

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 Pharisee and Publican and The Forefeast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Tone 1; Eothinon 1

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

The Heavens' choir looked down from the vaults of the Heavens, and gazing on the earth, they beheld with amazement the First-born of all creation brought forth as a suckling babe to the Temple by a pure and virginal mother; and with us, they now do sing a hymn for the Forefeast, astonished and full of awe.

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)

On this day doth Simeon receive with gladness God, the giver of the Law; and he doth cry to Him in fear: Let me depart now, O Master Christ, for I have seen Thee, the glory of Israel.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Pharisee and Publican)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things

befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL (The Pharisee and Publican)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Synaxarion

On February 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyr Tryphon of Syria; and Martyr Perpetua of Carthage and her four companions.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

Verses

If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple;
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are acceptable.

Verses for the Triodion

O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly,

receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song,
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

Monday, February 02 — Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

Saturday, February 07 — Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 08 — Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Margaret Abdun-Nur and family in loving memory of Dr. John Abdun-Nur (+31 January, 2008). Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

by Barbara & Fred Nicola and family for their newborn grandchild:

Ben Danova born to Paige & Michael Danova.

May God grant them many years!

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Marie Toumat.

Memory eternal.

fANNOUNCEMENTS



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

View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, titled: "Apologetic Theology Today;" go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2716>

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 \$101,039.84 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
Michael & Patricia 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=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Piano Concerto No. 3 — February 1, 2026, 1 p.m.
St. Luke Church (see information with this bulletin)

Feast of the Presentation of Christ — February 2, 2026
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Lion's Den - Four Week Group Study for Men
February, 2, 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 08 - open
Feb 15 - Jeanette Hollow
Feb 22 - open
Feb 25 (Pre-sanctified Liturgy)
Mar 01 - Antiochian Women

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jeanette Hollow
Cheese Fare Coffee Hour
Light Lenten Meal

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

St. Luke Orthodox Church presents

Beethoven:

Piano Concerto No. 3

Capping Beethoven's 255th birthday

featuring

St. Luke's parishioner

Dilara Khalilova, Pianist

With Members of the

St. Luke Symphony

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MALOUF

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 1:00 pm

St. Luke's Orthodox Church

13261 Dunklee Avenue, Garden Grove

St.Luke.Orchestra@gmail.com

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.*

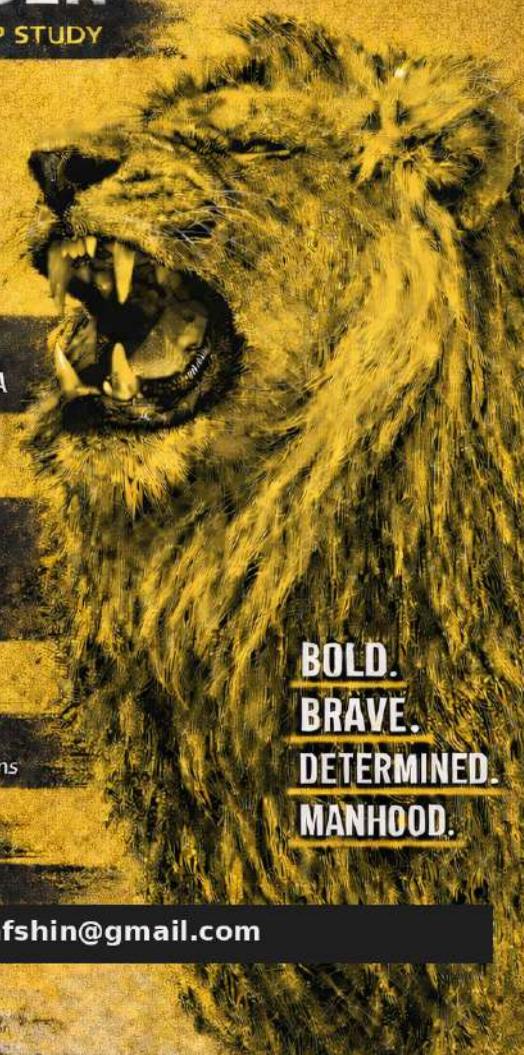
*But trusting in Thy loving kindness, like David I cry to Thee:
Have mercy upon me, O God,
Have mercy upon me, O God,
Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.*

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.



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.
BRAVE.
DETERMINED.
MANHOOD.**

YOUNG ADULTS
**SUPERBOWL
PARTY**



SUNDAY - FEB 8, 2026

AFTER CHURCH @ FR. TIMOTHY'S RESIDENCE:

THE ASCENT CLUB HOUSE

21301 ERWIN STREET

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA

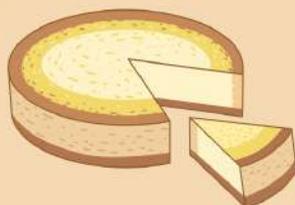
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN (AW) CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

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.

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/>

EOTHINON 11

الايوثينا 11

TONE 8

اللحن 8

**THE SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN AND
GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الأول

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا حُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ
أَيُّهَا الْمُخْلِصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. لِذَلِكَ قُوَّاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ:
الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِلْمَلِكِ، الْمَجْدُ لِتَدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِّكَ.

أبوليتيكيون تقديم العيد باللحن الأول (**) كالموتى صار الجند (**)

لَقَدْ أَشْرَفْتَ الْمَصَافَاتُ السَّمَاوِيَّةَ مِنَ الْقَنَاظِرِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ مُتَطَلِّعَةً عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، فَنَظَرْتَ بِكَرِّ
كُلِّ الْخَلِيفَةِ تَحْمِلُهُ إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ طِفْلاً رَضِيعاً أَمْ لَمْ تَعْرِفْ رَجُلًا، فَدَهَشْتَ تُرْتَلُ مَعَنَا لِتَقْدِمَةِ
الْعِيدِ تَرْتِيلاً رَهيباً.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع
أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحْقِينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ
بَطْلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بظُلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فَتُورٍ، أَنْقَدُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقُوَّاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

قنداق تقديم العيد باللحن الرابع (**) قَدْ ظَهَرْتَ هَذَا الْيَوْمَ (**)

الْيَوْمَ يَتَقَبَّلُ سَمْعَانُ بِفَرَحٍ الرَّبَّ الْمَعْطِي النَّامُوسَ، وَيَصْرُخُ إِلَيْهِ بِخَوْفٍ،
أَطْلِقْنِي الْآنَ، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ السَّيِّدُ، لِأَنِّي رَأَيْتُكَ يَا مَجْدَ إِسْرَائِيلَ.

الرسالة

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.
إِبْتَهَجُوا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فَصَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولِسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَسَ. (3:10-15)

يَا وُلْدِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي، وَسِيرَتِي، وَقَصْدِي، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَا تِي،
وَمَحَبَّتِي، وَصَبْرِي، وَاضْطَهَادَاتِي، وَالْأَمِي، وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي إِنْطَاكِيَّةِ وَأَيُقُونِيَّةِ وَلِسْتَرَةَ،
وَأَيَّةَ اضْطَهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ، وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ
يَعِيشُوا بِالنَّفْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمُغْوُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ،

فَيَزِدُّونَ شَرًّا، مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضَلِّينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّي أَنْتَ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيَّقِنْتِ بِهِ، عَالِمًا مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتِ، وَأَنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخَلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

الإنجيل

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

(14-10:18)

قال الربُّ هذا المثل: إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فريسيُّ والآخرُ عشَّارٌ. فكانَ الفريسيُّ واقفاً يصلي في نفسه هكذا، "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْكُرُكَ لِأَنِّي لَسْتُ كَسَائِرِ النَّاسِ الْخَطْفَةِ، الظالمينَ، الفاسقينَ، ولا مثلَ هذا العشَّارِ. فَإِنِّي أَصُومُ فِي الْأَسْبُوعِ مَرَّتَيْنِ، وَأَعِشِّرُ كُلَّ مَا هُوَ لِي." أمَّا العشَّارُ فَوَقَفَ عَنْ بَعْدٍ، وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، بَلْ كَانَ يَقْرَعُ صَدْرَهُ قَائِلًا، "اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْخَاطِئُ." أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ هَذَا نَزَلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُبَرَّرًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ رَفَعَ نَفْسَهُ اتَّضَع، وَمَنْ وَضَعَ نَفْسَهُ ارْتَفَعَ.
