

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ
ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ
ΘΥΑΤΕΙΡΩΝ & Μ. ΒΡΕΤΑΝΝΙΑΣ

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
ARCHDIOCESE OF
THYATEIRA & GREAT BRITAIN



ΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ
THE WORD OF OUR LORD



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Γ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
6 Ὀκτωβρίου 2024
Ἦχος πλ. β'. Ἀριθμ. 249

3rd SUNDAY OF LUKE
6 October 2024
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Ὅλων τῶν ἐν Κύπρῳ διαλαμπάντων ἀγίων, Θωμᾶ ἀποστόλου, Μακαρίου τοῦ νέου ἐκ Κίου Βιθυνίας, Κενδεά ὀσίου
All the Saints of Cyprus, Thomas apostle, Macarius of Kios of Bithynia, Kendeas

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Β' Κορ. δ', 6-15

Αδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς ὁ εἰπὼν ἐκ σκότους φῶς λάμπει, ὃς ἔλαμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἔχομεν δὲ τὸν θησαυρὸν τοῦτον ἐν ὄστρακίνοις σκεύεσιν, ἵνα ἡ ὑπερβολὴ τῆς δυνάμεως ἧ τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ μὴ ἐξ ἡμῶν ἐν παντὶ θλιβόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐ στενοχωρούμενοι· ἀπορούμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐξαπορούμενοι· διωκόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγκαταλείπομενοι· καταβαλλόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀπολλύμενοι πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι περιφέροντες, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῇ. Αἶε γὰρ ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες εἰς θάνατον παραδιδόμεθα διὰ Ἰησοῦν, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ φανερωθῇ ἐν τῇ θνητῇ σαρκὶ ἡμῶν. Ὡστε ὁ μὲν θάνατος ἐν ἡμῖν ἐνεργεῖται, ἡ δὲ ζωὴ ἐν ὑμῖν. Ἔχοντες δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως, κατὰ τὸ γεγραμμένον, Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν· εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ ἐγεῖρας τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἡμᾶς διὰ Ἰησοῦ ἐγερεῖ, καὶ παραστήσει σὺν ὑμῖν. Τὰ γὰρ πάντα δι' ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἡ χάρις πλεονάσασα διὰ τῶν πλειόνων τὴν εὐχαριστίαν περισσεύσῃ εἰς τὴν δόξαν τοῦ Θεοῦ.

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ

2 Cor. 4: 6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I believed, and so I spoke, we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΜΟΝ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ Ἦχος πλ. β'

Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες, ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεῖς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Λουκ. ζ', 11-16

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐπορεύετο ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναῖν· καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς. ὡς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδὼν ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκῶς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐσπλαχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἥψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING

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!

ΕΡΜΗΝΕΙΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟΥ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑΤΟΣ

Τὸ συνταρακτικό γεγονός πού περιγράφει ὁ ἱερός Λουκᾶς στή σημερινή περικοπή δέν μπορεῖ νά ἀφήσει ἀσυγκίνητο κανένα, ἀκόμη καί τούς δύσπιστους, ὡς πρὸς τὴν δύναμη τοῦ Θεοῦ. Αὐτὴ ἡ δύναμη, ἡ ἴδια ἡ ἀγάπη, εἶναι ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Θεὸς πού σπλαχνίζεται τὴν ἀπαρηγόρητη μάνα καὶ τῆς ἀπευθύνει ἓνα μόνο λόγο παραμυθίας: Μὴν κλαῖς.

Πόσο γλυκιά ἀκούγεται ἡ φωνὴ Του! Πόση ἀνακούφιση προσφέρει, ὅταν μάλιστα ἐκπορεύεται ἀπὸ τὰ χεῖλη Ἐκείνου πού μέ τό δικό Του θάνατο συνέτριψε τό θάνατο! Δέν τὸν παρακαλεῖ κανεὶς νά παρέμβει, μέ μιά Του προσταγή ἀνασταίνεται ὁ νεκρὸς γιὸς τῆς χήρας γυναίκας καὶ συνζωοποιῶνται ἀμφοτέροι. Ἡ Πηγὴ τῆς ζωῆς, ὁ κυρίαρχος ζωῆς καὶ θανάτου, ἀποκαλύπτει τὴν ἐξουσία Του, προειδοποιώντας τὴν ἴδια στιγμή γιὰ τό κορυφαῖο γεγονός τῆς δικῆς Του Ἀνάστασης. Χορηγὸς τῆς ἐλπίδας γίνεται σήμερα Αὐτός πού εἶναι ἡ ἴδια ἡ ἐλπίδα καὶ πιστοποιεῖ τὴν αἰώνια συνέχεια τῆς Ἀνάστασης μέσα στήν Ἐκκλησία. Σταυρὸς ἦταν γιὰ τὴ μάνα καὶ ἡ χηρεία της καὶ ὁ ἔξαφνος καὶ πρόωρος χαμὸς τοῦ βλασταριοῦ της. Κι ἔζησε ὄντως τὴν ἀνάστασή της με τὴν ἴδια τὴν παρουσία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος τὴ λυτρώνει βεβαιώνοντάς της – Μὴ κλαῖε – καὶ μέ κινήσεις λιτές καὶ γεμάτες σημασία τῆς ξαναδίνει τό παιδί της.

Ὁ Κύριος ἐξαγγέλει μῆνυμα διαχρονικὸ ἀδελφια· σταματήστε τὰ δάκρυα· τίποτα στὸν κόσμο δέν εἶναι ἀξεπέραστο· ἔχετε θάρρος, ἐγὼ νίκησα τὸν κόσμο, μπορεῖτε κι

έσεϊς! Πῶς; Μέ τήν πίστη σας! Αὐτή εἶναι ἡ νίκη καί τό τρόπαιο, ὁ αἰώνιος θρίαμβος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Μέσα στήν Ἐκκλησία ἀναβαπτίζομαστε στό σωτήριο Πάθος καί τήν Ἀνάσταση τοῦ Κυρίου. Σταυρώνουμε τή φθορά, τήν πτώση, τό σκοτάδι. Καί βγαίνουμε ἀπό τήν κοιλάδα τοῦ κλαυθμῶνος στήν ἀντίπερα ὄχθη τῆς ἀναψυχῆς. Φῶς καί ἀφθαρσία πληροῦν τίς ψυχές καί καταργεῖται ἔσχατος ἐχθρός μας ὁ θάνατος. Κι ὅταν φθάσει ἡ ὥρα κοιμόμαστε ἐν δικαιοσύνη καί ταξιδεύουμε στή Χώρα τοῦ Ἀχωρήτου ὅπου δέν ὑπάρχει πόνος, λύπη, στεναγμός ἀλλά χαρά δίχως τέλος!

Ἔλα αὐτά γίνονται βεβαιότητα ὅταν ἡ πίστη μεγαλουργεῖ, ὅταν τά ἐσώτατα βάθη μας ὑποστασιάζουν τήν ἐλπίδα ἔχοντας ὁδηγό τόν ἐν ἡμῖν οἰκοῦντα Θεόν, ὅταν πορευόμαστε στό θέλημά Του “αἰεὶ χαίροντες, ὡς μηδέν ἔχοντες καί τά πάντα κατέχοντες”, “ἀφορῶντες εἰς τόν τῆς πίστεως Ἀρχηγόν καί τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν”, “προσδοκῶντες ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν καί ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος”.

SERMON ON THE GOSPEL READING

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels” (2 Cor. 4:7)

We know the Holy Apostle Paul to be a man of various talents. From being a persecutor of Christians he became one of Christ’s most ardent defenders and preachers of the Gospel, having been converted whilst travelling the road to Damascus. After this conversion he travelled far and wide and we know wrote letters to the newly established communities of Christians and to some individuals. Within these letters of the Holy Apostle we find encouragement, clarity regarding matters of faith, moral direction, his own experiences and journeys, with others who shared the apostolic calling. This morning’s reading from the Fourth Chapter of his Second Letter to the Christians at Corinth contains much of these and we find Paul speaking of things which the readers and hearers from this Letter would be familiar. In referring to “*treasure in clay vessels*” it would convey the image of basic earthenware clay pots which even in their humble nature nevertheless were used to hold treasures of one kind or another – coins, oil, and so on. So an important observation was being made, that although our bodies have a special place as containers (*cf 1 Cor. 6:9*). What the Apostle was reminding the Corinthian Christians of was that within the weaker material of their humanity they held “*...the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*” (v6). The same holds true for the Church and each Orthodox Christian today and we are reminded of this when we hear again: “*do you not know that you are God’s temple and God’s Spirit dwells in your midst*” (1 Cor. 3:16). However, like clay pots, human beings can be easily cracked, damaged, and sometimes broken in pieces by the trials that can so often beset them in life. What we also know is that such damage can be repaired by the compassionate Christ and the effective Holy Mysteries (sacraments) of the Church.

St. Paul the Apostle and countless others throughout history have had to face the trials he mentioned. These trials are part of the *spiritual warfare* within

ourselves as we battle against the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and this dying to self and rising with Christ has given us many examples of sanctity, often including physical suffering in persecution, sometimes resulting in the martyr's death. Today reminds us of the life of the Holy Apostle Thomas, not only as doubter but to convinced witness to the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and his subsequent journeying to India and other places is response to his apostolic calling.

Being “*oppressed...at a loss.....persecuted.....struck down...*” (v8-9), whether in body, spirit, or both, was something experienced by St. Paul in his Apostolic ministry and he was at pains to tell his hearers that these trials could be overcome by the life of Christ within them and their being “*not crushed...not in despair...not forsaken.... not destroyed*” (v9).



When the content is discovered and its value appreciated, the container's significance diminishes and so in today's apostolos, for the Apostolic ministry and for Christians today, the spirit of faith by which we live should show that it is God working in and through us “*...that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us*” (v7). Recognising this as first, a great responsibility for our day to day living and working, the way in which we witness to our faith in the presence of others, it should also be a source of encouragement, comfort and joy – to persevere in times of difficulty, to appreciate again and again the treasure within, and to rejoice that it is God himself who shines in our hearts when we live by the “*same spirit of faith*” (v13).

Oeconomos Father Nikitas Lantsbery

	<p>Christian Orthodox Thyateira Youth (COTY) Are you between the ages of 16-35? If yes, join us at Christian Orthodox Thyateira Youth, our official Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry. To learn more visit: www.coty.org.uk. Follow us on Instagram: COTY_org</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;">Visitors Are Welcome</p> <p>We would like to thank you for visiting and worshiping with us today. Kindly know that although all are welcome to attend our Sacred Services, a prerequisite to receive Holy Communion is unity in the Faith, as well as spiritual preparation by prayer, fasting, and regular participation in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Non-Orthodox Christians are kindly requested to refrain from receiving Communion. All are, however, welcome to partake of the “antidoron” (blessed bread) distributed by the clergy at the conclusion of the Service, as well as to introduce themselves while doing so.</p> <p>To learn more about Orthodox Christianity and to join the online Archdiocesan Discover Orthodoxy Class, please email: archdiocesanprivateoffice@gmail.com</p>
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