



The Rich Young Ruler

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the firstborn of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to 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!

Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4, September 3rd, Matt.

The gospel for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Matt. 21:33-42) consists of the parable of the vineyard and the wicked husbandmen. A man who had planted a vineyard and dug a winepress in it went into a far country, leaving it in the care of the husbandmen. Several times he sent servants to receive its fruits, but the husbandmen ill-treated or killed them. Then the owner decided to send his son: the husbandmen, eager to get hold of the inheritance, killed the son. What can the Lord of the vineyard do but destroy these wicked men and let out the vineyard to others?

Jesus intends this parable primarily for the Jews, who, like the wicked husbandmen, have killed those sent by the owner, and will kill the son himself (one notices how well the words "they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him" apply to Jesus' Passion, when he was taken and crucified outside the holy city), so that the work in the vineyard -- that is to say in the establishment of the messianic kingdom-- will be entrusted to the Gentiles.

But the parable also applies to us personally. Have we, who are his husbandmen, worked selflessly in the Father's vineyard? Have we not all too often despised the repeated messages and calls from the Lord of the vineyard -- indeed, his Word itself, and the ministry of the angels, and the example of the saints? Each time we sin, do we not share the guilt of the Jews in the murder of the Son? Have we not deserved to be excluded by God from his service and his Kingdom? This is the severe warning that the gospel brings us.

The same warning is sounded in the first sentence of the epistle (1 Cor.16:13-24): "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith:, and by one of the last sentences: "I any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha". Often the epistles for the Liturgy have no direct connection with the gospel of the same day but the "eyes of faith" sometimes can discern certain subtle spiritual links. In the epistle for this Sunday, Paul speaks with praise of the house of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; he mentions the church which is in the house of Aquila and Priscilla. The Greek fellow-workers of the apostle show us, by contrast with the wicked husbandmen in the gospel, what good laborers in the vineyard can be like. Finally, we are left with these words, as the central message of the epistle for this Sunday: "Let all your things be done with charity". All that really matters is the quality of love in our actions.

(taken from the Year of Grace of the Lord, by an Eastern Monk)

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the mother of God—Thursday, at 6PM

Divine Liturgy for the Nativity— Friday, at 8:30. Fr. Lawrence has an appointment at 10, so he needs to do the Liturgy at that hour.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Mike Me. and Luci F. Next week's coffee hour will be our coffee and bagels week.

Church School/Adult Ed— summer recess until October.

Parish Council— will meet next Sunday, after Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

Fundraiser Committee— our first meeting will take place during Coffee Hour on the 17th.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy— who are ill. Jonathan— ill. Reposed Barbara Ranjo. . 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 Hierarchy Tikhon. 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. Dr. Joseph—personal needs. **Lance—** special request for prayers. **Christian—** prayers. **Tonya—** husband took his own life.

From the Lives of the Saints...

THE HIEROMARTYR (PRIESTLY-MARTYR) ANTHIMUS

He was born in Nicomedia, and was raised from childhood as a true Christian. "His body was mortified, his spirit humbled, his envy uprooted, his anger subdued, his sloth banished.... He had love for all and peace with all; he was prudent with all, had zeal for the glory of God and was forthright with all." It is no wonder that a man with such virtues was appointed bishop. St. Anthimus governed as Bishop of Nicomedia during the cruel persecution of Christians under the villainous Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. Streams of Christian blood were shed, especially in Nicomedia. One year, on the Feast of Christ's Nativity, twenty thousand martyrs were burned to death in one church (see December 28). This took place during the time of Anthimus's episcopacy. Even so, the persecution did not end with this, but continued, and many Christians were cast into prison and kept there for torture and death. St. Anthimus withdrew to the village of Semana, not because he was fleeing from death, but in order to continue encouraging his flock in the feat of martyrdom, so that no one would fall away out of fear. One of his letters to the Christians in prison was intercepted and turned over to Emperor Maximian. The emperor dispatched twenty soldiers to find Anthimus and bring him to him. The gray-haired and clairvoyant elder came out to meet the soldiers, brought them to his house, and treated them as guests—and only then revealed that he was Anthimus, whom they were seeking. The soldiers, astonished by Anthimus's kindness, suggested that he hide, saying they would tell the emperor that they could not find him. But Anthimus replied that he could not let himself transgress God's commandment against falsehood to save his life, and he went with the soldiers. Along the way, all the soldiers came to believe in Christ and were baptized by Anthimus. The emperor had Anthimus harshly tortured for a long time, and then had him beheaded with an axe. He glorified the Lord and went to his rest at the beginning of the fourth century.

THE HOLY MARTYR BASILISSA

Basilissa was a nine-year-old girl. She was martyred in Nicomedia not long after the death of St. Anthimus. The torturers covered her whole body with wounds, but she remained faithful to Christ. God preserved her unharmed from fire and wild beasts, which caused her torturer, Alexander, to repent and embrace the Christian Faith. Basilissa then went out into a field, fell to her knees, and prayed thankfully to God that she had endured the tortures, and with that she gave up her spirit to God, in about the year 309.

SAINT JOANIKIJE, ARCHBISHOP AND FIRST PATRIARCH OF SERBIA

He was a faster and fellow ascetic of St. Euthymius the Great. Theoctistus was abbot of Euthymius's Lavra, located some six miles from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho. In all things he was a disciple of St. Euthymius under whose spiritual guidance he governed the monastery until the age of ninety. He pleased God by his life, and reposed in the middle of the fifth century during the reign of Anastasius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Taken from, 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)