

SAINT ANTHONY ORTHODOX CHURCH



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MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

5 February 2017

FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart overflows with a good word: I speak my poem to the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. (R:) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us! Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever. (R:) Glory... Now and ever... (R:)

SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most mighty, with Thy glory and Thy majesty. Bend Thy bow, and prosper, and reign. (R:) Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, as we chant to Thee, "Alleluia"! Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the scepter of Thy kingdom is a righteous scepter. (R:) Glory... Now and ever... (Only begotten ...)

THIRD ANTIPHON

TROPARION OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD, preceded by Psalm verses, as follows:
Hearken, O daughter, consider, and incline thine ear. TROPARION OF THE MEETING
Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations. TROPARION OF THE MEETING
Glory . . . Now and ever . . . TROPARION OF THE MEETING

AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His justice in the sight of the nations. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, as we chant to Thee, "Alleluia"!

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 8): From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three- day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD (Tone 4): Rejoice thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos! For from thee has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth to us the Resurrection!

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION (Tone 1): Thou, who didst sanctify the virginal womb by thy nativity and didst bless the hands of Simeon, hast come this day and saved us, O Christ God. Grant peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

KONTAKION FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE (*“On this day Thou hast appeared”*): Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

THEOTOKION: (Tone 3) *O Theotokos, thou hope of all Christians; keep and shelter and preserve them that set their hope in thee.* Let us magnify, O believers, the first-born Son, the eternal Word of the Father, First-born of a Mother who knew no man; for we have beheld in the shadow of the law and the Scriptures a sign, that every first-born male that openeth the womb is called holy to God.

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

[Exodus 12:] *The Lord spoke to Moses in that very day on which He led the children of Israel out from the land of Egypt saying: “Sanctify to Me all the first-born, the first-born opening the womb among the children of Israel.” And Moses went and gathered all the people and said: ... you shall set apart all the first-born, whatever opens the womb, the males for the Lord. [Leviticus 12:] For thus says the Lord God Almighty: “The first-born of your sons you shall give to Me. And it shall be that a woman who bears a male child, on the eighth day shall circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. ... And after this she shall bring to the Lord an unblemished lamb one year old, as a whole-burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove, to the doors of the tent of witness, to the priest. Or, instead of these she shall bring before the Lord two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and the priest shall pray for her.*

EPISTLE READING

Prokeimenon: *Make your vows to the Lord your God! In Judah God is known.*

From the Second Epistle of Saint Paul to Timothy

(2 Tim 3:10-15) Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But you continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading for the Meeting of the Lord

The Reading is from the Gospel according to Saint Luke

(Luke 2:22-40) When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Gospel Reading for the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

(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."

MEETING THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The feast known as the “Meeting” or “Presentation” of the Lord is an ancient feast of the Christian Church. According to the Law, the 40-day old baby Jesus was “presented” and consecrated to God; and there, in the Temple, he was “met” by the priest Symeon and the prophetess Anna.

The Gospel says that Symeon came into the Temple “**guided by the Spirit**”: he was led there by God, who had promised him that he would not die before seeing with his very eyes, the One who bring “salvation.” What does Symeon see? God’s salvation, namely the Glory of God—that is, God’s self-manifestation to the patriarchs and prophets of old—*in-the-flesh*, under the humble appearance of a baby! We can say that, at the same time that the baby is presented to God in the temple, God summons the Elder Symeon to meet the Lord in the Temple. The Lord Jesus Christ is that “Lord,” the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the holy One of Israel. This is the theology of the Church as expressed in the hymns of Vespers: “*Today Simeon takes in his arms the Lord of Glory whom Moses saw of old in the darkness, when on Mount Sinai he received the tables of the Law*” ... “*The Ancient of Days, who in times past gave Moses the Law on Sinai, appears this day as a babe. As Maker of the Law, He fulfills the Law, and according to the Law He is brought into the temple.*” And the icon of the Feast shows the prophetess Anna holding a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

We are also summoned by the Spirit to present ourselves and meet the Lord in the Temple. And on this Sunday we also given precise instructions about *how* to meet God. Our teacher is the tax collector. *Let us flee the Pharisee’s conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican’s humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today:** one-year memorial service for Iosif, Cristina’s father.
- **Today:** meeting of the parish council
- **HOUSE BLESSINGS** end with the beginning of Lent. If you wish to schedule a visit, please call Fr. Bogdan before February. 26

Remember in your prayers

LIVING: Newborn Lydia May (Cole); Daniel (Sipos); Kent (Jean’s husband); Mark (Maura’s cousin); Maura; Christi, Janet, Ann; John and Mary Ann (Jean’s relatives); Stelian (Cezar’s father); Seba, Lisa, and Sam (Michaels), Norma; Christine (Abraham), Marion and Jim Raimondi (relatives of Dollie’s), Norma, Richard (Johns), Ed, Peter, Georgia and Scot, Sam, Karen (Joanna’s mother), Diane, Sula, Dollie, Karyn, Fr. Ignatius and Amy, John, Jonathan and Joanna, Andrei, John, Janet, Christy (relatives of Jean); John and Julie (Smolen); Dennis, Vincent, Roy and Laura, Danny, Cathy (relatives of John and Julie); Diane; Christine, Phoebe, Tina. Garrett & Autumn, Benjamin – seeking the true faith.

DEPARTED: Iosif; Job; George (Georgiades); Diane (Georgia’s sister); Victoria and Susan (mothers of Frank and Stacy); Richard (Minto) from Sts Peter and Paul; Bill; Dolores (Bingham); Gladys (Smolen); David (Steve’s father-in-law); Donald (Norma’s brother); William (Fr. Paisius’s father); Craig (Jean’s son-in-law); Abie Abraham; Patrick (Rose’s brother); Josephine (Julie’s sister); Cristian (Andronic); Rick, Phyllis (Seba’s husband and sister), Angeliki, Joe and David Sipos; Glenn (Jean’s grandson); Stella, Edmund (Ed’s uncle), Richard, Leatrice (Totin), Joseph (Rose’s father), Fred (Dollie’s uncle); Lance; Bob (Diane’s father), Michael, Gabriel, Hilda (Chris Abraham’s mother)