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Sunday

February 19, 2012

9 AM Scripture study; 9:30 AM Hours; 10AM Divine Liturgy

Birthday: Michael Prestash, Alexander Yankovsky,
Vitaliy Zheltov, Ilana Lu

Travelers: *All who are traveling this week.*

Thanks to Mary Lieberman and Team 2 for today's Agape meal

Kitchen schedule: Feb 26th – Youth group (Team 4)

Thanks to Matushka Louise for today's prosphora.

Prosphora schedule: Feb 26th – Kathy Lu (3 large loaves)

Announcements:

- Please pray for a safe journey for Fr. Marcus, Fr. John, and Fr. Thomas as they journey in Romania with the OCMC missionaries Floyd and Ancuta Frank.
- We welcome Fr. Dimitri Oselinsky, who is serving Divine Liturgy today. Please meet and greet him at the coffee hour.
- We will have reader's vespers on Wednesday evening.
- **Prosphora note:** Starting next week, we need three (3) large loaves each week during Holy Lent.

Sunday of Meatfare
Sunday of the Last Judgment
Troparia & Kontakia

Tone 3

Let the heavens *re*joice!
Let the *earth* be glad!
For the Lord hath shown *strength* with His arm!
He hath trampled down death by death!
He hath become the First-born of the dead.
He hath delivered us from the *depths* of Hell
and hath granted the world //
great mercy.

Tone 3

O Holy *Apostles*,
pray to the merciful God,
that He may *grant* to our souls //
remission of *our* transgressions.

Tone 4

Glory to the Father / and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Ye are the branches of wisdom in the vineyard of Christ,
offering fruit in your good deeds.
And pouring out for us wine of salvation,
partaking of it we are filled with joy!
We celebrate your honorable memory,
for which pray ye that we may be granted great mercy
and remission of sins, //
O ye Apostles of the Lord.

Tone 1

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble.
And the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat,
the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed;
then de/liver me from the unquenchable fire, //
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done

it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.