

Today's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 65:8-25, Philippians 3:1-4:9, Luke 17:20-18:14

*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

Out Lord Jesus Christ:

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Lo, there!' or 'Lo, here!' Do not go, do not follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the arch, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom fire and sulphur rained from heaven and destroyed them all so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let him who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away; and likewise let him who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other left." And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man: and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

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 – Nairy Digris; Gospel – McGibbon Terry

Fellowship: Today's fellowship is sponsored by Raisa Martirosyan. 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 the Scripture readings for Sundays.

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 6:30pm-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
Fr. Hrach is available 24 hours for spiritual guidance and support.

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 14th, 2010**

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



GREAT LENT

SUNDAY OF THE JUDGE

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

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

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

SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE WEEK

March 10th: Median day of Great Lent. To read more about them visit: <http://www.araratian-tem.am/holdetails.php?id=1785>

March 13th: Commemoration of the forty Holy Martyrs
<http://www.araratian-tem.am/holdetails.php?id=1789>

March 14th: Sunday of the Judge. To read more about them visit:
<http://www.araratian-tem.am/holdetails.php?id=1793>

REFLECTION

Yeznik Koghbatsi, Refutation of the Sects.

GOD, THE HARMONIZER, IS INVISIBLE. WE SHOULD WORSHIP THE DESIGNER AND NOT THE DESIGNED, THE CREATOR AND NOT THE CREATURES (1.3) Some might ask: If we cannot see this Creator and He is beyond our comprehension, why and how should we worship Him? Is it not better to worship the visible things and gain their good favor than to risk offending them by worshipping this invisible force, which we are not even sure exists? Of course, there is no reason to dishonor these magnificent creations of God. Still, it is not the heavenly bodies and the creatures on Earth which are beneficent, but the Creator who unselfishly provided them. It is He who sustains the invisible beings, the angels and the souls of men, and keeps everything operating in its proper course. Any of the four elements--fire, water, air, or earth--can cause harm; but that harm is not due to anything we might have done. The sun does not grow dark because we have offended it. Nor does fire burn, the earth quake, or the waters flood because we have not honored them. Rather, it is in their own nature to grow dark, burn, quake, and flood. Clearly, then, He who holds these forces in check is the One deserving of our worship. The world is a cart hitched to four forces--warmth, coldness, dryness, and dampness--and it is the invisible Force which governs them and keeps them in harmony that is worthy of worship, not the elements which are the mere agents of these forces. *To be continued.....*

LENTEN RESOURCES

<http://www.armenianchurch.net/worship/lent/narek/5sunday.html>

<http://www.armenianchurch.net/pdf/LentenResourceWeek5.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: What is the Armenian Church's stance on tithing?

Pious gifts enable the Armenian Church to pursue and extend the limits of her mission. It is easy to say that the Armenian Church, in addition to her liturgical and pastoral duties, must also do spiritual, social, charitable and other kinds of works that please God. This remains only wishful thinking if our parishes and/or the Diocese do not have the necessary funds for such matters. In the past, dues such as the *tithe*, the *ptghi*, the *has* and other kinds of gifts made it possible for the Armenian Church in the homeland and the older communities to tend to the spiritual, social and educational needs of the Armenian people.

Tithe

In many Western and American churches, it is an accepted custom for every member of a parish to provide one tenth of his or her annual earnings to God. The amounts raised from such dues make it possible to maintain a parish sanctuary, church school, rectory and support a pastor as well as various church related causes such as charity, evangelical missions and so on. This traditional institution is known as the *tithe*.

Ptghi

Ptghi or *ptugh* was a tax in kind given to the church. It most often included a portion of a crop or a part of an animal herd given to the Church. It was common until the early twentieth century.

Has

Another ancient ecclesiastical tax is called *has*. This tax corresponds closely to a "land tax." Landowners paid a tax that was different from the *ptghi*. It is not clear whether this was in addition to the above two taxes or instead of them.

ON THE LEAVING THE SANCTUARY AFTER BADARAK

<p><i>Q. What do I say when approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy?</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><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><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>