَنْ يَصْعَدُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ؟» أَيْ لِيُحْدِرَ الْمَسِيحَ، أَوْ: «مَنْ يَهَيِّطُ إِلَى الْهَآوِيَةِ؟» أَيْ لِيُصْعِدَ الْمَسِيحَ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ. لَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ؟ «الْكَلِمَةُ قَرِيبَةٌ مِنْكَ، فِي فَمِكَ وَفِي قَلْبِكَ»، أَيْ كَلِمَةُ الْإِيمَانِ الَّتِي نَكْرَزُ بِهَا: لِأَنَّكَ إِذَا اعْتَرَفْتَ بِفَمِكَ بِالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، وَأَمَنْتَ بِقَلْبِكَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَقَامَهُ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ، خَلَصْتَ. لِأَنَّ الْقَلْبَ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ لِلبرِّ، وَالْفَمَ يُعْتَرَفُ بِهِ لِلْخَلَاصِ.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متى

في ذلك الزمان، لما جاء يسوع إلى أرض الجرجسيين، استقبله رجلان خرجا من المقابر، وفيهما شياطين. وكانا شرسين جدا، حتى لا يقدر أحد أن يمر من تلك الطريق. فأخذا يصيحان: "ما لنا ولك، يا يسوع ابن الله؟ أجيئت إلى هنا لتعذبنا قبل الأوان؟" وكان يرفع يديه بعيدا من هناك قطيع كبير من الخنازير، فتضرع الشياطين إلى يسوع بقولهم: "إن طردتنا فأرسلنا إلى قطيع الخنازير." فقال لهم: "أذهبوا!" فخرجوا ودخلوا في الخنازير، فوثب القطيع كله من المنحدر إلى البحر وهلك في الماء. فهرب الرعاة إلى المدينة وأخبروا بما حدث وبما جرى للرجلين اللذين كان فيهما شياطين. فخرج أهل المدينة كلهم إلى يسوع. ولما رأوه طلبوا إليه أن يرحل عن ديارهم. فركب القارب وعبر البحيرة وجاء إلى مدينته.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى 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 الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا. فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية