

Sunday, June 9th, 2019 - Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

This Morning's Readings

Acts of Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Gospel according to John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. "I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

This Morning's Hymns

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Ανελήφθης έν δόξη, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῆ ἐπαγγελία τοῦ ἀγίου Πνεύματος βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἰός τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb. The guards were as dead, and Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her bestowed life. Glory to You Who has risen from the dead!

Άγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἅδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ των νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.

Ύπερδεδοξασμένος εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ φωστῆρας ἐπὶ γῆς τοὺς Πατέρας ἡμῶν θεμελιώσας, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν ἀληθινὴν πίστιν, πάντας ἡμᾶς ὁδηγήσας πολυεύσπλαγχνε, δόξα σοι.

Most blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them, illumined the world; and to You the universe was ever drawn, O Lord, all glory to You.

Εύλογητός εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον καὶ δι᾽ αὐτῶν τήν ἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα Σοι.

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united things on earth with the things in heaven, You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, going not away from any place, but continuing inseparable, and to them that love You crying out: "I am with you, and there is, therefore, none against you."

Τὴν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πληρώσας οἰκονομίαν, καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ γῆς ἐνώσας τοῖς οὐρανίοις, ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστε ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐδαμόθεν χωριζόμενος, ἀλλὰ μένων ἀδιάστατος, καὶ βοῶν τοῖς ἀγαπῶσί σε Ἐγώ εἰμι μεθ' ὑμῶν, καὶ οὐδεὶς καθ' ὑμῶν.

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting Holy Trinity Cathedral this morning we welcome you in the Name of the Lord! Orthodox Christian worship may be unlike other forms of worship you have encountered but you can follow along in the service book in the pews. (If you need assistance, simply ask the nearest parishioner.) And though Holy Communion is offered only to the Orthodox faithful who are prepared to receive the Holy Gifts, the blessed bread is offered to everyone after the service. Please sign our Guest Book in the narthex and join us for coffee and refreshments in the community center so we can get to know you. May your time with us be blessed!

Announcements

ENTERING THE LITURGY DURING THE HOMILY

Fr. Apostolos asks that those arriving in the Divine Liturgy during the homily please feel free to enter the nave and not feel compelled to remain in the narthex. If preferred, one may find a seat in the rear before moving to one's usual seat when the homily is ended.

NARTHEX DUTY SCHEDULE

Group 4: Parish Council

EPISTLE READER TODAY

Gus Pyle

SCHOLARSHIPS

Philoptochos is happy to offer two \$1,000 scholarships for students entering college in the fall. If you are interested, please pick up an application in the Narthex or by printing the form from the Desert Springs and mailing to HTC- Philoptochos, 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016. Contact Georgana Frieh (602-300-0016) or Mary Louise Theodoropoulos (602-943-5080). **The deadline to apply has been extended to tomorrow, 6/10.**

HELP FAMILIES IN NEED

Please consider helping families in need within our congregation by donating Fry's, Walmart or Target GIFT CARDS. They can be dropped off in the Narthex or given to Cindy Kyprianou (480-993-6437).

YAL MEET-UP TODAY

To those who have graduated high school through your 20s, join us today after Divine Liturgy. Let's meet for lunch at the nearby Zipp's (16th St. and Bethany Home). Goals: to get to know each other and to connect for... movies? dinners? music? hiking? Contact Eliot at 717-682-0550 for more info or just show up. See you there!

LITTLE LAMBS SPLASH PLAY DATE

Are you a young family in the Church looking to get involved? Please join our Little Lambs group at the Scottsdale Quarter Splash Pad, located at 15323 N. Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale, Arizona 85254. We will meet on Saturday, July 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Come for a brief gathering to get to know one another and let the little ones splash and play for a bit. Please RSVP to Angela at angelagarozzo@gmail.com.

HTC HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADS

Your graduation gift from Holy Trinity Cathedral is waiting in the St. Nectarios Bookstore! Stop in to pick it up after Divine Liturgy on Sunday or contact Patsy Harris at 480-239-5270 or by email at patsy@stnectariosphx.org.

Thank you OPA for sponsoring Coffee Hour in May. June Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Philoptochos.

This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral		
Today Sunday 6/9 FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday 6/11	3:00 Museum meeting (SH)	
Wednesday 6/12		7:00 pm - Choir practice
Thursday 6/13	9:00 am Kids & Cancer Camp Bus Pick-Up	6:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting (Conf. Rm.)
Saturday 6/15 SATURDAY OF SOULS	8:00 am - Matins 9:00 am -Divine Liturgy	
Sunday 6/16 HOLY PENTECOST FATHER'S DAY	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy 11:00 am - Kneeling Vesper	

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill, Proistamenos: <a href="http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http://http:

Parish Council Officers:

Jim Manelis - President, Paul Katsenes - Vice President,

Dina Anagnopoulos - Treasurer, Connie Contes - Assistant Treasurer, Andi Fourlis - Secretary, Charles DeMoss, Sandy Meris, Socrates Papadopoulos, Adam Venetis

The Man in Heaven

June 9th, 2019

Anyone familiar with the Star Trek series and the Klingon "bad guys" knows their view of death. For this warrior alien race, the most glorious death comes in battle and the bodies of their fallen comrades, far from being honored, are casually disposed of as "only a shell."

We see similar views expressed in the various Gnostic themes still present today, chiefly in the bizarre and anti-Christian embrace of cremation. But the Feast of the Ascension celebrated in the Church last week takes the contrary position; that far from being "only a shell," our humanity has been glorified far above the heavens.

Having accomplished the will of His Father in becoming a man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, having lived and grown, learned and taught, having revealed His Divinity throughout His public ministry, and finally having voluntarily embraced His Passion, crucifixion, death, and burial, Jesus arose from the grave and abolished death and destroyed Hades.

Beyond even this, Jesus ascended into Heaven still "enfleshed" in the humanity He assumed from His Mother's womb and resumed His rightful place at the right hand of God the Father as the Only-Begotten Son of God. For this reason, it is correct to assert that there is a Man - the God-Man - in Heaven today. Far from being "only a shell," our humanity is revealed as a vessel for the Divine.

Sad to say, however, we see the Image of God abased and disregarded so callously today. Whether through poverty, violence, abortion, murder, or slavery, whether through self-abuse such as multiple tattoos, piercing and perforations, substance abuse, or simply unrestrained passions and dark deeds, the Image of God now enthroned in the God-Man Jesus Christ is thrown into the gutter as so much debris.

Many among us struggle with feelings of doubt and unworthiness; unable to live up to the false images of body size, shape, and fitness, or to the wrong-headed categories of worldly success. Children and teens are especially vulnerable to such diabolical messages which suggest they don't matter unless they adhere to a false ideal. But the Feast of the Ascension overturns such nonsense!

Humanity matters because it sits enthroned at the right hand of God in the Divine-Human Person of Jesus Christ! Regardless of the false categories and identifiers used to divide persons, neighbors, and nations, every human person drawing breath on the face of the earth matters because of the God-Man's Ascension into Heaven.

Please make plans to join us next weekend for our Cathedral Feast Day celebration with the Saturday of Souls Matins and Liturgy at 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, Great Vespers Saturday evening at 7:00 PM, and the Sunday services followed by the Kneeling Vesper of Pentecost!

In Christ,

Fr. Apostolos