



The Rich Fool

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of The Entrance, Into the Temple, Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment// of the Creator's dispensation!"

Kontakion of Annunciation, Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

November 21st , Tone 5, Luke 10:37-42;11:27

THE ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

When the Most-holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. It was a three-day journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem but, traveling to do a God-pleasing work, this journey was not difficult for them. Many kinsmen of Joachim and Anna gathered in Jerusalem to take part in this event, at which the invisible angels of God were also present. Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers. Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. St. Theophylact of Ohrid says that Zacharias "was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain--otherwise, his action could not be explained. Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve. Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA

The parents of the Holy Virgin
Lead her to the holy Temple,
And according to their promise
They give her to the Lord.
They lead the Temple to the Temple,
While angels chant,
And chant with joy

Announcements and Activities

Molieben of Thanksgiving: Wednesday, at 7PM. What better way to celebrate our gratitude than to come to the temple and offer our thanks. Last year we did this short molieben outside with the heaters blazing.

Great Vespers: Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy- Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hours- This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Olga H. and Larissa S.. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our monthly, min-potluck. **We are currently in the Advent Fast: no eggs, dairy or meat, and no dairy byproducts, like sour cream, or MILK chocolate, etc.**

Church School/Adult Ed.— We will next meet on Sunday, December 12th, at 9AM.

Parish Council- met on Sunday, we adopted a Treasurer's Report with a surplus of \$168 for October; glory to God. We discussed the adoption of the Diocesan Bylaws at the last Diocesan Assembly and several council members are working to present the new bylaws, tailored with episcopal blessing, and to be offered for ratification at our upcoming Annual Meeting. We also discussed our upcoming fundraiser and parking lot resurfacing.

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling cancer. Samir's friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight.** Brian, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex,** health problems. **Reposed Darrel,** Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery.** **Erika and Family.** All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic. **Archmandrite Alexander-** Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Kerrie Photine-** recent surgery, **Karen and Scott-** battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil-** a longtime friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emiliane (Janie G.) and reposed Vadim.** **Our Vladyka Benjamin-** battling on-set parkinsons. **Tsige Roman and Abraham-** I know we are always mindful of Tsige, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Newly Reposed Maria S.**—who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, around 11:30 PM. **Reposed Jonathan T. Reposed Vadim, Newly Reposed Donny.** The newly reposed **Protopresbyter Leonid, the longtime chair of the Department of External Affairs for the OCA, and brotherinlaw to Olga H., Brian, Kerrie and family-** asking prayers for family sickness. **Oxana-** traveling. **George and Alesis,** Brother and Daughter of Peter and Irene S. **Matushka Ioanna R., Reposed. Matushka Priscilla, ill.** Anya J- a longtime friend of the parish who is ill. **Stephen F.**— battling back pain. **John F.**— battling cancer. **Archpriest Anthony-** battling cancer. **Julie-** sister of Kathy M., battling health problems. **Archbishop Benjamin-** parkinsons. **Mitred Archpriest Sergei-** who reposed recently. **Rhoda's requests for Douglas and Kayana.** **Reposed Constance-** the mother of Andrew F.

To the young Virgin in purest attire.

The virgins accompany our Virgin,
With hymns and tapers;
Zacharias leads her
To the Holy of Holies;
And into the Holy Place he takes her,
Where the awesome mystery is hidden.

Where the Ark of the Covenant is,
Where the golden lampstand is,
Where the staff and the manna are,
Into the guarding place of all mysteries;
There the pure Virgin is led--
The Mystical Ark of the Living Christ.

REFLECTION

Submit yourself to the will of God and do not pry too closely into God's judgments, for you can lose your mind. The judgments of God are innumerable and unfathomable. A monk in the wilderness, imagining that he had attained perfection, prayed to God that He would reveal to him His various judgments in the lives of men. God put the thought in his mind to go to a distant place to inquire of a spiritual elder concerning this. However, while the monk was on his way, an angel of God in the form of an ordinary man joined him, saying that he too wanted to go to that elder. Thus traveling together, they came upon the house of a God-fearing man, who treated them well, giving them to eat from a silver platter. When they had eaten, the angel took the platter and threw it into the sea. The monk found this both amazing and unjust, but he remained silent. The second day they came upon the house of another hospitable man who cordially received and treated them as kinsmen. Before leaving, that man brought out his only son for the travelers to bless. The angel of God then took the child by the throat and strangled him. The monk was greatly angered and asked the angel who he was, and why he had committed such misdeeds. The angel meekly replied to him: "The first man was pleasing to God in all things and had nothing in his house that was attained by injustice except that silver platter. By God's judgment, I threw that stolen platter away, so that the man would be righteous before God in all things. The other man was pleasing to God and had nothing in his house that would bring down the wrath of God except his son, who--had he matured--would have become a great criminal and a demonic vessel. Therefore, by God's judgment, I strangled that child in time to save his soul, for the sake of his father's goodness, and to save the father from many miseries. Behold, such are the mysteries and the unfathomable judgments of God. And you, elder, should return to your cell and not strive vainly by inquiring into that which is in the authority of the One God."

Taken from the Year of Grace of the Lord, by a Monk of the Eastern Church

Prologue of Ochrid, edited and written by St. Nikolai

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)