

Scripture Readings

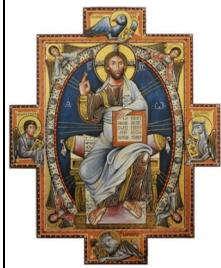
EPISTLE First Letter to the Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'

Gospel Reflection



Today's Gospel parable about the rich man feasting while Lazarus begs at his door, suggests a challenging lesson: those who do not practice active Christian love will experience ultimate alienation from God. The rich man's consignment to a place of torment occurs as a result of a choice that he made to ignore the needs of the beggar Lazarus. By not showing charity while he was alive, the rich man brought upon himself estrangement from God after his death. There are none who can pass back and forth to relieve his suffering. One description of hell is "an eternal state of total alienation from love (God)." There is no more haunting torment than knowing that one will never experience the loving embrace of God.

The choices we make to actively love others and attend to their needs, or to ignore them and pass them by, will contribute to our ultimate fate. Of this the Gospel is certain. Our salvation comes from the personal encounter we have every day with the needing Christ, present in those we know and meet—and even in those we have named our enemies. Who is the Lazarus at your door? Who calls to you in need? Today's Gospel tells us there is

Sts. Cosmas and Damianos: Healers of Body and Soul



Saints Cosmas and Damian were unmercenaries and miracle-workers. They both in the flesh and in the spirit, born somewhere in Asia Minor of a pagan father and a Christian mother. After their father's death, their mother Theodota devoted all her time and effort to educating her sons and raising them as true Christians. God helped her, and her sons matured as sweet fruit and luminaries of the world. They were learned in the art of medicine and ministered to the sick without payment, not so much with medicine as by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were called "unmercenary physicians," that is, unpaid physicians, for they healed freely and thus fulfilled the commandment of Christ: Freely ye have received, freely give (Matthew 10:8). So careful were they in healing men free of charge that Cosmas became very angry with his brother Damian because he accepted three eggs

from a woman, Palladia, and ordered that he not be buried alongside his brother Damian after his death. In fact, St. Damian did not accept these three eggs as a reward for healing the ailing Palladia, but rather because she adjured him in the name of the Most-holy Trinity to accept these three eggs. Nevertheless, after their death in the town of Fereman, they were buried together according to a revelation from God. The holy brothers were great miracle-workers both during their life and after their death. A snake crawled through the mouth and into the stomach of a certain farm laborer during his sleep, and the unfortunate man would have died in the greatest pain had he not, in the last moment, invoked the help of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Thus, the Lord glorified forever the miracle-working of those who glorified Him on earth by their faith, purity and mercy. "Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our weaknesses; freely you have re-ceived, freely give to us." (Apolitikion of Sts. Cosmas and Damianos)

For Their Blessed Repose

William Galanis (7 Years), offered by his loving family;

Athanasia (Ethel) Athos (25 Years), offered by her loving daughter;

Eleftherios Panteris-Le (6 Months), offered by his loving family.

May their memory be eternal!

Orthodox Prayer for Physicians and Nurses

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Lover of Mankind, Physician of our souls and bodies, who didst bear the pain of our infirmities, and by whose wounds we are healed; Who raised Jairus' daughter to life; and brought the 4-day-dead Lazarus to life; do Thou, O Lord, grant Thy grace to all those have labored and studied hour upon hour, to go into all the world, and also to heal by the talent Thou hast given to each of them. Strengthen them, by Thy strength, to fear no evil or disease. Enlighten them to do no evil by the works of their hands, and preserve them and those they serve in peace. Glory to Thee forever!

Pray For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; persecuted Christians of the Middle East, Theonemfe Panteris, Bill Pastis, Frosso Malavakis, Sotirios Kakavoulas, Marge Costas, Christopher Costas, Evangelia Pantazakos, Bill George, Mary Matthews, Patty Roumel, George Dizelos, Cimon Psira, John Karas; Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; the child Seraphina Marie Vasilatou; Alexandra Aposporos; Lynne; Maria Papida; Thomas Khalil, and Maria Vasilion.

Parish Events

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: Every Sunday, 11:30 AM in the Chapel, following the Children’s Liturgy. This year’s topic is “A Journey Through Scripture: Lessons from the Bible and How to Apply Them to Our Daily Life.” For information, contact Michael Haldas at Michael.haldas@verizon.net

BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays, 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Join us for the continued exploration of St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans.

PHILOPTOCHOS: Today is National Philoptochos Sunday. In recognition of the faithful ministry of the national group and of our own St. George Philoptochos, there will be an Artoklasia following Divine Liturgy this morning. Many thanks to Maria Stergiou for making the artos for this special service. There also will be a second tray passed today for Philoptochos to benefit the social services of the Ecumenical Patriarch. To see an example of the fruits of Philoptochos ministry, please stop by Kollecas House during fellowship and see the improvements made this summer. Everyone is welcome.

50 PLUS: Monday, Nov. 2, 10:00 AM - Brunch at Original Pancake House, 12224 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. For information, contact Maria Kopsidas at (240) 421-9909.



The Mystery of Holy Unction



On Thursday, November 5, we will have the Service of Holy Unction as we do on every first Thursday at 6:30PM. The Mystery of Holy Unction is a Sacrament for the sick and afflicted in body or spirit. The faithful are anointed with consecrated oil and the healing power of the Holy Spirit is invoked upon them. This is based on what is written in the Epistle of St. James 5:14-15, where it is commanded that the sick call upon the elders of the Church to pray over them, and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

The Service of Holy Unction is for the recovery of health and not a preparation for death. However, if death occurs, the Priest may still be called and asked to read the “Prayers for the Departure of the Soul from the Body.” This special Sacrament is a means for the Church to deal with and reach into the brokenness of the human person. It is a Sacrament of hope and promise. It is a Sacrament of healing and wholeness. If you have physical illnesses or are troubled in soul, this Sacrament is for you. Through it, God reaches out in love and mercy to you. He lifts you up in the midst of the Church and imparts His healing grace. We invite you to join us every first Thursday of the month for this Mystery of Healing.



The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

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**November 1, 2015
Fifth Sunday of St. Luke
Sts. Cosmas and Damianos and
Theodota Their Mother**



**“Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our weaknesses; freely you have received, freely give to us.”
(Apolytikion)**

**Resurrectional Apolytikion
Tone Plagal 1 (Tone 5)**

Logos, Father, and Spirit from all eternity, conceived by the Virgin to set mankind free, come ye faithful and worship singing praise to Him. For He was willing as a man to be lifted on the Cross and death to suffer, and to raise up the sleeping, by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion to St. George

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.