



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

"The Healing of the Gadarene Demoniac"

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 4

When the women disciples learned from the angel, the joyous message of Thy Resurrection. They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of Annunciation, Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

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!

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4, July 9th, Matt. 8:28-9:2

The gospel for the fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Matt. 8:28-34;9:1) tells us how Jesus healed a case of diabolic possession, and how the demons entered into a herd of swine which then hurled itself into the Sea of Galilee. We have already come across this episode in the gospel for the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (Lu. 8:27-38)...

Let us come back to the great doctrine of justification by faith. In the epistle for today (Rom. 10:1-10), St. Paul continues to enlarge on this theme. He deplores the blindness of the Israelites who, "going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God". This "righteousness of God" is Christ Himself. "For Christ is the end of the Law..."

Such a phrase must be correctly understood. Paul certainly does not intend to say that the content of the moral law has been abolished. Crimes that the law condemns remain crimes: the good that it commands continues to be good. But we are no longer tied by an external and institutional law, by a written text. The person of Jesus Christ has become our law. It is no longer a matter of knowing whether this or that action is prescribed or forbidden by a text, but of asking ourselves if it does or does not conform to Christ. This new law, Christ Jesus, "the word of faith, which we preach," is not difficult to remember or to formulate: it is not a remote text, it is not even to be found somewhere outside ourselves. "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Let us always remember that, unless it bears the fruits of holiness, a belief kept safe in our heart is no more than an empty formula. And let us give thanks to God that we have been delivered from multiple and burdensome outward observances: He has established us in a certain spirit, in accordance with a certain meaning. But, because the Apostle Paul is making use of a text from the Old Testament, let us read the phrase again in the original and pay

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30 PM

Divine Liturgy—Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is Bagels and Coffee. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Nina T. and Efrosinia.

Church School/Adult Ed— summer recess until October.

Parish Council— will meet today, after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

August BBQ Fundraiser— Today, we are distributing tickets for the BBQ on Saturday, August 19. We will need help with all aspects of the fundraiser: set up, cooking, preparing plates and, as of right now, selling tickets. I think everyone will be delighted with the food, so let's be sure to get those tickets sold. Thank you!

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy— who are ill.** **Matushka Ann Hopko**, reposed. **Jonathan**— ill. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo**. Fr. And Matushka's Granddaughter Annabella is past her illness, but still needs prayer for the return all body parts to normal. **Laure**— battling Cancer. **Paul**— ill **Ralph**—ill **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Tsige Roman**— our beloved Tsige reposed on December 3rd. Please keep praying for her homeland of Ethiopia. **Brian**— ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Katia**— sister of Shkbarra's Grace, Heather's goddaughter. **Reposed Priest, James**. **Reposed Hierarch Tikhon** . **Diane**— surgery. **Rufin**—soldier in Ukraine. Elise, ill. **Sally**, surgery, **Reposed Patrick**, **Reposed Jim**, **Reposed Alex**; **Christian**, prayers. **Chris**, reposed. **Galina**, reposed. **Patrick**, reposed. **Clint Arsenios**—reposed. **Heather Mary**— uncommon fatigue **Lou Mendez**. Battling ongoing health issues. **George and Steve**, a request from Luci. F.

attention to the last words: "But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth and in thy heart, *that thou mayest do it*".

(Taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a monk of the Eastern Church)

From the Lives of the Saints...

THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR PANCRATIUS [PANCRAS], BISHOP OF TAORMINA

This saint was born in Antioch, during the time when the Lord Jesus Christ walked as a man among men on earth. Hearing about the miracles of Christ, the parents of Pancratius desired to see the Lord, the Miracle-worker. Together with Pancratius, they traveled to Jerusalem, where they saw Jesus, heard His words, and witnessed His miracles. There Pancratius became acquainted with the Apostle Peter. After the Ascension of the Lord, both the parents and the son were baptized in Antioch. Pancratius withdrew to a cave in Pontus, where the Apostle Peter found him. In agreement with the Apostle Paul, he appointed Pancratius as the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. In Taormina, St. Pancratius worked many miracles, destroyed the idols, baptized the unbaptized, strengthened the baptized, and righteously governed the Church of God. A heathen commander by the name of Aquilinus heard that the entire city of Taormina had become Christian, and set out with an army in order to destroy the city. St. Pancratius calmed the fears of the faithful, and he himself went out from the city with the clergy, carrying in his hands the invincible weapon, the Honorable Cross. When the army approached the city, a darkness fell upon them and the soldiers were overcome with great fear. They were seized with great confusion, and turned against one another, stabbing and slaughtering each other with their swords. Thus the God-pleaser Pancratius saved the city and his flock by the power of his prayer before the Lord. Finally, Pancratius was stoned to death by envious and evil heathens, and found his rest in the Lord. His holy relics lie in Rome.

THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR CYRIL, BISHOP OF GORTINA IN CRETE

As an eighty-four year old man, Cyril suffered for Christ during the reign of Decius. He was thrown into fire, but was saved by the providence of God. Then the pagan judge issued the following sentence: "Just judgment cannot tolerate that Cyril, who was delivered from the fire, remain among the living. Therefore, I am ordering him to be slain by the sword." The holy elder joyfully placed his head under the sword and was beheaded, to live eternally in the Kingdom of Christ.

THE VENERABLE MARTYRS PATERMUTHIUS AND COPRES

The Egyptian Christians Paternuthius and Copres were tortured by the Emperor Julian the Apostate. Paternuthius was seventy-five years old and Copres was forty-five. The emperor succeeded in turning Copres away from the Faith of Christ, and persuaded him to embrace the idols. The apostate Copres cried out: "I am Julian's, not Christ's." But when the aged Paternuthius rebuked him, reminding him of eternal torments, Copres came to his senses and cried out before the emperor: "I am Christ's and not Julian's." Both were beheaded with the sword. Alexander, one of the emperor's soldiers, also suffered with them. Having witnessed their bravery in suffering, he had himself become a Christian. They honorably suffered for Christ, and went to Christ in the year 361 A.D.

Taken from, The Prologue of Ochrid, by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"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)