



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 4th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of Pentecost, the Descent of the Holy Spirit

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4 Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth. Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

2-1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ' ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν. Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγούνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

2 - 1 - 11

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισεν τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέραις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μηδοὶ καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἀραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέραις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ.

The Gospel According to John 7:37-52; 8:12

in On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ῥεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὕτω γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυὶδ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἠθέλον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἠγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὥς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἑλθὼν νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἷς ὢν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἐὰν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γνῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεῦνησον καὶ ἴδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγγίγεται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES are ‘B A K I N G’ Greek pastries for the FESTIVAL.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday JUNE 06TH, 7TH, 8TH, from 10:00 A.M. Come and learn the art of Greek desserts and pastries. We need every hand to help.

SENIOR CLUB: Will be setting up the ‘FLEA MARKET’ for the Grecian Festival. Do you have articles worthy of the ‘flea market sales? Bring it down to be priced, ticketed, and hopefully sold! Georgia Stamos and crew are in charge. **WE DO NEED HANDS TO HELP.**

U.P.K. GRADUATION: will be observed and celebrated on Wednesday, JUNE 07TH, at 11:00 A.M. Guests and visitors are cordially invited to participate in the ‘tiny tots’ big day.

CUB SCOUT TROOP: at Three Hierarchs Church will be celebrating their Annual Awards Ceremony at 6:00 P.M. On FRIDAY EVENING June 09th, under the BIG TENT at the OPENING OF THE GREEK FESTIVAL 2023. It’s kids’ night at the festival gifts and prizes to all who participate in CUB SCOUTING. Are your kids enrolled in ‘scouting’? The girls are also involved in TROOP SCOUTING.

GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION: is scheduled for presentations, and diplomas at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday JUNE 11TH, at 12 Noon. A festive lunch and celebration cake will be hosted by the P.T.A. on the PLAZA under the BIG TENT. Congratulations to all of our students in GREEK SCHOOL A CONEY ISLAND amusement ride field day at DENO’S WONDER WHEEL PARK and dinner to follow on the boardwalk will be hosted on TUESDAY- JUNE 13TH, for the students, siblings and parents. THANK YOU DENNIS VOUDERIS and FAMILY for extending this hospitality each year to our school, students, faculty and P.T.A.

A.H.E.P.A. GOLF TOURNAMENT is scheduled for Friday, June 16th. Please see the insert flyer for all details. Three Hierarchs Parish participates each year! It’s male fun, male bonding, and male exercising! **GOOD FOR THE SOUL.**

UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL 2023: Our Sister Mission Parish of Saint Panteleimon will host their Annual Ukrainian FESTIVAL on the week-end of Saturday – Sunday, June 3rd-04th commencing each day at 3:00 P.M. It’s a marvelous day of cultural exchange with traditional foods, sweets, music dance groups and so much music! Come and experience a trip to UKRAINE.

PENTECOST is observed TODAY – June 04th at the KNEELING SERVICES of the Divine Liturgy. It is now 50 days since the Paschal celebration of the Resurrection. The HOLY SPIRIT is called to dwell under the roof of our soul and to sanctify our existence and purpose while cleansing us in repentance. **COME HOLY SPIRIT!**

ARCHDIOCESAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET: is scheduled for Tuesday June 6th at the Greentree Country Club, in New Rochelle, New York with a cocktail reception at 6:00 P.M. and the festive dinner at 7:00 P.M. Each parish of the Archdiocesan District (70 parishes) is to honor ‘ONE’ of their own dedicated volunteers who expend time, talent and treasure for the well-being and progress of the faith community. By UNANIMOUS CONSENT our FIRST HONOREE for this coveted award is STELLA (ANASTASAKOS) OBERLE who is the editor, graphic and lay-out designer of our Sunday Bulletin and all organizational flyers and colorful announcements. Stella has dutifully served in this time-consuming effort for many years. We salute her voluntary contribution that we each look forward to on Sunday mornings! BRAVA! BRAVA! AXIA! STELLA.....

PENTECOST SUNDAY TODAY - JUNE 04TH Liturgy 9:30 A.M.
Kneeling Prayers intoned for redemption

BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL – Two three day week-ends
Friday, Saturday, Sunday JUNE 9TH, 10TH, AND 11TH / JUNE 16TH, 17TH, 18TH,

MEMORIAL SCHEDULED: + NICHOLAS SIRAKOULIS 40 days observance. ETERNAL BE HIS MEMORY!
Sunday, June 11th.
+ LORRAINE ZAIN 40 days observance. (Fr. TOM ZAIN’S mother.)
Sunday, June 18th.



2023



BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL

JUNE

9th, 10th & 11th
16th, 17th & 18th

FRIDAY
5 PM - MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY
NOON-MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY
NOON - DUSK

**AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES
DRINKS, LIVE MUSIC & DANCING
VENDORS, FLEA MARKET & GAMES
FREE ADMISSION**

THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH

1724 AVENUE P, BROOKLYN, NY 11229

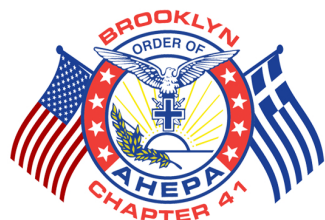
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 718-339-0280

OR



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@THREEHIERARCHSFESTIVAL**





Twelfth Annual Brooklyn Greek Community Combined Golf Outing

Friday June 16th, 2023



Please join us to support our communities and promote
philanthropy, education, charity, and unity.

This Annual Event has distributed over **\$450,000** to our Greek Communities in Brooklyn!

LOCATION	COST	SCHEDULE
Dyker Beach Golf Course 1030 86th Street Brooklyn, NY 11228	Pre-Registration \$200 per Golfer (\$225 at Event) includes Greens Fees, Golf Cart, Brunch, Dinner, Cigars, Drinks, Contests, Giveaways, and much more!	12:00 PM Registration, Lunch & Contests 1:30 PM Shot Gun Start 6:00 PM Awards Dinner & Raffle

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO THE EVENT PLEASE CONSIDER A SPONSORSHIP

PLATINUM - Event Benefactor: Dinner sponsorship, signage, and foursome for golf - \$2,500

GOLD - Event Host: Lunch sponsorship, signage on course, and foursome for golf - \$1,500

SILVER - Green Sponsor: Signage on course and twosome for golf - \$750

BRONZE - Hole Sponsor: Signage on Course - \$250

FRIEND – Event Journal recognition - \$100

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral

Kimisis Theotokou Church

Three Hierarchs Church

Holy Cross Church

AHEPA41 Greek Student Scholarship Fund

For more information, to register for golf
or to sponsor, please go to
birdease.com/Ahepa41Golf2023
or email **Ahepa.41@gmail.com**
or call **Ted Pavlounis 718-787-1430**





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



« Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος » (Ἀπ. 1, 10)

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακή Γυνακκία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2558	Κυριακὴ Πεντηκοστῆς (Ἰω. 7,37-52· 8,12) 4 Ἰουνίου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντζώτης
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Διψασμένοι, ὅλοι στὴν Πηγὴ!

« Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἐορτῆς εἰσπῆκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· Ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ῥεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος » (Ἰω. 7,37· βλ. & Παρ. 18,4)

Εἶνε σὲ ὅλους γνωστό, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ γεγονός πού πανηγυρίζει σήμερα ἡ ἁγία μας Ἐκκλησία. Δέκα μέρες μετὰ τὴν Ἀνάληψι καὶ πενήντα μετὰ τὴν ἔνδοξο Ἀνάστασι τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἦλθε **στοὺς μαθητὰς καὶ ἀποστόλους του τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο**. Ἦλθε ὡς ἄνεμος σφοδρός, γιὰ νὰ ξεριζώσῃ τὰ δέντρα τῆς πλάνης· ἦλθε ὡς φλόγες πυρός, γιὰ νὰ κάψῃ καὶ ν' ἀπολυμάνῃ τὸν πλανήτη μας.

Δὲν πρόκειται, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ θεολογήσῃ σήμερα, οὔτε ἀλλωστὲ ἡ διάνοιά μας φτάνει γιὰ νὰ φτερουγίσῃ σὲ τέτοια ὕψη. **Τί εἶνε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο;** Υἰάρχουν πολλὰ πράγματα στὸν κόσμον πού τὰ νιώθουμε, τὰ βλέπουμε, ἀλλὰ δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ τὰ ἐξηγήσουμε.

Υἰάρχει π.χ. ὁ **ἥλιος**. Ἀμφιβάλλει κανεῖς; Καθεμιὰ ἀπὸ τίς ἀμέτρητες ἀκτίνες του εἶνε καὶ μιὰ ἀπόδειξι τῆς ὑπάρξεώς του. Ἀλλὰ ἀν ῥωτήσουμε καὶ τὸ μεγαλύτερο φυσικὸ ἐπιστήμονα, τί ἄραγε εἶνε στὸ κέντρο τοῦ ἡλίου, ποιά εἶνε ἡ ἐσωτερικὴ σύστασί του, αὐτὸ μέχρι σήμερα παραμένει πρόβλημα ἀλυτο. Μόνο ὑποθέσεις καὶ θεωρίες ἔχει διατυπώσῃ ἡ ἐπιστήμη γιὰ νὰ δώσῃ ἀπάντησι στὸ μυστήριον αὐτό.

Ἄν λοιπὸν δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ μποῦμε στὴν ἐσωτερικὴ σύστασι τοῦ φυσικοῦ ἡλίου, πῶς νὰ μπορέσουμε νὰ κατανοήσουμε τὰ μεγάλα μυστήρια τῆς πίστεώς μας; Τὸ δὲ μέγιστο, τὸ μυστήριον τῶν μυστηρίων, πού ἐνώπιόν του μᾶς πιάνει πραγματικὰ ὁ ἴδιος, εἶνε **τὸ μυστήριον τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, ἡ τρισηλῖος Θεότης!** Πατήρ, Υἱὸς καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα.

Ταπεινοὶ καὶ ἀνάξιοι δοῦλοι ἐμεῖς, σκουληκία ἀθλια πού σέρνονται στὶς σκιές τῆς θείας μεγαλωσύνης, μόνο «**κλίναντες τὰ γόνατα**» κατὰ τὸ κέλευσμα σήμερα τῆς ἁγίας μας Ἐκκλησίας καὶ μὲ δάκρυ μετανοίας, φωνάζουμε ἀπὸ ψυχῆς· **Ἁγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον τὸν κόσμον σου!**

Κατέρχομαι λοιπὸν χαμηλότερα, σὲ **πρακτι-**

κὸ ἐπίπεδο ἐρμηνείας, γιὰ νὰ ἐξηγήσω ἓνα μόνο στίχο τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου (βλ. Ἰω. 7,37-38).

Τὴν τελευταία ἡμέρα, λέει, «**τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἐορτῆς εἰσπῆκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς**» (Ἰω. 7,37). Ποιά ἄραγε νὰ εἶνε αὕτῃ ἡ σπουδαία ἐορτὴ πού ἐννοεῖ; Εἶνε ἐορτὴ ἰουδαϊκὴ, τὴν ὁποία μὲ εὐλαβεία τιμοῦν μέχρι σήμερα οἱ Ἰσραηλίτες, εἶνε ἡ **ἐορτὴ τῆς σκηνοπηγίας**. Τί ἐορτάζουν οἱ Ἑβραῖοι τὴν ἡμέρα αὕτῃ; Θυμοῦνται ἓνα ἐθνικὸ καὶ θρησκευτικὸ γεγονός· ὅτι, ὕστερα ἀπὸ δουλεία τεσσάρων αἰώνων στοὺς Αἰγυπτίους, βγήκαν στὴν ἔρημο καὶ ἐκεῖ περιπλανήθηκαν ἐπὶ σαράντα ἔτη μέχρι νὰ φτάσουν στὴ «**γῆν τὴν ῥέουσιν μέλι καὶ γάλα**» (βλ. Ἐξ. 3,8· 17· 13,5-33,3· ἡσ. 27,28· Ἰη. 13,28-14,8· 16,13-14· Δαν. 6,3· 11,3· 26,9,10,15· 1ηρ. Ν. 5,8· Σ. Σαρ. 46,8· 1ηρ. 11,5· Θαρ. 1,20· 14, 20,15). Σαράντα ὁλόκληρα χρόνια κανεῖς τους δὲν κοιμήθηκε σὲ σπίτι, δὲν ἀπλωσε τὰ κουρασμένα μέλη του σὲ κρεβάτι· **Σαράντα χρόνια ζοῦσαν κάτω ἀπὸ σκηνές!** Τὸ γεγονός αὐτὸ ἐώρταζαν καὶ ἐορτάζουν οἱ Ἰσραηλίτες. Ἐπὶ ὁχτῶ ἡμέρες κανεῖς τους δὲν μένει στὸ σπίτι, ἀλλὰ βγαίνουν ἔξω καὶ κοιμοῦνται σὲ σκηνές.

Αὕτῃ λοιπὸν τὴν ἐορτὴ ἔκανε καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς μας μαζί μὲ ὅλο τὸ λαὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων. Καὶ τὴν τελευταία ἡμέρα, πού ἦταν ἡ πιὸ ἐπίσημη, τότε, λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, «**εἰσπῆκει**», στάθηκε στὰ σκαλιὰ τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ Σολομῶντος, καὶ «**ἔκραξε**» (Ἰω. 7,37)! Ἀκοῦτε λέξι: «**ἔκραξε**», ἔβγαλε δυνατὴ φωνή, βροντοφώναξε. Γιατί; Καὶ γιὰ νὰ τὸν ἀκούσῃ βέβαια ὅλο τὸ πλῆθος πού συνωστιζόταν ἐκεῖ, ἀλλὰ καὶ –ὅπως λένε οἱ ἐρμηνευταὶ– γιατί ἤθελε νὰ ὑπογραμμίσῃ ζωηρὰ τίς μεγάλες ἀλήθειες πού ἐκήρυττε. Συνεπῶς κ' ἐσεῖς, ἀν καμμιά φορὰ ἀκοῦτε τὸν ἱεροκήρυκα ἢ τὸν ἐπίσκοπο νὰ κράζῃ μεγάλη τῇ φωνῇ, μὴ τὸν παρεξηγεῖτε. Ὅσοι ἀπὸ μᾶς ἔλαβαν μέρος σὲ κρίσιμες μάχες, ἄκουσαν γενναίους ἀξιωματικούς νὰ παροτρύνουν μὲ κραυγὴ ἰσχυρὴ τοὺς ἄντρες τους στὸν ὑπὲρ πάντα ἀγῶνα. Ὅχι αὐτο-

να, χλιαρά, αλλά ζωηρά, θερμά· ν' ακούσουν όλα τ' αὐτιά, νὰ θερμανθοῦν ὅλες οἱ καρδιές.

Ἐκραξε τότε ὁ Χριστός, γιὰ νὰ πιστέψῃ ὁ κόσμος ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ ἀπεσταλμένος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀκούμε κ' ἐμεῖς σήμερα τὰ λόγια του, ἀλλ' ὑπάρχουν ἄραγε τώρα αὐτιά, τὴν ἀγία αὐτὴ ἡμέρα, ν' ακούσουν τὰ βαρυσήμαντα λόγια του; Τί εἶπε ὁ Κύριος· «*Εάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω*» (ἔλ.). **Ὅποιος διψᾷ, δηλαδή, ὡς ἐρχεται σ' ἐμένα καὶ ὡς πίνει!**

Γιὰ νὰ καταλάβουμε τὰ λόγια αὐτά, ἀδελφοί μου, ὡς ἔχουμε ὑπ' ὄψιν μας ὅτι **ὑπάρχουν δύο δίψες**, μία κατώτερη καὶ μία ἀνώτερη.

• Μία δίψα εἶνε ἡ **βιολογική**, ἡ ἀνάγκη κάθε ζωντανοῦ ὁργανισμοῦ γιὰ νερό. Διψοῦν ὅλα **ζῷα**· ἀπὸ τὰ πουλάκια, ποὺ κατεβαίνουν στὰ ρυάκια καὶ παίρνουν μὲ τὸ ῥάμφος τους σταλαγματιὰ - σταλαγματιὰ τὴ δροσιά, μέχρι τὰ μεγάλα ζῷα. Προπαντὸς τὸ ἐλάφι, ὅπως λέει καὶ τὸ Ψαλτήρι (12), εἶνε διψαλέο ζῷο· διανύει χιλιόμετρα γιὰ νὰ βρῇ νερό νὰ πιῇ.

Διψᾷ καὶ ὁ **ἄνθρωπος**, διότι κι αὐτὸς ἔχει σῶμα μὲ ἀνάγκες. Δίχως ψωμί μπορεῖς νὰ ζήσης καὶ σαράντα μέρες, χωρὶς νερό ὅμως πολὺ λίγο. Οἱ παλαιότεροι, μὲ τ' ἄσπρα μαλλιά, θυμοῦνταν τὴν πορεία τοῦ στρατοῦ μας στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀλμυρὰ ἔρημο· ῥωτήστε, ἂν ζοῦν, γονεῖς καὶ παπποῦδες ποὺ τοὺς ἐνέπνεαν μεγάλα ἰδανικά. Εἴκοσι μέρες δὲν εἶχαν νερό νὰ πιοῦν! κι ὅταν ἔφτασαν **στὸ Σαγγάριο**, ἔπεσαν διψασμένα στὸ ποτάμι τὰ παιδιά τῆς Ἑλλάδος καὶ ἔπιναν ἀπὸ τὰ νερά, ποὺ σὲ λίγο θὰ κοκκίνιζαν ἀπὸ τὸ αἷμα τους. Διψᾷ ὁ ἄνθρωπος σὲ ἔρημα μέρη, ἰδίως τὸ καλοκαίρι· ἕνα ποτήρι νερό τότε τὸν δροσιζεὶ κατὰ βάθος. Ἐνας ἀπὸ τοὺς **ἀστροναῦτες** ποὺ πέταξαν στὸ διάστημα σὲ μιὰ στιγμή εἶπε· Ἀχ, Θεέ μου, πότε νὰ κατεβῶ στὴ γῆ, νὰ πιῶ ἕνα ποτήρι νερό!

Ἀχάριστε ἄνθρωπε! ἔδω τὰ ρυάκια κ' οἱ ποταμοί, ἔδω οἱ βρῦσες καὶ τὰ κρυστάλλινα νερά, ἔδω οἱ λίμνες κ' οἱ θάλασσες· καὶ ὅμως, ἐνῶ πίνουμε νεράκι καὶ ἐνῶ τὴ μπουκιά ἔχουμε στὸ στόμα, ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ στὸ Θεό δὲν λέμε· ἀντιθέτως βλαστημοῦμε συχνὰ τὸν Εὐεργέτη μας. Πρέπει, φαίνεται, νὰ στερηθοῦμε τὰ ἀγαθὰ του, γιὰ νὰ τὰ ἐκτιμήσουμε καὶ νὰ μετανοήσουμε.

• Ἀλλὰ σήμερα, ἀδελφοί μου, ἄλλοῦ θέλω νὰ στρέψω τὴν προσοχή σας. Ὅχι στὴν βιολογικὴ δίψα γιὰ φυσικὸ νερό, ἀλλὰ στὴν **μεταφυσικὴ** δίψα γιὰ «τὸ ὕδωρ τὸ ζῶν» (10-11).

Διψᾷ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, διψᾷ ἡ ψυχὴ του. Τί ποθεῖ; Τὴν **εὐτυχία**. Ἀλλὰ ποῦ θὰ τὴ βρῇ; Στὰ **πλοῦτη**· ῥωτήστε τοὺς ἑκατομμυριούχους ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου, ἐρευνήστε τὴ ζωὴ τους καὶ θὰ δῆτε ὅτι κατὰ κανόνα δὲν ὑπάρχουν δυστυχέστεροι ἀπ' αὐτοὺς. Στὰ **ἀξιώματα**· ἀκούστε τὸ Σολομῶντα ποὺ λέει «*Ματαιότης ματαιότητων, τὰ πάντα μα-*

ταίότης» (ἔλ. 12), δῆτε καὶ τὸν Ναπολέοντα ἐξόριστο στὴ νῆσο τῆς Ἀγίας Ἑλένης. Στὶς **ἡδονές** τοῦ βίου, γλέντια, διασκεδάσεις· πηγαίνετε στὰ ἀουλά ἀνιάτων, ὅπου οἱ καταχρήσεις μετέβαλαν νεανικά κορμιά σὲ ῥάκη. Μήπως, τέλος, στὴν **ἐπιστήμη**; μὰ ποιά ἦταν ἡ ἀγωνία τοῦ Σωκράτους· «*Ὅτι οὐδὲν οἶδα*».

Ποῦ, λοιπόν, εἶνε ἡ εὐτυχία; Μία εἶνε ἡ πηγὴ, ἡ βρύση μὲ τὸ καθαρὸ νερό ποὺ σβήνει τὴ δίψα· ὁ **Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος, ὁ Χριστὸς μας**. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ἡ πηγὴ, ὁ ποταμός, ὁ ὠκεανὸς τῆς χάριτος. Na! ἡ χάρις τοῦ Χριστοῦ φωτίζει τὸ νοῦ, ἡλεκτρίζει τὴν καρδιά, γαλβανίζει τὴ θέλησι γιὰ τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑψηλά.

Καὶ σήμερα ὁ Χριστὸς κρᾶζει· «*Εάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω*». Ἀκούτε τί λέει; κάθε λέξι εἶνε ζυγισμένη. «*Εάν τις διψᾷ*». **Δὲν βιάζει κανένα**, εἶσαι ἐλεύθερος, ἂν θέλῃς!... **Οὐτε κλείνει τὴν πόρτα σὲ κανένα**· εἶνε ἀνοιχτὴ σὲ φτωχὸ ἢ πλούσιο, μικρὸ ἢ μεγάλο. «*Ποταμοί*», λέει, *ἐκ τῆς κοιτίας αὐτοῦ ρεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος*» (10-12) (βλ. 184). Καὶ ἀπόδειξις οἱ **ἀπόστολοι**. Τί ἦταν πρὶν; Ξηρὰ ρυάκια. Πίστεψαν στὸ Χριστό, ἔλαβαν Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο, καὶ ἐγίναν ποταμοί, ποὺ μέχρι σήμερα ἀρδεύουν τὴν οἰκουμένη.

Προτοῦ νὰ τελειώσω σὰς ὑπενθυμίζω ἕνα ἐπεισόδιο τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης σχετικὸ μὲ τὴ σημερινὴ ἑορτὴ. Ὅταν οἱ Ἑβραῖοι βρέθηκαν στὴν ἔρημο, δίψασαν. Δὲν ὑπῆρχε σταλαγματιὰ νερό· δύο ἑκατομμύρια ψυχὲς κινδύνευαν νὰ πεθάνουν ἀπὸ δίψα. Καὶ τότε ὁ Θεὸς ἔκανε τὸ θαῦμα. Ὁ Μωυσὴς χτύπησε μὲ τὸ ῥαβδί του ἕνα βράχο καὶ — ὡς μὴν πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους, ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε — **ὁ βράχος ἐβγαλε νερό ποτάμι**! Καὶ ἤπιαν ὅλοι (βλ. 17-18).

Ἐμεῖς, ἀδελφοί μου, ἔχουμε ἕναν ἄλλο βράχο ἀνώτερο. Πλησιάστε, γονατίστε, προσκυνήστε· εἶνε ὁ **Γολγοθᾶς**! Ἐπάνω σ' αὐτὸν χτύπησε ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ τὸ σταυρὸ τοῦ τὴν σκληρὴν σὰν πέτρα καρδιά μας· καὶ ἀπὸ 'κεῖ βῆκαν μάρτυρες, ὁμολογηταί, ὁσιοί, πατέρες καὶ διδάσκαλοι. Καὶ ἔκτοτε ὁ βράχος αὐτὸς ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ τρέχῃ. Οἱ πέντε πληγὲς τοῦ Ἑσταυρωμένου (χειρῶν, ποδῶν καὶ πλευρᾶς) ἐγίναν «*πηγαὶ τοῦ σωτηρίου*», ἀπ' ὅπου ἐξέρχεται ποταμός. **Πλησιάστε καὶ ἀντλήστε «μετ' εὐφροσύνης»** (123).

Ἄν ὑπάρχη κανεὶς ποὺ ἀμφιβάλλει, **ἰδοὺ τὸ πείραμα**. Ἀνοίξτε τὴν ἀγία Γραφή, μελετήστε στίχο πρὸς στίχο· κι ὅταν τελειώσετε, θὰ πῆτε καὶ ἐσεῖς· «*Οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος*» (10-14).

Διὰ τοῦ φωτισμοῦ τοῦ **τὸ πανάγιο Πνεῦμα** ὡς **ὁδηγῆσθαι ὅλους μας** στὴν ὁδὸ τοῦ καθήκοντος, τῆς ἀρετῆς καὶ τῆς πίστεως πρὸς δόξαν τοῦ εὐλογημένου μας ἔθνους μας· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$300 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2023 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

Pentecost

Luke says that the Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost, after the Lord's ascension, with power to open the gates of life to all nations and to make known to them the new covenant. So it was that men of every language joined in singing one song of praise to God, and scattered tribes, restored to unity by the Spirit, were offered to the Father as the first fruits of all the nations.

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of God came down upon the Lord, and the Lord in turn gave this Spirit to his Church, sending the Advocate from heaven into all the world into which, according to his own words, the devil too had been

cast down like lightning. If we are not to be scorched and made unfruitful, we need the dew of God. Since we have our accuser, we need an Advocate as well. And so the Lord in his pity for mankind, who had fallen into the hands of brigands, having himself bound up his wounds and left for his care coins bearing the royal image, entrusted him to the Holy Spirit. Now, through the Spirit, the image and inscription of the Father and the Son have been given to us, and it is our duty to use the coin committed to our charge and make it yield a rich profit for the Lord.

-from the treatise Against Heresies

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