

PSALM 117

Alleluia

1. Give thanks to the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever.
2. Now the house of Israel may say, that He is good:
for His mercy endures for ever.
3. Now the house of Aaron may say, that He is good: for His mercy endures for ever.
4. Now all that fear the Lord may say, that He is good: for His mercy endures for ever.
5. Out of anguish I called on the Lord, and he attended to me unto deliverance.
6. The Lord is my helper, and I do not fear what man can do to me.
7. The Lord is my helper, and I shall take charge of my enemies.
8. It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man.
9. It is better to hope in the Lord, than to hope in rulers.
10. All of the nations have encompassed me, but in the name of the Lord I repulsed them.
11. They completely surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I repulsed them.
12. They enclosed me as bees upon a honeycomb, and they burst into flame like a fire among thornbushes.
But in the name of the Lord I repulsed them.
13. I was prostrate from the attack, but the Lord raised me.
14. **The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.**
15. A voice of exultation and salvation is in the tents of the righteous.
The right hand of the Lord has toiled mightily.
16. The right hand of the Lord has exalted me.
The right hand of the Lord has wrought mightily.
17. Nor shall I die, but I live to declare the accomplishments of the Lord.
18. **The Lord has punished me severely, but He has not delivered me to death.**
19. Open for me the gates of righteousness. I will enter them to offer praise to the Lord.
20. This is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter by it.
21. I will give thanks to Thee; because Thou hast heard me, and hast become my salvation.
22. **The stone that was rejected by the builders, this has become the cornerstone.**
23. This has been done by the Lord; and it is wonderful in our eyes.
24. **This is the day which the Lord has made: let us exult and delight in it.**
25. O Lord, save *us* now: O Lord, now *help us* succeed.
26. [a]**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord:**
we have blessed Thee from the house of the Lord.
27. **God is the Lord, and [b]He hast revealed *this* to us:**
organize a feast with crowds up to the horns* of the altar.
28. Thou art my God, and I will give thanks to Thee. Thou art my God, and I will exalt Thee.
I will give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.
29. Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures for ever.

Glory to Thee, Now and Ever

SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Ἁγία Σοφίας τοῦ Θεοῦ

Washington, D.C.

May 30, 2010

Sunday of All Saints

The Tone for this day is Plagal 4

The Morning Gospel of the Orthros is No. 1

Matthew 28:16-20

At that time the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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(Commentary on today's Psalm 117 – from Page 4)

This is the ninth and final psalm within Kathisma LVI. It is said during any Sacrament when we offer thanks to the Lord. Verses 14 and 18 are the Sunday Prokeimenon for Tone 2. Verses from this psalm have the distinction of having graced three of our holiest days: Verses 24 and 29 most appropriately constitute the Prokeimenon for Pascha, our greatest feast. Verse 22 appears in the Paschal Liturgy and in many other hymns. On Palm Sunday verses 1 to 4, 26, and 27 are the responses to the Third Antiphon; verses 26a and 27b are the Eisodikon [Introit]; verses 26 and 1 are the Prokeimenon; and verse 27 is the beginning of the Hymn [Eirmos] of the day. On the Theophany of our Lord verses 1, 2, and 3 are the responses to the Third Antiphon; verse 4 is the response to the Eirmos; verses 26 and 27 are the Eisodikon and also the Prokeimenon. * The incense altars within the tabernacles of the exodus customarily had a "horn" extending out and up from each of its upper corners.

The Scripture Readings Today Bear Witness to God's Saints

PROKEIMENON:

God is wonderful among his saints
Bless God in the congregations *Psalm 67:35 + 26*

The Epistle is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

The Gospel is from Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

THE LORD SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

"On the Martyr Saints"

by

St. Gregory Thaumaturgos
(The Wonder Worker)

Since this solemnity is a glorious one among our festivals, and the spectators form a crowded gathering, and our assembly is one of elevated fervor in the faith, I shall face the task of commencing an address with confidence. And this I may attempt all the more boldly, since the Father requests me, and the Church is with me, and the sainted martyrs with this object strengthen what is weak in me. For these have inspired aged men to accomplish with much love a long course, and constrained them to support their failing steps by the staff of the word; and they have stimulated women to finish their course like the young men, and have brought to this, too, those of tender years, yea, even creeping children.

In this wise have the martyrs shown their power, leaping with joy in the presence of death, laughing at the sword, making sport of the wrath of princes, grasping at death as the producer of deathlessness, making victory their own by their fall, through the body taking their leap to heaven, suffering their members to be scattered abroad in order that they might hold their souls, and, bursting the bars of life, that they might open the gates of heaven. And if any one believes not that death is abolished, that Hades is trodden under foot, that the chains thereof are broken, that the tyrant is bound, let him look on the martyrs disporting themselves in the presence of death, and taking up the jubilant strain of the victory of Christ. O the marvel!

Since the hour when Christ despoiled Hades, men have danced in triumph over death. "O death, where is your sting! O grave, where is your victory? "

Dismissal Hymn for All Saints

Your Church throughout the world, O Christ our God,
is adorned with the blood of Your martyrs
as if with royal purple and fine linen.

Through them she cries out to You:
Send down Your pity upon Your people,
grant peace to Your community,
and shed Your great mercy upon our souls.

Communion Hymn

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous;
praise is becoming from the just. Alleluia.

Compiled by John P. Nasou, M.D.