

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

October 15, 2023

Tone 2



19th Sunday After Pentecost

*Ven. Euthymius the New,
of Thessalonica, Monk of
Mt. Athos (889)*

Divine Liturgy

Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ♦ 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9
- ♦ Luke 8:5-15

Announcements:

Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation

Please join us for *A Trip to the Holy Land: Following in the Footsteps of Our Lord*. Sunday, October 22, 2023 immediately after Divine Liturgy. A complimentary Middle Eastern Luncheon will be served. (Free-will offerings will be accepted; proceeds will be sent to Ss. Mary and Martha School/Orphanage in Bethany)

If you wish to make a donation, make check payable to Sts. Peter and Paul with orphanage or Sts. Mary and Martha on memo line. Cash offerings will also be accepted.

St. Herman's Meal Project

We will gather in the church basement at 9:00am on Tuesday, October 24th to prepare a meal for the St. Herman's House. All are welcome to come and participate in this outreach effort!

Annual Turkey Drive

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, be on the lookout for turkeys on sale. We are looking for about 20 turkeys to be donated and cooked, to take to St Herman's House. They will be deboned and served to those in need on Thanksgiving Day. See Fr Joseph or Sam Jacob for more details.

This Week

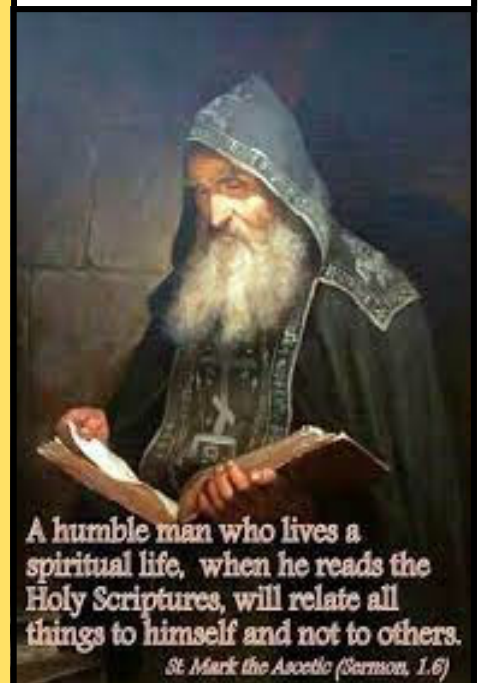
Saturday, October 21

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 22

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



*A humble man who lives a
spiritual life, when he reads the
Holy Scriptures, will relate all
things to himself and not to others.*

St. Mark the Ascetic (Sermon, 1.6)

Meditation on Today's Readings

In the Mystery of the Eucharist, the priest, elevating the bread and wine, says to God: "Thine own of Thine we offer unto Thee!", that is, "That which is Thine, we offer unto Thee!" So also the Parable of the Sower touches "the mysteries of the Kingdom of God." In order to understand this mystery, there must be on the part of those listening a direction of the will corresponding to it and a disposition of the heart fitting for its acceptance.

The word of God, that is, the seed, which is spoken of in the parable, is not at all something external for us, alien to us. The Gospel is not some kind of book which is read or studied outwardly. The Gospel is life in God, to which we are introduced already from our very conception by the power of the Holy Spirit, the power which makes us conformable to God, God-like. When, in place of the desire to learn something from the Gospel about God, our heart begins to learn about Him within itself - this is testimony that the seed "has brought forth fruit."

There are many seeds that find their way into our hearts, some are good and some are not. Some are as Jesus said, "the word of God". Some have other less beneficial origins. I do not know what you think of when you read this Gospel, but to me the "seeds" correspond to thoughts. God speaks to all human beings to draw us, if we are willing, if we are listening, if the soil of our hearts is prepared, to himself.

The Apostolic Fathers spoke of the seeds of the Logos being spread throughout the entire world. Where there is truth it undoubtedly is because of the Spirit of God. St. Isaac of Syria says that everyone that is motivated by love is motivated by God – everyone. The Lord is generous and unlimited in his affection and he shares himself with all people in every time and place in ways that each can grasp if they are open and willing. We pray and hope

unceasingly for the salvation of all, so we rejoice when we see truth wherever it is.

We need to take care to notice the seeds that are being sown in our hearts and minds. Sifting out bad seeds is a huge part of spiritual effort. We do not want bad seeds to be planted, to grow and to bear fruit so the sooner we notice them, the sooner we can stop them.

As we seek to remove unhelpful things from our hearts and minds, we must also be prepared to replace them with good things. The spiritual life demands constant, intentional and conscious action. St. Theoliptos writes that we must work to dispel "the thoughts within until" we "find the abode of pure prayer and Christ's holy dwelling place" which is, the heart where the divine image resides.

The great hope, the certain knowledge is that this abode and the Lord's dwelling place are within each of us and can indeed be found if we desire it with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is the pearl of great price. So we must take care that the seeds we allow to be sown in us are good seeds so that we may come at last to be one with the Lord and that our lives will be filled to overflowing with good, beautiful and holy fruit.



Today's Feast

Sometimes on the Church calendar, in addition to saints, we notice that there are feast-days of miracle working icons as well. Today is the feast of the Mother of God, the "Multiplier of Wheat" icon.

The Icon of the Mother of God, the "Multiplier of Wheat", was painted at the blessing of the Elder Ambrose (October 10) of Optina. St. Ambrose, a great Russian ascetic of the nineteenth century, was ardent with a childlike faith towards the Mother of God. In particular, he revered all the Feasts of the Mother of God, and on these days he redoubled his prayer. With the icon, "Multiplier of Wheat," St. Ambrose blessed the Shamordino women's monastery established in honor of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, which he had founded not far from the Optina monastery.

On this icon, the Mother of God is depicted sitting upon the clouds, and Her hands are extended in blessing. Beneath her is a compressed field, and on it amidst the grass and flowers stand and lay sheaves of rye. Elder Ambrose himself decreed the day of celebration, October 15, and called the icon "Multiplier of Wheat", indicating by this, that the Most Holy Theotokos "is a Helper for people in their labors for the acquiring of their daily bread."

Before his repose, St. Ambrose ordered many copies of this icon and sent them to his spiritual children. For the Akathist to this icon, the Elder composed a particular response, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with You! Grant unto us unworthy ones the dew of Your grace and the showing forth of Your mercy!"

St. Ambrose's burial took place on October 15, the Feast-day of the icon. The first miracle from the holy icon was witnessed in 1891, when throughout Russia there was a famine because of crop failure. In the Kaluga district and on the fields of the Shamordino monastery, however, grain was produced. In 1892, already after the death of St. Ambrose, his attendant John Cherepanov sent a copy of the icon to the Pyatnitsa women's monastery in Voronezh district. In this locale there was a threat of drought and famine, but soon after a Molieben was celebrated before the icon "The Multiplier of Wheat", rain fell and ended the drought.

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Marge
Tina, Katherine,
Paula, Marianne,
Suleiman, Steve
Janet, Christina

Departed:

Deacon Mark
Gregory

Tall Candles

*Tall candles are available to sponsor for \$15ea.
Contact Fr. Joseph for details.*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, Oct. 16

St. Longinus the Centurion
Philippians 2:12-12
Luke 9:18-22

Tuesday, Oct. 17

Translation of the Relics of St. Lazarus "of the four days dead"
Philippians 2:17-23
Luke 9:23-27

Wed, Oct. 18

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke
Philippians 2:24-30
Luke 9:44-50

Thurs, Oct. 19

Prophet Joel
Philippians 3:1-8
Luke 9:49-56

Friday, Oct. 20

Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch
Philippians 3:8-19
Luke 10:1-15

Saturday, Oct. 21

Ven. Hilarion the Great
2 Cor. 1:8-11
Luke 7:1-10

Troparion - *O Most Pure Virgin Mary, Mother of the King of heaven and earth, you look lovingly upon those who love your Son, Christ our God, and upon those who labor in His name for eternal salvation, and you give them all that is abundant for their enjoyment. You were shown to be a Multiplier of bread for them, delivering them from all want and constraint, and providing for these, your servants, deliverance from eternal torment and eternal life.*



Today's Scripture Readings

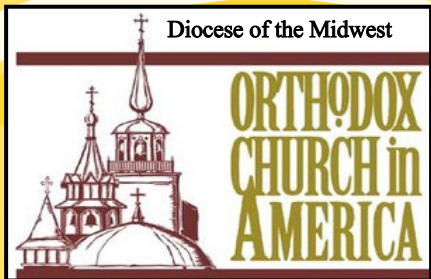
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!



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