

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 **stmichaelvannuys.org**

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA, of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America www.antiochian.org

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The Sunday of the Prodigal Son and The Forefeast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

Sunday, February 08, 2026

Tone 2; Eothinon 2

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

Apolytikion of our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of the Forefeast of The Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Prodigal Son)

*The Lord is my strength and my song.
The Lord has chastened me severely.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under

the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL (The Prodigal Son)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his

feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

The Synaxarion

On February 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Theodore the General (“Stratelates”); and the Prophet Zachariah.

On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom).

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstated in the Triodion.

Verses

O thou who art like me, a prodigal,
come forward with confidence and tranquility;
For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God’s compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by

despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Saturday, February 14 — Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 15 — Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

fANNOUNCEMENTS

Metropolitan SABA's Weekly Teaching (in English and Arabic)



View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, titled: "The Fathers of the Church;" go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2723>

Informative Archdiocese Links

View the January-February Issue of The Word magazine (the official publication of the Antiochian Archdiocese). Go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2699> and read how to cast of distraction which is "the beginning of all evil" according to St. Ignatius Brianchaniov, finding strength in humble places; also the inspiring life of St. Nikiforos the Leper.

Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form

What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of property taxes (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. It is

not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family is not enrolled with the parish and completed an annual pledge form. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish.

What is the St. Michael annual "Archdiocese Parish Contribution"

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. We project that our annual payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church to be \$36,000, or 10% of our income (excluding contributions received for the charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts).

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Receiving 2026 Pledge Commitments Totaling \$107,079.84 From the Following Members:

Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh
Laila Abughazaleh
Rami Abughazaleh
Frances Allen
Kevin Anthoney
Sami & Omaima Azzam
Fr. Timothy Baclig
Kristy & Mike Chiaburu
Deanna & Rami Jubran
Nichola & Mimi Hallak
Ramez & Rima Hage
Tom & Lynn Homsy
Sonia Karam
Salim El-Darzi and Marwan
Samia Habib
Rami & Basma Madain
Michael & Patricia Malouf
Nicki Malouf
Don Meena
Fred & Tanya Milkie, Jr.

Mary Ann & Michael Mitchell
Michelle & Waleed Moujaes
Dn. Andrew & Barbara Monsue
Charlotte Murr
Antoine & Georgina Nader
Riad Nasser
Mandy & Constantine Nasr, Jr.
Barbara & Fred Nicola
Chrisa Sadd
Haitham & Asma Sweis
Richard & Cindy Tamoush
Ronald & Georgia Tamoush
Randa Tarbouche
Daphne Thabet
Geri Thabit
Mae and Cristina Tortolano
Nicole & Robert Webster
Laila Zaki
Ron & Kathy Zraick

2026 Pledge Forms are now available on-line and hard copies may be found in the narthex.

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar

to your personal calendar.

Simply go to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWNoYWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

The Lion's Den - Four Week Group Study for Men

February, 9, 16, 23 [see flier with this bulletin]

Mid-Winter Choir Institute — February 5-8, 2026

See flier with this bulletin (below)

Young Adult Super Bowl Party - February 8, 2026

[at Father Timothy's residence (see flier)]

Clergy Seminar - February 9-12, 2026

Sacred Heart Retreat Center (Alhambra)

Young Adults - FOCUS Food and Clothing Distribution

February 28, 2026, 9 a.m.

[St. Nicholas Cathedral; 2300 W. 3rd Street; Los Angeles]

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Feb 15 - Jeanette Hollow

Feb 22 - open

Feb 25 (Pre-sanctified Liturgy)

Mar 01 - Antiochian Women

Mar 08 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jeanette Hollow

Cheese Fare Coffee Hour

Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or to host the Coffee Hour.

PREPARATION FOR GREAT LENT

Great Lent is a particular spiritual season of the Christian Church when each of us begins to take a serious look at our own spiritual journey with God. It gives us a chance to see where we are and how we can conform our lives to the Gospel teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In order to maintain the proper character of the season within the life of the Church, we begin Lent with a new set of norms that help us to be better able to enrich our spiritual life. The tone within our church life gradually changes. There

is a greater solemnity that requires the absence of elaborate parties, excessive pleasures, unnecessary vices, lavish menus, and the list goes on and on. It is important to remember, however, that our entrance into this season is one of *joy* and not morbidity. The call to Lent can be heard in the words of the Forgiveness Sunday Vespers: *Let us enter the fast with joy, O faithful. Let us not be sad. Let us cleanse our faces with the waters of dispassion . . . Let us begin the fast with joy! Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our souls and cleanse our flesh. Let us abstain from passion as we abstain from foods, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love that we all may be made worthy of seeing the passion of Christ our God and His Holy Resurrection, rejoicing with spiritual joy.*

Our Church prescribes a period of time **prior to** the beginning of Great Lent for preparing our minds and hearts. The duration of this time of preparation is four weeks and begins today.

The first Sunday is called the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican. On this Sunday, the parable that Jesus related and is recorded for us in the Gospel of Saint Luke (18:10-14) is read during the Divine Liturgy. In relating our Lord's lesson to us, the Church points out that we are not to take pride in our good works, nor boast and exaggerate about our own righteousness, as did the Pharisee. But rather, we should take the Publican as our example, admitting our sinfulness and humbly seek God for forgiveness and mercy.

*Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of Life,
For my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy Holy Temple.
Bearing the temple of my body all defiled;
But in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Thy mercy.
Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God,
For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins,
and have wasted my life in laziness.
But by your intercession, deliver me from all impurity.
When I think upon the many evil things I have done, wretch that I am,
I tremble at the fearful Day of Judgment.
But trusting in Thy loving kindness, like David I cry to Thee:
Have mercy upon me, O God,*

*Have mercy upon me, O God,
Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.*

This beautiful hymn demonstrates the penitent and contrite character of the Lenten season. Lent is a time of *Penance*. Penance requires knowledge of one's self and one's unworthiness before God. However, penance also requires a sense of hope in the mercy of God on the part of the penitent. We sorrow when we discover ourselves as sinners, but in the words of St. John Climacus of the 7th century, "God does not ask or desire that a person should mourn from sorrow of heart, but rather that out of love for Him he should rejoice with spiritual joy."

There is a mystery involved in what we are speaking of. And this implies that it cannot be totally explained, but experienced as God so wills. Perhaps the most articulate writer on the subject was St. John Cassian who lived about three hundred years earlier than St. John Climacus. He writes in commenting upon St. Paul's epistle: "...the Apostle said, 'Godly sorrow produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret' (II Corinthians 7:10). This 'godly sorrow' nourishes the soul through the hope engendered by repentance, and it is mingled with joy. That is why it makes us obedient and eager for every good work: accessible, humble, gentle, forbearing and patient in enduring all the suffering or tribulation God may send us. Possession of these qualities shows that a person enjoys the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faith, self-control (see Galatians 5:22)."

If a person desires mercy he must also be willing to be merciful. If we are less than merciful towards others, then we are truly in dread of the Judgment, "For in the same measure that we forgive we are forgiven" said Jesus. This state of mind must be developed prior to the beginning of Great Lent if Lent is to be meaningful.

The second Sunday is called the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. The Gospel reading is the Parable of the Lord, recorded for us in the Gospel of St. Luke (15:11f). We are taught to have hope in God's mercy. Regardless of what we have done—or may not have done, we should never despair. Our God, who is a loving Father, will receive us in His bosom as did the Father of the Prodigal Son. The Kontakion (Hymn highlighting the lesson) points this out to us: *When*

I disobeyed in ignorance Thy Fatherly glory I wasted in iniquities the riches that Thou gave me. Wherefore I cry to Thee with the voice of the Prodigal Son saying, I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father, receive me, repentant and make me one of Thy hired servants.

Meditation

The far-off country where the Prodigal wandered is the figure of a world in which the activities of human beings, even their duties, are disconnected, or antagonistic to each other . . . a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods that do not satisfy, drinks that do not quench our thirst; a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, engulfed as it is in untruth, deceit and sin. . . . There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God, since the world in which we live is not a normal world, but a waste land . . . St. Ambrose of Milan comments: *He who separates himself from Christ is in exile from the fatherland and becomes a subject of the world. But we are not aliens and foreigners; we are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God: we were sometime afar off, but we were made near by the Blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:19, 13)* [George Barrois; Scripture Readings in Orthodox Worship, p. 25]

A Special Video Produced by Faithtree Resources on The Prodigal Son

We believe that storytelling is one of the most powerful ways leaders can influence people. A good story connects, engages and inspires. Jesus Christ new this well, using parables to teach His disciples and those around him. One of the most powerful parables if of the Prodigal Son. The Relationship Project offers a contemporary visualization of this beautiful parable because it so clearly demonstrates the impact storytelling can have.

As we approach **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**, we wanted to share this video with you. It has been a powerful reminder that our primary and true identity is being a child of God. And what an amazing story that is! View it here: https://vimeo.com/1056171906/bb1672e085?share=copy&mc_cid=25232a2dd9&mc_eid=de9863d8ec

YOUNG ADULTS
**SUPERBOWL
PARTY**



SUNDAY - FEB 8, 2026

AFTER CHURCH @ FR. TIMOTHY'S RESIDENCE:

THE ASCENT CLUB HOUSE

21301 ERWIN STREET

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA

ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH PRESENTS:

BRING YOUR FAITH TO LIFE WITH

THE LION'S DEN

A FOUR-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY

WHEN

February 2, 9, 16, 23

WHERE:

St. Michael Antiochian
Orthodox Church | VAN NUYS, CA

What We'll Cover:

- ▶ Finding Authenticity in Christ
- ▶ Growing Intentional Discipleship
- ▶ Setting Faithful Priorities
- ▶ Pursuing God Together

Who Should Attend:

- ▶ Men Ages 18 and Older
- ▶ Parishioners, Inquirers, & Catechumens

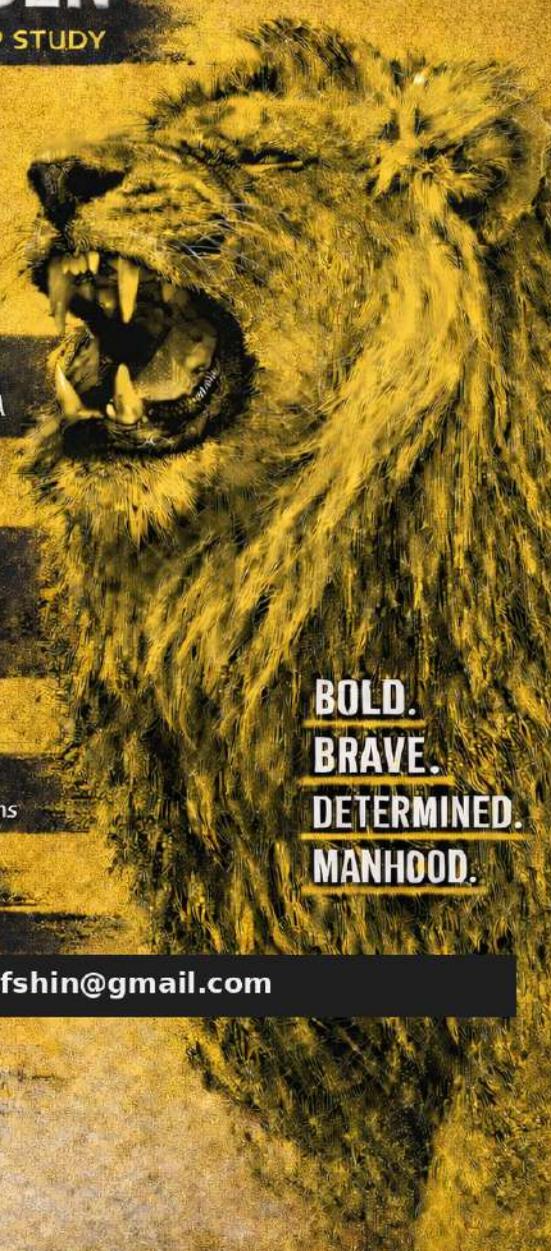
For More Info & RSVP

Nathan Afshin

818-825-6442 · Nathanafshin@gmail.com

LIONHEART
SESSIONS

BOLD.
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MANHOOD.



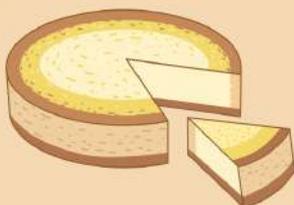
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN (AW) CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

CHEESEEEEEEE FIESTA BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
After Divine Liturgy

\$7 Per Person

**\$20 Families
2 adults &
unlimited
children
12 & under**



**All proceeds
to benefit the
AW shared
Charitable
Act of Mercy -
Project Mexico's
baby orphanage
Casa Cuna**

Bookstore Receives New Stock Items

Stop by the Bookstore and see the updated selection of icons and books that have arrived.

Additional Resources on Great Lent

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA has provided us with his teaching as we prepare for the season of Great Lent available in both English and Arabic as follows:

- a. "A New Pharisaism" <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/1956>
- b. "The Humble Person" <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/1968>

Preparing for Great Lent

Wednesday Evening Lenten Meal - Following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy each Wednesday evening during Great Lent, a simple Lenten meal will be provided following Liturgy. It is the sole purpose for the meal, following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy, to provide a simple and uncomplicated offering of food and not a full dinner. The Lenten meal is for renewed strength for those who have fasted in preparation for Holy Communion at the evening Liturgy, and like our coffee hour, is not a fundraiser. The meal should be modest, not elaborate, and not require accumulating leftovers. This will also reduce the need for time consuming clean-up by the host(s). **The Wednesday evening Liturgies begin at 6 p.m. and not 6:30.** This start time will avoid eating late, and to also provide enough time for travel home, especially when children get up early for school in the morning, and many begin another workday. Contact Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org should you be interested in reserving the following dates: February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Note: The Pre-sanctified Liturgy is the Liturgy for all of the forty-day weekdays of Great Lent. The festal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated on the Saturday (for the departed) and St. Basil the Great on Sunday (for the Resurrection), when wine and oil are permitted. In vigilant communities, like monasteries, the Pre-sanctified Liturgy and Lenten meal is the sole sustenance for the faithful during Great Lent. It is also important to keep in mind that our Lenten discipline is the practice that includes: fasting, prayer and good works—all three.

Establishing a Prayer Discipline

Have you ever found praying to be difficult? Do you feel too busy to pray? Or perhaps you don't know where to begin? Maybe you have found it hard to focus, or even experienced emptiness when you pray. If so, you're not alone. For many Orthodox Christians, prayer can be misunderstood, or even frustrating. But prayer is how we build an intimate relationship with the living God! The reality is that cultivating that relationship takes time and effort. Our parish is partnering with Faithtree Resources in *The Encounter*, a prayer initiative that will help us grow closer to God, closer to each other, and to grow in our faith.

Made up of daily Orthodox prayers that you can utilize on a free app, or through a physical prayer book, *The Encounter* is a simple and easy way to begin to grow in your prayer life and do so with others in our community.

If you'd like more information about participating, sign up on the google doc here: tinyurl.com/encounterfaithtree

Forward Alliance Lake Balboa Park Project

The plans by "Forward Alliance Los Angeles" is available by viewing the following link: <http://www.forwardalliance.org/> Linda Gravani, President of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council (LBNC) reported that the Council is in favor of the proposed project (shown on the link), however opposed to the proposed 250 affordable housing units by the City of Los Angeles (shown as #17 on the site plan) that is not part of the FALA proposed plan. Federal Funds were used for the existing "Park and Ride" in the location of the proposed housing units. Public transportation is part of a long-range plan for the Sepulveda Pass to UCLA and the elimination of the parking at the corner of Victory and Balboa will be a disadvantage for commuters. The Van Nuys Airport is now providing weekly private flights to Maui. The Airtel Plaza is now closed after 40 years. The airport site plan posed difficulty for the hotel/restaurant/Conference Center. For more information go to: <https://lakebalboanc.org/2025/10/airtel-plaza-hotel-to-close-after-40-years/>

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
(MEETING) OF CHRIST

ابوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الثاني

عندما أخذت في الموت، أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت، حينئذ أنت الحميم بريق لاهوتك. وعندما أفتت الأموات من تحت التراب، صرخ تحرك جميع القوات السماويين: أيها المسيح الإله، عظمى الحياة المجد لك.

ابوليتيكيون دخول السيد إلى الهيكل بالحن الأول

افرحي يا والدة الإله الحراء، الممتلئة نعمة، لأن ملك أشرق شمس العجل المسيح اليها، منيرا للذين في الظلام. سرّ والتهيج أنت أيها الشيوخ الصديق، حاملا على ذراعتك المتيقن نفوسنا، والمنايح لنا القيامة.

طروبارية ورساء الملاعبة بالحن الرابع

أيها المنقذون على الخلد السماويين، تؤمّل اليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى نكم بملايكم نكتفوننا بظلم أخنحة مجدك اللاهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجالين والمساكين بغير قور. انقذونا من الشدايد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات الطوية.

تقداد دخول السيد إلى الهيكل بالحن الأول

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمؤيدك قدس المستودع البتولي، وبارك بذي سماع كما لاق، وأذكرنا لأن وخلصنا إخطار رعبك بسلام في الخروب، وآيد العلوك الذين أختبئهم، بما أنك وحدك مجيب للبشر.

الرسالة

قوّتي وتسيحتي الرب. أدباً أبتني الرب

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس.

يا إخوة، كل شيء متباح لي ولكن ليس كل شيء يوافق، كل شيء متباح لي ولكن لا يتسلط علي شيء. إن الأطعمة للجوف والجوف للأطعمة، وتبنييد الله هذه وذلك. أما الجسد فليس للزني بل للرب والرب للجسد، والله الذي قام الرب سيقيمنا نحن أيضاً بقوته. أما تعلمون أن أجسادكم هي أعضاء المسيح؟ فأخذ أعضاء المسيح وأجعل لها أعضاء زني؟ خاشي. أما تعلمون أن من اقترب بزانية صان وإياها جسداً واحداً؟ لأنه قد قيل: "بصير كلاًهما جسداً واحداً." أما الذي يقترن بالزني فيكون معه زوا واحداً. أهزبوا من الزني. فإن كل خطيئة يفعلها الإنسان هي في خارج الجسد، أما الزني فإنه يخطأ إلى جسده. أما تعلمون أن جسداً هو هيكل الروح القدس الذي فيكم الذي تلقوه من الله وأنكم لستم لأنفسكم؟ لأنكم قد اشتريتهم بثمن فمجدوا الله في أجسادكم وفي أزواجكم التي هي به. تعلمت، وأنت منذ الطفولة تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة أن تُصيرتك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشري، والتلميذ الطاهر.

وقال: «إسنان كان له ابنا. فقال أصغرهما لأبيه: يا أبي اعطني القسم الذي نصيبني من المال. فقسّم لهما ميعيته. وبعد أيام ليست بكثيره جمع الابن الأصغر كل شيء وسافر إلى كورة بعيدة، وهناك بنى ماله بعيش مسرف. فلما انقضى كل شيء، حدث جوع شديد في تلك الكورة، فابتدأ يحتاج فمضى والتصق بواجب من أهل تلك الكورة، فأرسله إلى حقله ليزرع خنازير. وكان يتشهي أن يملأ بطنه من الخروب الذي كانت الخنازير تأكله، فلم يعطه أحد. فرجع إلى نفسه وقال: كم من أجبر لأبي يفضل عنه الخبز وأنا أهلك جوعاً! أقوم وأذهب إلى أبي وأقول له: يا أبي، أخطأت إلى السماء وقدامك، ولست مستحقاً بعد أن أدعى لك ابناً. اجعلني كأحد أجزاك. فقام وجاء إلى أبيه. وأذ كان لم يزال بعيداً رآه أبوه، ففحش وركض ووقع على عنقه وقبله. فقال له الابن: يا أبي، أخطأت إلى السماء وقدامك، ولست مستحقاً بعد أن أدعى لك ابناً. فقال الأب ليعبيده. أخرجوا الخلة الأولى والبسوة، واجعلوا خاتماً في يده، وهداء في رجليه، وقدموا العجل المسمن وأذبوه فاكلوا وفرحوا، لأن الابن هذا كان ميتاً فعاث، وكان ضالاً فوجد. فابتدأوا يفرحون. وكان ابنة الأكبر في الخلل فلما جاء وقرب من البيت، سمع صوت الآت طرب ورفصا. فدعا واحداً من العلمان وسأله: ما عسى أن يكون هذا؟ فقال له: أخوك جاء فذبح أبوك العجل المسمن، لأنه قبله سالماً. فغضب ولم يرد أن يدخل. فخرج أبوه يطالب إليه فأجاب وقال لأبيه: ها أنا أخدمك سبعين هذا عبداً، وقط لم أتجاوز وصيتك، وحدثاً لم تُعطيني قط لأفروح مع أصدقائي. ولكن لما جاء ابنك هذا الذي أكل ميعيتك مع الزواني، دبحت له العجل المسمن! فقال له: يا بني أنت معي في كل حين، وكل ما لي فهو لك. ولكن كان ينبغي أن نفرح ونسر، لأن أخاك هذا كان ميتاً فعاث، وكان ضالاً فوجد.»

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عموماً المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقصود على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتقاد منذ فترة قريبة وعلى كل حال، فلنا دعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند ابتداء مراسم القداس.

الرجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية