

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

February 25, 2024

Tarasios the confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Byzantine Tone 5

Basil Kazan
(1915 - 2001)

Let us be - liev - ers praise and wor - ship the
Word, co - e - ter - nal with the Fa - ther and the
Spir - it, born of the Vir - gin for
our sal - va - tion, for he took plea - sure in as -
- cend - ing the cross in the flesh, to
suf - fer death and to raise the dead by his
glo - ri - ous re - sur - rec - tion.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion of Publican and Pharisee (Tone 4)

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.

Prokeimenon

Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

Epistle

2 Timothy 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, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, 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 as for 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.

Holy Gospel

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 every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Holy Bread: Carol Ofiesh/Kh Meleah Palke

Upcoming:

March 10— Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)

March 17—Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesfare). Lent begins on March 11.

March 18—First Day of Lent

Now is the time to register your children for the 2024 Summer Youth Camps at Antiochian Village. See www.avcamp.org.

Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, Janni, Dominick, Yina, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Gabriela, Antonina, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

Departed: James, Laura, Mugurel, Tinca, Stelian, Gary

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds.

Know your faith (answers from last week). On what Sunday do we read in the Gospel of the separation of the sheep from the goats? Judgement or Meatfare Sunday. Isaac had two sons--Esau, the elder son, and Jacob, the younger son. Which son lost his birthright? Esau. Who got into an argument with Paul concerning whether it was necessary for converts to be circumcised as well as baptized? Simon Peter. Who announced the decree of the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15? St. James, Bishop of Jerusalem. Besides the twelve apostles, Jesus had another group, known by a two-digit number, 70, of lesser apostles who also went out and spread the faith. In today's Epistle, St. Paul reminds us that we are "the temple of the living God." He encourages us to "make holiness perfect in the fear of God." In today's Gospel, what did Jesus say to the Canaanite woman who cried out to Him? Nothing. How did he describe her faith? Great.



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village
14401 Compton Village Dr.
Centreville, Virginia 20121

Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor
3041 Donnington Court
Jeffersonton, VA 22724

(703)303-3047/(540)937-2609
email: pastortlp@aol.com
website: www.straphaelva.org