



October 15, 2017
Service in Honor of the Holy Fathers of
the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Commemorations: Lucian the Martyr of Antioch; Savinos the Bishop of Catania;
Barsus the Confessor; Euthymios the New
Second Tone :: Eighth Matins Gospel

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

Reader: *Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *For You are righteous in all You did for us, all You brought on us and on Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: *The reading is from the second letter of holy Apostle Paul to Titus.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Resurrection Hymn (First Tone)

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior; granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Hymn for the Fathers (Plagal Fourth Tone)

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.

Hymn for the Transfiguration (Grave Tone)

You were transfigured upon the mountain O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we be, shine Your everlasting Light. At the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You.

Kontakion of the Theotokos (Second Tone)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

PARISH NOTICES

We warmly welcome our guests this morning. Please join us downstairs after Liturgy for a time of fellowship and refreshment hosted by the Skliris family.

Next week's host: the Val Diaconu in memory of her mother, Elisabeta, of blessed memory.

Memorial prayers are offered today for the repose of the soul of the servant of God of blessed memory, **Penelope Kyriakos**. May her memory be eternal, and may you be granted long life, a good repentance, and blessed Paradise.

Catechism Class continues this week on Thursday at 7:00 P.M.

The church carpets will be cleaned tomorrow. Help is needed to move the tables and chairs after today's Fellowship Hour. Many hands will make light work!

THIS WEEK AT TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

- Monday **Budget Committee** meeting, 5:30 P.M. at home of Kathy and Kosta Theodosopoulos
- Tuesday Great Vespers at 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday **St Luke the Evangelist** :: Orthros/Liturgy at 8/9 A.M. Midweek prayers at 6:30 P.M. Bible class following the service.
- Thursday Catechism Class at 7 P.M.
- Saturday Great Vespers at 5 P.M. :: Confessions following
- Next Sunday *October 22nd, the Sixth Sunday of Luke;* Orthros at 9:00 A.M. :: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. :: Sunday School
Liturgical readings: Galatians 1:11-19 Luke 8:26-39

LOOKING AHEAD

- October 22 Parish Council meeting
- October 23 James the Brother of the Lord
- October 26 Holy Great Martyr Demetrios of Thessaloniki
- November 8 Holy Archangels
- November 9 St Nektarios of Aegina

November 12 Parish Council meeting
November 12 St John Chrysostom
Nov. 14 - Dec. 24 Ιερό Σαρανταλείτουργο Χριστουγέννων
Holy Forty Divine Liturgies of the Nativity Fast
November 19 Fall Parish Assembly
November 21 Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple

WORDS OF LIFE

A humble man who lives a spiritual life, when he reads the Holy Scriptures, will relate all things to himself and not to others. (St. Mark the Ascetic, Sermon, I.6)

In all things that you find in the Holy Scriptures, seek out the purpose of the words, that you may enter into the depth of the thoughts of the saints and understand them with greater exactness. Do not approach the reading of the Divine Scriptures without prayer and asking the help of God. Consider prayer to be the key to the true understanding of that which is said in the Holy Scriptures. (St. Isaac the Syrian, Sermon I.85)

When you begin to read or listen to the Holy Scriptures, pray to God thus: "Lord Jesus Christ, open the ears and eyes of my heart so that I may hear Your words and understand them, and may fulfill Your will." Always pray to God like this, that He might illumine your mind and open to you the power of His words. Many, having trusted in their own reason, have turned away into deception. (St. Ephraim the Syrian)

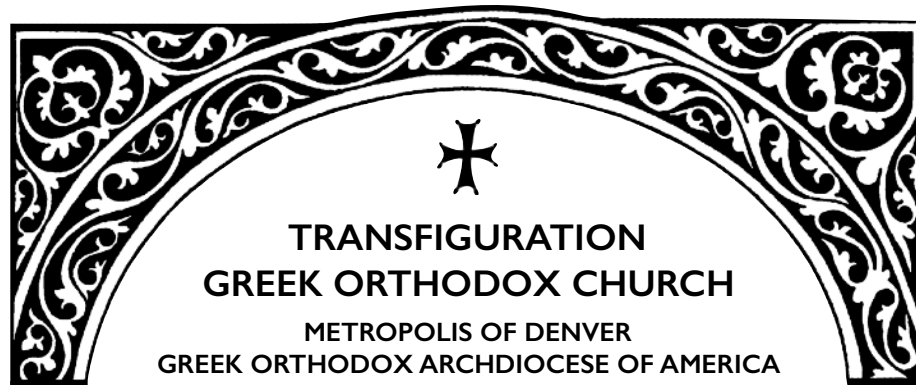
The proud sin greatly who, after studying secular literature and having turned to the Holy Scriptures, consider all that they say to be the Law of God, and do not endeavor to come to know the thoughts of the prophets and apostles, but seek out from the scriptures inappropriate texts for their own thoughts, as if this were a good work, and not the most defiled kind of study: to distort the thoughts of Scripture and submit them to their own intentions, in spite of obvious contradictions... It is proper to children and charlatans to try to teach that which they do not know. (St. Jerome, Letter to St. Paulinus)

If someone wants to be protected from tricks and remain healthy in the faith, he must confine his faith first to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, and secondly to the Tradition of the Church. But someone may ask, is not the canon of Scripture sufficient for everything, and why should we add thereto the authority of Tradition? This is because not everyone understands the Scriptures in the same way, but one explains them this way and another that way, so that it is possible to get therefrom as many thoughts as there are heads. Therefore it is necessary to be guided by the understanding of the Church ... What is tradition? It is that which has been understood by everyone, everywhere and at all times ... that which you have received, and not that which you have thought up ... So then, our job is not to lead religion where we wish it to go, but to follow it where it leads, and not to give that which is our own to our heirs, but to guard that which has been given to us. (St. Vincent of Lerins, Notes of a Pilgrim)

Someone asked me, "Isn't the hymn we chant during the Great Lent, *Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious upon the earth [Is 26:15]* a curse? And if it is, why do we still chant it? "

"When the barbarians are attacking," I replied, "and are ready to destroy a people just like that, and the people are praying that their enemies encounter obstacles, that their chariots break down and their horses get harmed, is that good or bad? That's what it means: that they may run into obstacles. It's not a curse."

(*With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man* by Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain)



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

METROPOLIS OF DENVER
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



A sower went out to sow his seed ...



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