

+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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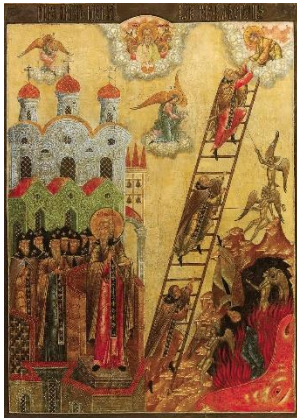
DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 03, 2022

TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

ABBOT NIKITAS THE CONFESSOR OF MEDIKION; VENERABLE JOSEPH THE HYMNOGRAPHER;
NEW-MARTYR PAUL THE RUSSIAN



THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

On April 03 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Nikitas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion; Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer; and New-martyr Paul the Russian.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus). The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the

Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606. Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لَشَعْبِهِ.

قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْدًا وَكَرَامَةً.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا وَعَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِذْ لَمْ يُمَكِّنْ أَنْ يُقْسِمَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُ، أَقْسَمَ بِنَفْسِهِ. قَائِلًا: لِأَبَارِكْكَ بَرَكَتَهُ وَأَكْثِرْ تَكَثُّرًا. وَذَلِكَ إِذْ تَأْتَى، نَالَ الْمَوْعِدَ. وَإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ يُقْسِمُونَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُمْ، وَتَنْقُضِي كُلَّ مُشَاجَرَةٍ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقَسَمِ لِلتَّنْبِيهِ. فَلِذَلِكَ، لَمَّا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ وَرَثَةَ الْمَوْعِدِ بَيَانًا لِعَدَمِ تَحْوُلِ عَزْمِهِ، تَوَسَّطَ بِالْقَسَمِ. حَتَّى نَحْصَلَ بِأَمْرَيْنِ لَا يَتَحَوَّلَانِ وَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمَا عَلَى تَعْزِيَةٍ قَوِيَّةٍ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ التَّجَّأْنَا إِلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِالرَّجَاءِ الْمَوْضُوعِ أَمَامَنَا. الَّذِي هُوَ لَنَا كَمِرْسَاةٍ لِلنَّفْسِ أَمِينَةٍ رَاسِحَةٍ تَدْخُلُ إِلَى دَاخِلِ الْحِجَابِ، حَيْثُ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَسَابِقٍ لَنَا وَقَدْ صَارَ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَقَ، رَئِيسِ كَهَنَةِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَرْفُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعِ إِنْسَانٌ وَسَجَدَ لَهُ قَائِلًا: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، قَدْ أَتَيْتُكَ بِابْنِي، بِهِ رُوحٌ أَبْكَمٌ. وَحَيْثُمَا أَخَذَهُ يَصْرَعُهُ، فَيُزِيدُ وَيَصْرِفُ بِأَسْنَانِهِ وَيَبْبَسُ، وَقَدْ سَأَلْتُ تَلَامِيذَكَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوهُ فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ قَائِلًا: "أَيُّهَا الْجِيلُ غَيْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِلَى مَتَى أَكُونُ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ حَتَّى مَتَى أَحْتَمِلُكُمْ؟ هَلَمْ بِهِ إِلَيَّ." فَأَتَوْهُ بِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَهُ لِلْوَقْتِ صَرَعهُ الرُّوحُ، فَسَقَطَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَتَمَرَّعُ وَيُزِيدُ. فَسَأَلَ أَبَاهُ: "مُنْذُ كَمْ مِنَ الزَّمَانِ أَصَابَهُ هَذَا؟" فَقَالَ: "مُنْذُ صِبَاهُ. وَكَثِيرًا مَا أَلْقَاهُ فِي النَّارِ وَفِي الْمِيَاهِ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. لَكِنْ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ سَيِّئًا، فَتَحَنَّنْ عَلَيْنَا وَأَعِنْنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ، فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ." فَصَاحَ أَبُو الصَّبِيِّ مِنْ سَاعَتِهِ بِدُمُوعٍ وَقَالَ: "إِنِّي أَوْ مِنْ يَأْسِيذٍ، فَأَعِثْ عَدَمَ إِيمَانِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ الْجَمْعَ يَتَّبِادِرُونَ إِلَيْهِ، انْتَهَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ قَائِلًا لَهُ: "أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ الْأَبْكَمُ الْأَصْمُ، أَنَا أَمْرُكَ أَنْ أُخْرَجَ مِنْهُ وَلَا تَعُدْ تَدْخُلُ فِيهِ." فَصَرَخَ وَخَبَطَهُ كَثِيرًا وَخَرَجَ مِنْهُ، فَصَارَ كَالْمَيِّتِ، حَتَّى قَالَ كَثِيرُونَ إِنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ. فَأَخَذَ يَسُوعُ بِيَدِهِ وَأَنْهَضَهُ، فَقَامَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتًا، سَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ: "لِمَاذَا لَمْ نَسْتَطِعْ نَحْنُ أَنْ نُخْرِجَهُ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ هَذَا الْجِنْسَ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْرَجَ بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالصُّومِ." وَلَمَّا خَرَجُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، اجْتَازُوا فِي الْجَلِيلِ، وَلَمْ يَرُدْ أَنْ يَدْرِيَ أَحَدٌ. فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يُعَلِّمُ تَلَامِيذَهُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ "إِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ يُسَلَّمُ إِلَى أَيْدِي النَّاسِ، فَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَبَعْدَ أَنْ يُقْتَلَ، يَقُومُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ."

“Love your Neighbor”- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

During this year's Great Lent, and for March and April, St John's will be collecting donations as we have done for many years, alongside all parishes in the Antiochian Archdiocese for the following two important programs of the Archdiocese.

March – Archdiocese Collection for Seminarian Fund on Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 13): This fund is to support the seminarians and their families throughout the country who are attending one of the Orthodox Seminaries as they seek to learn more about and to begin to serve our Archdiocese as priests, deacons and lay ministers.

April – Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 17): Each year, the Archdiocese asks each parish to take a collection to help support the Patriarchate in Antioch on Palm Sunday. This will be our “neighbor” for the month of April.

Palm Sunday Rose Bake Sale:

To Pre-order, please call Denise Dudum at (925) 360-3350 and we would love to see you all at the church to pick up the delicious sweets prepared by our Ladies.

Nammoura	\$24/dozen
Ghraibeh	\$20/dozen
Baklawa (walnuts)	\$30/dozen
Ka'ak (dates)	\$24/dozen
Warbat (cream)	\$30/dozen

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 30th	Pre-sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, April 1st	Akathost/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
April 3rd	Lenten Luncheon prepared by the Ladies, \$10 minimum donation and Children under 10 are free
Monday, April 4th	صلاة النوم الكبرى Great Compline 6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 6th	Pre-sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, April 8th	Akathost/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
April 17th	Palm Sunday Rose Bake Sale
Sunday, April 24th	Pascha / Easter

Coffee Hours

April 3rd	Lenten Luncheon prepared by the Ladies
April 17th	Palm Sunday Bake Sale
Sunday, April 24th	Pascha / Easter

Memorial Service

- † 40 days memorial service on Sunday may 8th for the handmaiden of God Carla Karanikola.
May her memory be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Noha Schulze, George Messih, and Nabil Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Helen Addes**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Carla Karanikola**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Stacy Simon**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Issa, Alexandra and baby Sebastian Samara**. Many years!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



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