

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 Eminence, Metropolitan SABA, of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
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The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council and the 4th Sunday of Luke

Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos;
Savvinos, Bishop of Catania

Sunday, October 15, 2023

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 of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

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 Holy Fathers)

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

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

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

THE GOSPEL (for the Fourth Sunday of Luke)

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

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

with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Synaxarion

On October 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos; and Savvinos, bishop of Catania.

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

Verses

Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,
Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man’s dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

By the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered by the Ababseh, Abughazaleh and Azzam families, and the Baqain family are offering date cookies for the the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Daher Issa Ababseh (+7 September, 2023). Memory eternal.

The Ababseh family is hosting the coffee hour for the forty-day memorial in loving memory of the newly-departed servant of God, Daher Issa Ababseh (+7 September, 2023). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of Ron's brother Richard Zraick (+13 October, 1974). Memory eternal.

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

for the speedy recovery of Amira Boutari
who was recently hospitalized for surgery.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Pamela Kushida
(+7 October, 2023), beloved sister of Beverly Ansara. Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God Luis Escobar,
(+9 October, 2023) friend of William Nehme. Memory eternal.

by Mary Butros for the continued health of her aunt, Guitta Bibbi

by Carol & Daniel Sanders for the continued health of Brian Johns

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost and The Sixth Sunday of Luke

Saturday, October 21st, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 22nd, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Bible Study Tuesday (October 17 at 7 p.m.)

Join us this Tuesday evening as we examine the verses of the Bible in the Divine Liturgy. 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.

Upcoming Events

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

Simply go to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Town Hall - Saturday, October 14, 2023
at 1 p.m. Discussion on State Housing Mandate

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration - Saturday, November 4
Potluck and "Game Night" following Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 5 - Divine Liturgy and Parish Luncheon

Special Meeting of the Voting Membership
for Accepting Parish Council Nominations - Sunday, November 19

Church School Christmas Program - Sunday, December 10

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 22 - Marcelle Chaffin

Oct 29 - open

Nov 05 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Marcelle Chaffin

Feast Day Luncheon

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

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622
Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York and all North America

October 15, 2023

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. **The drop-off dates this year are: Sunday, November 19th and Sunday December 17th.** A cart marked Food Collection will be placed in the kitchen for your donations.

Should you be able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection the following are suggested:

1. Personal care items: socks, deodorant soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, disposable razors.
2. Baby items: infant formula, diapers (size 4-5), pull-ups (size 5 or larger)

3. Bottle 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.
4. Monetary donation: Write a check made out to “St. Michael Church,” earmarked “Holiday Food Collection” and place it in the narthex offering box (a tax incentive).
5. 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. We are also receiving grocery store gift cards.

You may contact me, Cindy Tamoush, at: 818-917-4847 or <cindy.tamoush@gmail.com>, should you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy Tamoush

Charity Coordinator

A Prayer in Times of Trouble

Accept from us, Thine unworthy servants, this fervent supplication, and, having forgiven us all our sins, hearken unto the painful cry of those who turn unto Thee day and night in tribulation and sorrow, O merciful God. Comfort all who grieve the loss of murdered loved ones; strengthen those who wait with hope for those taken captive; guard, protect and shelter them from harm, granting a safe return to their families. We turn to Thee as the Father of all people on earth. Guide, we pray, the leaders all nations in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us all from the evils of terror and the consequences of war. Help us to overcome being tempted by bitterness and hatred. Grant to us an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies. Lead us in the ways of peace, mutual respect and freedom, uniting us in making and sharing the tools of health and prosperity, that we may grow with human dignity and harmony as brothers and sisters created in Your image. And as Thy first martyr Stephen prayed to Thee for those who slew him, so we fall down before Thee and pray: Forgive, O Lord, all those who hate us and maltreat us, speak to their hearts, as Thou did speak to Saul on the road to Damascus, turning him from wickedness and saving him by Thy grace. Set our hearts on fire with love for Thee, O Christ our God, that in its flame we may love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so in keeping Thy commandments we may glorify Thee together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 19, 2023 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, 2024 to December, 2026). 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 [having service eight (8) consecutive years, and this year as Council Chair; unable to be nominated or appointed]; Joe Ayoub [ending his second (2nd) term; unable to be nominated; able to be appointed]; Deacon Andrew Monsue [ending his second (2nd) term; unable to be nominated; able to be appointed]; and Judy Bitar [completing her first (1st) term; able to be nominated or appointed]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Michael Mitchell [completing his first (1st) year appointed and able to be nominated], and Maria Safady [completing her second (2nd) year appointed; able to be nominated or appointed].

If necessary, the Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 26 and December 3. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, John Khouri, Britton McLinn, Constantine Nasr, Michael Paraskevas 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.

Join us for St. Michael Feast Day celebrations!

Potluck & Game Night

6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 4
(After Vespers)

RSVP!



bit.ly/46M9MM8

Potluck, photobooth and games – ping pong, card games, bingo, Scrabble, Whist, backgammon, Guess How Many Are in the Jar and more

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration

12 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5
(After Divine Liturgy)

RSVP!



bit.ly/3LWkjfw

Traditional Arabic meal, Fun Zone festival games, trivia, raffle, Ask Abouna and tour of new church

Childcare available!





ANTIOCHIAN
HOUSE of STUDIES

ARCHDIOCESAN SUNDAY FOR AHOS

(Antiochian House of Studies)

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS

will take place every year on the Sunday of the Parable of the Sower.

The purpose of Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS (Antiochian House of Studies) is to raise awareness to support the future clergy & lay leaders of our archdiocesan. We kindly ask you to bring an offering on this day.



**Sunday,
October 15, 2023**

How can I
donate?

Visit www.ahos.edu or scan the
QR code.



You can also donate by check
sending directly to:

AHOS
1020 Baseline Rd
La Verne CA 91750

AHOS is a 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible

PASTORAL SERMON
The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
October 15, 2023

This month we are helping our young people to understand what it means to be a good disciple of the Lord. Being a member of God’s Kingdom and “being a disciple” is **living our lives as a plant rooted in the “good soil.” Plants in good soil produce good fruit.** Spiritually, this means that a good disciple is living a life well grounded in the church (the “good soil”) where we are able to grow in faith and love by knowing Christ who is “the Gardener.”

Our homes and the community of the Church are like a garden. Our homes and our life in the church (“our family of families”) is the most important context for our children to know God, to experience a relationship with Him and people of faith, in order to grow and thrive spiritually. This does not happen without parents and Godparents sharing in the responsibility and the faith experience with their children.

The month of October in our Archdiocese is dedicated to the youth in our church for a reason. Our young people grow up with many trials and challenges in an environment of many challenges that have much to do with finding and being accepted; being liked and noticed; having trusting friends. Whether our children are in public or private school, their experiences are the same even though their context may be different. It is a very good thing to shelter a child from needless distractions, however, life is not lived in a bubble.

It does not take long for a young person to discover that the world is a very large place and consists of all kinds of people; some who do not necessarily think, speak or even behave like you and I. One’s youth is also a time of adventurous exploration, testing, and discovery. And for this reason, building the relationships with trusted persons within one’s family and the community of the church is very important to the spiritual health of our children. In every generation it has never been enough to say that something is wrong. Leaning the importance of making good choices over bad ones can be made by a parent, however, the choices eventually become our children’s.

A priest who was once assigned to a parish decided to gather his parishioners at the start of his pastorate to ask: “What do you think my job is?” One man stood up and said, “Father, I think your job is to help us know what all of this means” (as he pointed to the icons and the altar of the church). Then a lady at the rear of the church raised her

hand and said, “Father, more than teaching us ‘what all of this means,’ I think that you need to show us that all of this has meaning.”

This task is not only the “job” of the priest. It is the call of every parent of the church: Helping our children to believe that “all of this,” in fact, all that we do, does have meaning; a very personal meaning.

As parents we want safeguards for our children; protecting them from bad influences; harmful things and needless anxiety. How do we do this? Are there ways to ensure or guarantee their future, who they form relationships with, trust or confide in?

Our church is committed to providing an environment that not only teaches our children facts but demonstrates the Christian life. This means that all of us have a part to play in educating our children. This also means: whether we even care to be involved in the lives of our children or not—we all have an influence in the lives of our young people for better or worse as members of the church. They also are very keenly aware of knowing if you care.

Demonstrating the Christian life is a shared experience. It is practiced. A practice that we all participate in. Whether it be coming to church, sharing our offerings and talents, doing things for others, also caring for our church property; it involves a lot of repetition and personal sacrifice. In fact, life is filled with doing things over and over again; sometimes because we do not get it right the first time. However, getting things right can become easier when you know you have someone there beside you; not only to help you in knowing how to do something, but being there for encouragement and support, especially when you don’t feel like you can do it again or get up and try doing things over. It helps to also know that you will not be harshly judged or looked down upon for not being perfect.

However a healthy trusting relationship is a relationship where one is able to not only tell you what you want to hear, but what you need to hear; perhaps what you don’t want to hear. This is precisely what is meant by Christian discipleship. It is mentoring. Discipleship, however, is not a cloning process or joining a cult. Discipleship does not stifle creativity, dialogue or discussion. However, discipleship is governed by norms, rules, boundaries. Discipleship is also recognizing that we are all disciples of the One who is the Lord *our* God!

While we might place a great deal of importance in acquiring knowledge, the Christian life is not solely based upon knowing things. While knowing and remembering facts have their purpose, being a Christian and living the Christian life is strengthened by the inspiration of good models, strong leadership, positive images and living examples.

Each of us can have a part in the lives of our children as parents, godparents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and friends if we take seriously what God expects of us and consistently do our best to live up to our calling as Christian parents, godparents, uncles, aunts and friends. We all have a responsibility as members of God's vineyard; His garden. More attention is rightly given and afforded to those of us who have been doing it for a long time. However, even with the contribution of elders, there must be room for open-mindedness and a sense of shared learning. No one ever arrives in being Orthodox or living the Orthodox Christian life, just as no one masters being able to love, or to forgive, or to be patient, or even to repent. These are lifetime practices experiences in different stages. Being a good mentor or helper to a brother or sister is done with great humility and honest reflection; being willing to share of what was learned through one's successes and failures.

We hear the Holy Apostle James saying in verse 16 of chapter 5: "...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed." This verse is at the end of the section of the first Epistle reading for the Sacrament of Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick) and follows the Apostles instruction for the sick to: "call for the elders of the church" for prayer. We should take note that while the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is a very private matter, we are nonetheless called to also "confess to each other."

To the Galatians (6:2), St. Paul says, "Bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ." These two verses illustrate that the ministry of healing extends beyond the clergy and involves the participation of the laity. Those who are strong in the faith are expected to help with those who are weak; however the Apostle also cautions that the strong must be careful and wise, in order that they too will not fall into being tempted (Galatians 6:1).

Finally, **God's Kingdom does not only consist of like-minded adults, or people of the same background. God's garden is a very big garden; a garden that consists of very many plants; all kinds of plants created by God's own design.** In today's Gospel lesson God is the Gardener who sows seeds generously and without hesitation. This illustrates to us that His words have been distributed freely to all who have "ears to hear." However, as the lesson describes, the circumstances and environment of the seeds determine their survival. The survival of our families has a lot to do with our life in the church and the bonds and ties that we have with one other as members of the Body of Christ.

You and I must choose the Lord as our Gardener. With that choice must come our willingness to be cared for in ways that we don't always understand, in a world that presents us with many trials and challenges. Good and healthy plants cannot grow without proper pruning and occasional treatment. This means that you and I cannot be completely in-charge of determining everything about what we want or would like to see happen in the lives of our loved ones. The Lord is our Gardener. He said: "I am the Vine, you are the branches" [John 15:5] (...and without Him we can do nothing!)

Our role as parents, teachers, Godparents and clergy is to clearly understand our call in nurturing our children and living in a healthy, responsible and loving environment; an environment that teaches not only by words but by actions; deeds, good works; by example; with humility and kind generosity.

Prayer

O Christ our God, we thank you for your love and acceptance of us as we are. Help us as we commit ourselves to doing your will. Strengthen us in our time of weakness and keep us safe from all evil, 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 8

الايوثينا 8

-tone 2

اللحن 2

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL AND THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

**HIEROMARTYR LUCIAN OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE EUTHYMOS THE YOUNGER OF ATHOS;
SAVVINOS, BISHOP OF CATANIA**

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الثاني

عِنْدَمَا انْحَدَرْتَ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، أَيُّهَا الْحَيَاةَ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ، حِينِنْدَ أَمَتِ الْجَحِيمِ بِبَرَقِ لَاهُوتِكَ. وَعِنْدَمَا أَقَمْتَ
الْأَمْوَاتَ مِنْ تَحْتِ الثَّرَى، صَرَخْ نَحْوَكُ جَمِيعُ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ، مُعْطِي الْحَيَاةِ الْمَجْدُ
لَكَ.

طروبارية الاباء على اللحن الثامن

أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا فائق التسبيح، لأنك أقمت آباءنا كواكب على الأرض، وبهم هديتنا جميعا إلى
الإيمان الحقيقي. فيا جزيل التحنن المجد لك.

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

قنداق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

يا شفيعة المسيحيين غير المخذولة، المتوسطة 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 في مكرميك

الرسالة

مبارك أنت يا رب اله آبائنا، فانك عدل في كل ما صنعت بنا.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى تيطس

يا ولدي تيطس، هذا قول صادق، وأريد أن تكون حازماً في هذا الأمر حتى ينصرف
المؤمنون بالله إلى القيام بالعمل الصالح. فهذا حسنٌ ومفيدٌ للناس. أما المجادلةُ السخيفةُ
وذكرُ الأنسابِ والخصامِ والمماحكةُ في الشريعة فتجنبها، لأنها لا تُفيدُ ولا تُنفع. وأما
رجلُ البدعةِ فأعرض عنه بعد أن تُنذره مرةً أو مرتين، فأنت تعرفُ أن من كان مثله
ضلَّ وكان خاطئاً وحكمَ على نفسه. ومتى أرسلتُ إليك أرتماس أو تيخيكوس فأسرغ
واتبعني إلى نيكوبوليس، لأنني عزمتُ أن أشتو هناك. واجتهد في إعداد سفر زيناس معلّم
الشريعة، وأبلس، لئلا ينقصهما شيء. وليتعلم ذوونا القيام بالعمل الصالح ليسدوا الحاجات
الضرورية، فلا يكونوا عقماء. يسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلّم على أحبائنا في الإيمان.
عليكم النعمةُ أجمعين، أمين.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

قال الربّ هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليزرع، وبينما هو يزرع وقع بعض الحب على جانب
الطريق، فداسته الأقدام وأكلته طيور السماء. ووقع بعضه على الصخر، فلما نبت يبس،
لأنه لم تكن له رطوبة. ووقع بعضه بين الشوك، فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. ومنه ما وقع
على أرض طيبة، فنبت وأثمر مائة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه عن مغزى هذا المثل، فأجاب:
"أنتم أعطيتم أن تعرفوا أسرار ملكوت الله. وأما سائر الناس فنكلمهم عليها بالأمثال:

حتى إذا نظروا لا يبصرون, وإذا سمعوا لا يفهمون. وهذا هو مغزى هذا المثل: "الزرع هو كلمة الله: ما وقع منه على جانب الطريق هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة, فيجيء إبليس وينتزعها من قلوبهم لئلا يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. وما وقع منه على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها فرحين, ولكن لا جذور لهم, فيؤمنون إلى حين, وفي وقت التجربة يرتدون. وما وقع منه بين الشوك هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة, ثم يذهبون ويختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذاتها فلا ينضج لهم ثمر. وأما الذي وقع في الأرض الطيبة فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويحفظونها بقلب طيب صالح ويثمرون بثباتهم. قال هذا وصرخ: "من كان له أذنان تسمعان فليسمع".

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 الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية