

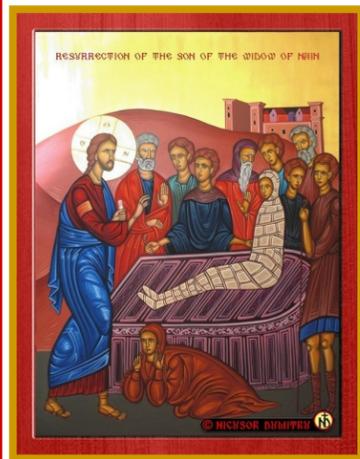
Scripture Readings

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 11: 31-33; 12:1-9 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast, there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows, and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf, I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think any more of me than he sees of me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

GOSPEL Luke 7:11-16 At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"



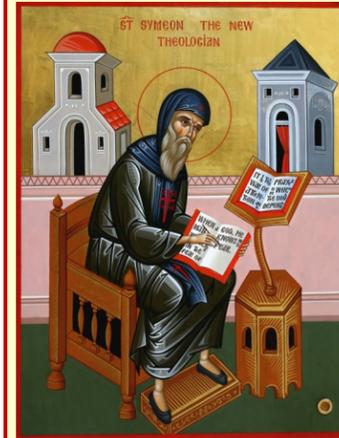
Gospel Reflection: God Has Visited His People



Today's Gospel passage contains a dual message. At its core, it is a story of life triumphant over death. In his description of the raising of the widow's son, Luke refers to Jesus as "Lord" (Kyrios, Gr.), the title by which the early Christians designated the crucified Messiah victorious over death and the grave (Acts 2:36). This is the first time the Lucan narrative refers to Jesus as "Lord." This passage is also an examination of Jesus' compassion, exemplified by His spontaneous gaze of sympathy. Recognizing the dead man's mother as a widow with no other children, and no other means of support, Jesus seizes the hour. It is significant that the dead son is an only child, the first of three miracles Jesus works for the benefit of parents of an only child, in this Gospel. The widow suffered tremendous grief over the loss of her son. Having already lost her husband, the mother feared she would end up penniless and destitute. Motivated by genuine mercy, Jesus' gaze into the woman's eyes gave the Lord perfect insight into the pain she was suffering. Moments of death are poignant, but the reality of death compounded by the specter of destitution made the

widow's situation particular desperate. Jesus knew this from the moment He laid eyes on her, and his immediate response was to reach out in mercy. Once again, the Lord revealed Himself as the Divine Healer, touching the woman's heart and soul, reaching into her troubled psyche with the balm of her son's new life. The Lord lifted the mother from her agonizing grief and utter despair, as He called the son out of death's clutches to live yet again. This is who Jesus is, and this is who He calls us to be. We are summoned to enter the struggles, anxieties and darkness of those who need us in their lives, in ways significant or small - not with pat answers and hollow platitudes, but with genuine mercy and compassion. By our faithful presence, to share in and help heal the pain of others, we give renewed meaning to the words that conclude today's Gospel passage: "God has visited His people." Jesus' words were few but His heart was open wide. So it should be with us - few words but open hearts, watching God visit His people yet again.

October 12: St. Symeon the New Theologian



St. Symeon the New Theologian was born in 949 into a provincial noble family in a north-central town of Anatolia. His writings have had a central influence on the theology and spirituality of the Christian East, in particular with regard to the experience of mystical union with God. While he was still young, St. Symeon moved to Constantinople to complete his education and enter the Roman Emperor's service. He did not feel attracted by a civil career and, under the influence of the inner illumination he was experiencing, he set out in search of a spiritual guide in the period of doubt and perplexity, to help him advance on the path of union with God. He encountered Symeon the Pious, a simple monk of a Constantinople monastery who advised him to read Mark the Monk's treatise, "The Spiritual Law." Symeon the New Theologian found in this text a teaching that made a deep impression on him: "If you seek spiritual healing, be attentive to your conscience. Do all that it tells you and you will find what serves you." From that very moment, he never went to sleep without first asking himself whether his conscience had anything with which to reproach him. St. Symeon became a monk and was Abbot of a number of monasteries. He focused his thoughts on the Holy Spirit's presence in the baptized person and on the awareness we each must cultivate of this spiritual reality. "Christian life," he emphasized, "is intimate, personal communion with God, divine grace illumines the believer's heart and leads him to a mystical vision of the Lord." Along these lines, he insisted that true knowledge of God does not come intellectually from books, but rather experientially, from spiritual living. Knowledge of God is born from a process of inner purification that begins with the conversion of the heart through the power of faith and love. It passes through profound repentance to the experience of God deep in one's heart. For St. Symeon, this experience of divine grace did not constitute an exceptional gift for a few mystics but rather was the fruit of Baptism in the life of every seriously committed Christian.

For The Blessed Repose

Harriet Aposporos (40 Days)

Pandora Kounakis (40 Days)

Eleni Axaopoulos (40 Days)

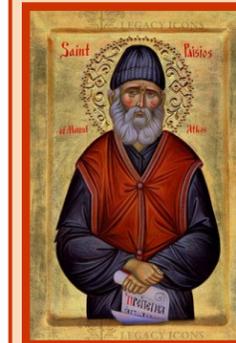
Emmanuel Gerohristodoulos (11 Years)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may their memory be eternal!



"We fly unto thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessity, but heal and answer us, O Virgin most blessed and glorious!"

(2nd century prayer to the Holy Theotokos)



Are You a Fly or a Bee? Thought by St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. The fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is. As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

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; Metropolitan +Kallistos of Diokleia, Anatoly Seraphim, Georgia Mavromihalis, Robert West, Amanda Lawrence, Ourania Mantzouranis, Maria Kritzas, Cathy, Janie Pappas, Eleni Gourmani, Anne Savas, the child of God Trey Anderson, Dimitrios Papapostolou, Angela Apidououlos, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Selena Pappas

ORTHODOX SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEARNING

2018-2019 BIBLE STUDY: "The Gospel of St. John: Beholding the Glory" This year's Scripture study focuses on the fourth Gospel, composed by St. John the Theologian. Join us every Thursday at 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM in the Church library to explore the depths of the Gospel written by "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019: "The Shared Experience of the Orthodox Christian Faith." Our theme this year is that our faith is not primarily about ideas or concepts, rules and regulations. It is about our relationship and our personal connectedness with Jesus Christ in the experience of our everyday lives. Following Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

ADULT INQUIRY CLASS: For adults interested in joining the Orthodox Church. Through discussion, speakers, and personal sharing, adults will be preparing to receive Baptism or Chrismation. Sessions will be held at 7:30 PM on October 3, 17, 31; November 14, 28; and December 12, in the Church Library. See Fr. Dimitrios for more information or to sign up.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

GOYA: TODAY, after Divine Liturgy. General Membership Meeting for all registered GOYAns. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions, join planning committees, and have your ideas heard.

GREEK SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: The St. George Greek School is hosting a "Frappe Fundraiser" TODAY. For those of you longing for your favorite taste of summer, please join us in the Grand Hall following the Divine Liturgy this Sunday for some homemade frappe, plus some treats for the kiddos as well. Thanks in advance for your support, and we look forward to seeing you!

50 PLUS: The next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 11:30 AM with luncheon. The speaker will be announced shortly. Kindly indicate whether or not you will attend by calling Maria Kopsidas (240-421-9909) as this greatly helps our meal planning. Friends of members are welcomed.

GOYA: 20th Annual Bishop George Memorial Basketball Tournament, Oct. 13-14. Register as a volunteer at stggoya@gmail.com

GREEK SCHOOL: Adult classes are in session. Register at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/238/responses/new> Beginning Oct. 16, a conversational class to supplement Greek School instruction is offered every Tuesday for free to all students five years and older. Register online at: <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/247/responses/new> - for information, please contact Eirini Iatrou at eirini.iatrou@gmail.com

USHERS NEEDED: We continue to need volunteers to serve as ushers. Please consider serving this faith community by helping to keep our Divine Worship prayerful and in good order. Please sign-up using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AAAAB2EA4FA7-ecclesiastical>

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION TEAM: The Kaiser family from St. George took a mission trip to Trade, TN this summer with the Orthodox Mission Team (OMT) in partnership with the Appalachia Service Project. Appalachia is one of the most beautiful areas in the US and one of the poorest areas of the country. There they spent 5 days working on homes to make them warmer, safer and dryer along with establishing relationships with the families. This was an amazing experience and very rewarding. It is the goal of St. George to form a group of GOYAN's and adult leaders to participate in this mission project next year the week of July 7th-13th. We will need those interested to sign up in November. Please contact Athena Kaiser for more information at 240-498-0870 or avkmail@verizon.net.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

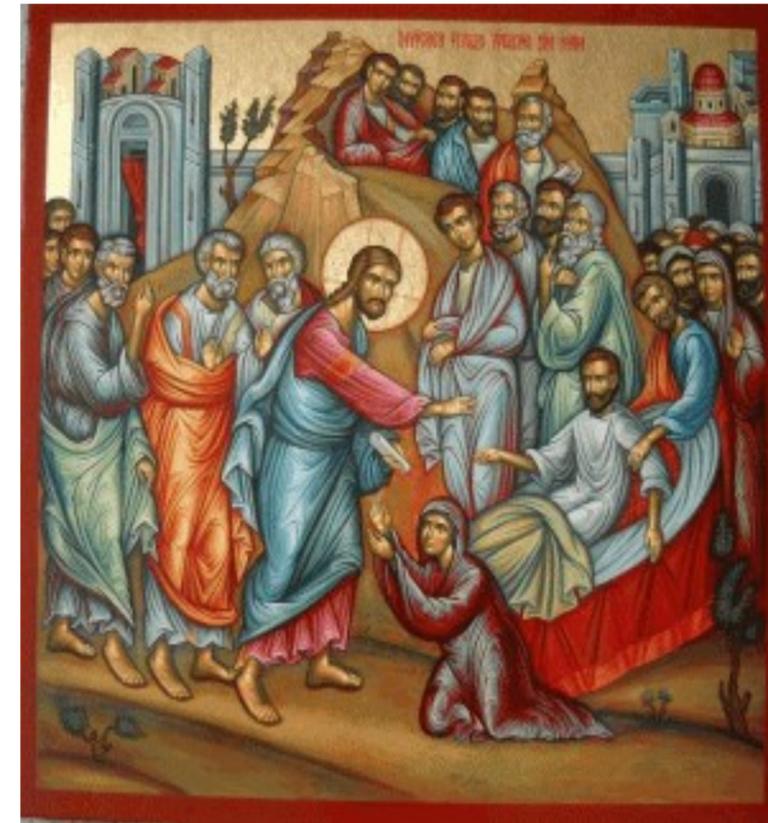


Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest



FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817 www.stgeorge.org Tel: 301-469-7990



Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain

3RD SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

STS. SERGIUS AND BACCHUS
OF SYRIA

OCTOBER 7, 2018



"Raising the boy at Nain, death's darkness is overcome, joy comes once again; relationships are widened. And so, let us trade now what is useless, old and failed, and welcome Christ, God's face and heart of love."

Resurrection Apolytikion Tone 2

When Thou descendedst to an earthly death, O immortal Life, then Thou didst Hades annihilate by the lightning of the Divinity. And Lord when Thou didst raise from the depths the dead, all the heavenly Powers proclaimed in majesty: O Giver of life, Christ our God, Glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of 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!

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