

Today's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 56:1-57:21, Ephesians 4:17-5:14, Luke 16:1-31

Psalm 100

*Alleluia, Alleluia. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates
with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to
him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love
endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was washing his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. 'He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? and if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.'"

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him. But he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

"The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it violently. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one dot of the law to become void. "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery." "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this name.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us. And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Announcements

Celebrant: This morning Rev. Fr. Hrach Sargsyan will be the celebrant and preacher. Please join us in worship.

Lectors: Today's Holy Scripture will be read by the following:
Epistle - Liana Martirosyan; Gospel - Steve Merjanian.

Fellowship: Today's fellowship is sponsored by the Parish Council. If you wish to sponsor a fellowship please use the sign-up sheet to do so.

SIGN-UP SHEET: Dear Parishioners please put your name on the signup sheet for sponsoring a Sunday fellowship after Divine Liturgy, also please sign up for the Scripture readings for Sundays.

Fellowship Evening/ Pot luck KEF – PARTY! on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30pm. Many of the Midwest Armenian Clergy will be at St. Sahag for a clergy retreat.

To warmly welcome them, we want the St. Sahag Community to come together on Tuesday night for an evening of Fellowship.

So get ready for a great, unique evening of food, dance and song!

ACYOA Day: Palm Sunday, March 28 is the ACYOA (Armenian Church Youth Organization of America) day throughout Eastern Diocese. This day our young parishioners get a chance to present the functions of their organization as well as to use the opportunity to raise funds. There will be a luncheon prepared by the youth and served to our parishioners, also bake sale. Please encourage your children to participate ages 15-29 so the day can be celebrated in due and with all the encouragements that are well deserved.

Women's Guild: Dear Women, we are very much looking for volunteers to take responsibilities and leadership roles within the Women's Guild. There are lots of functions within Women's Guild where you can have an important and helpful role. WG upcoming events:

1. March 21st Soup Potluck
2. March 23rd Baking day/Potluck/ Meeting
3. March 28th Baking Sale
4. April 10th Easter Dinner
5. April 30th – May 2nd 24th Annual Women's Guild Assembly
6. November 14th Children's Fair

For all other details and additional information feel free to contact Dana Nyholm by email, or by phone: dana_nyholm@hotmail.com, phone: 612-816-0255.

Prayers for the sick: Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or recovering from illness. May God strengthen their souls so that they may overcome this difficult time of their lives.

If you know anyone that needs our special prayers, please contact Rev Fr. Hrach by each Thursday so that their names are included in the Bulletin.

Christian Studies: Every Thursday from 7pm-8:30pm join us for evening worship and Christian Studies with Fr. Hrach.

ACOM Armenian Language classes: Eastern Armenian language classes are scheduled on the last two Sundays of every month. Classes are held upstairs after lunch, at 1:00pm with Mariam Khachatryan. Any further changes regarding day and time will be announced ahead of time.

Saint Sahag School of Music: The St. Sahag School of Music provides professional instruction in piano and flute. Anyone interested in taking lessons may contact Maestro Stepan Khachatryan or the Church Office for more information.

Diocesan Programs: The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is offering a number of programs to the faithful in the Armenian Church. Please contact Fr. Hrach Sargsyan for more information about any of these programs.

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm

The Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Please feel free to contact Fr. Hrach Sargsyan with any additional community activities so they may be included in the calendar of events.

Sunday Bulletin **March 7th, 2010**

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



GREAT LENT

SUNDAY OF THE GOOD STEWARD

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

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Calendar of Events: Please make note of the following activities and mark your calendars accordingly.

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| March 7th <i>Today</i> | 10:30am Divine Liturgy. Sunday of the good Steward; 1:00pm Annual Parish Assembly/ Elections. |
| March 11th <i>Thursday</i> | 7:00pm Lenten Evening Service and Christian Studies; Spiritual Journey toward Easter. |
| March 14th <i>Sunday</i> | 10:30am Divine Liturgy. Sunday of the Judge 1:00pm Acolytes' training classes with Fr. Hrach |
| March 18th <i>Thursday</i> | 7:00pm Lenten Evening Service and Christian Studies; Spiritual Journey toward Easter. |
| March 21st <i>Sunday</i> | 10:30am Divine Liturgy. Sunday of Advent 1:00pm "The Architectural Transformation of St. Sahag Armenian Church"; speaker: Francis Bulbulian, FAIA Vice President. Women's Guild Potluck followed by His talk. |
| March 21st <i>Sunday</i> | 1:00pm ACOM Armenian language classes with Mariam Khachatryan |
| March 27th <i>Saturday</i> | 10am-2pm WG Baking day/potluck/meeting |
| March 28th <i>Sunday</i> | 12:00pm ACYOA luncheon/ Bake Sale 1:00pm Parish Council Meeting 1:00pm ACOM Armenian language classes with Mariam Khachatryan |

SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE WEEK

March 6th: *Commemoration of St. John the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Armenian Patriarch St. John of Otzoon, St. John of Vorotan and St. Gregory of Datev.* To read more about them visit:
<http://www.araratiantem.am/holdetails.php?id=1777>

March 7th: *Sunday of the good steward.* To read more about them visit:
<http://www.araratian-tem.am/holdetails.php?id=1781>

REFLECTION

Yeznik Koghbatsi, *Refutation of the Sects.* **GOD DID NOT CREATE ANYTHING EVIL; GOD IS THE HARMONIZER OF CREATION.** (1.2) God did not create anything evil; nothing is evil by nature. Rather, everything is "good" in relation to other "good" things. The good is a kind of balance. Good as the sun is, everything would dry up and die without water. And good as water is, everything would wash away without the sun. This is what is meant by Divine Providence. God provides for and guides His creation, keeping the elements in balance.

GOD, THE HARMONIZER, IS INVISIBLE. WE SHOULD WORSHIP THE DESIGNER AND NOT THE DESIGNED, THE CREATOR AND NOT THE CREATURES (1.3) By looking at the visible elements, each of which can do harm by itself, we can conclude that there must be yet another force to keep them in balance. This is the creative force, the being called God. The Creator of balance and harmony is an invisible power. The design of the natural universe points to the existence of a Designer, by necessity greater than what he designed. What sense is there, then, in the practice of the pagans, who worship finite creatures--the animals, the planets, the sun, man-made idols--when it is clear that there is an infinite being? Besides, all the visible creatures, even the light-giving sun and moon, are imperfect and give way to darkness. The proper object of worship is the perfect Creator, who does not change
To be continued.....

LENTEN RESOURCES

<http://www.armenianchurch.net/worship/lent/narek/4sunday.html>

<http://www.armenianchurch.net/pdf/LentenResourceWeek4.pdf>

<http://www.armenianchurch.net/worship/lent/index.html>

EDUCATIONAL

Fasting During Lent: During Lent we are like athletes in training to "fight the good fight" and "finish the race" as St. Paul expressed it. What we do externally can affect our inner condition. So we take on an outward discipline that will balance the inward discipline of Lent. Part of that outward discipline is fasting. Like the strict regimen of athletes, it is meant to strengthen and firm our spiritual self. The Church's rules prescribe that for 40 days preceding Palm Sunday we abstain from all animal products: meat, poultry, eggs, and milk (If one does not have health issues) but most importantly we should fast spiritually abstaining ourselves from our bad habits and from committing sins. We should also as much as we can refrain from parties, movies, and frivolous entertainment. In our day, many find this difficult, but every faithful Christian can do the following to remain in the spirit of Lent:

1. Keep Wednesdays and Fridays as fast days.
2. Cut down on outside activities.
3. Put aside a regular and consistent amount of time daily for private prayer, and for reading the Bible and spiritual books.
4. Attend all Lenten church services faithfully.
5. Receive the sacrament of Penance by self-examination, confession, repentance, and positive decisions.
6. Make a family effort to incorporate these things into each member's life during Lent.

Remembering always that Lent is a time of solemn yet joyous preparation made so we may arrive spiritually strengthened and renewed to celebrate Easter.

Frequently Asked Questions: **How does our church regard women being priests? Is it scripturally forbidden in the Bible, is it a tradition, or Armenian Church doctrine alone?** There is nothing in the Holy Scriptures and the subsequent canons forbidding women from becoming priests. Having said this, Christ, who was revealed to us as a male, personally replaced the ancient priesthood of Israel, which was in the male line of the family of Aaron. The Christian priesthood as an institution originates with Christ, the High Priest of the new faith, and was developed over a period of time. Consequently there is very little about it in the New Testament, save for terms like *presbyter* ['elder'] and *episkopos* ['overseer' or 'bishop']

Restricting the priesthood only to males is not the practice of the Armenian Church alone. We have no evidence for women priests in the entire history of the ancient and medieval Christian church. The controversy about women priests was never an issue in the remote past and it rose only in very modern times. As a result, the Christian church of old, including the Armenian Church, did not see the need for developing teachings and doctrines for or against this issue.

The Armenian Church is still "traditional" in its views about this matter. In church usage "traditional" does not have its ordinary meaning. Our present practice is a part and parcel of the Sacred Tradition of the Christian church as it was brought to Armenia by the earliest missionaries and as it was developed during the Apostolic and later ages. Sacred Tradition to us, and to the Catholics as well as the Eastern Orthodox, is as important as the Holy Scriptures. The fact is that the New Testament for the most part-- especially the stories, reminiscences, descriptions, sermons and other material in the Gospels--was initially transmitted by the way of mouth.

ON THE LEAVING THE SANCTUARY AFTER BADARAK

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| <p><i>Q. <u>What do I say when approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy?</u></i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>You say:</u></p> <p>Heeshestzeh Der zamenaym Badarakus koh. May the Lord remember all your offerings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Priest answers:</u></p> <p>Datseh Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn khorhoortus koh na gadarsestseh. May the Lord grant you according to your own heart, and fulfill all your counsel. (Psalm 20:4)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE KISS OF PEACE</u></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The GIVER says:</u></p> <p>Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav Christ is revealed amongst us</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The RECEIVER says:</u></p> <p>Orhnyal eh haydootyoonun Kreesdosee Blessed is the revelation of Christ</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL</u> <u>PSALM 34</u></p> | <p>Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenyn zhamorhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.</p> <p>I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be at all times in my mouth</p> |