

## PSALM 93

*A Psalm of David, for the fourth day of the week.*

- 1 God is a vengeful Lord; God boldly asserts His vindictiveness.
- 2 Arise O Judge of the world; render proper payment to the proud.
- 3 How long shall the sinners, O Lord, how long shall they boast?
- 4 Loudly declaring and saying falsehoods; thus speak the workers of iniquity?
- 5 O Lord, they have humbled Thy people, and have ravaged Thine inheritance.
- 6 They have neglected the widows and orphans, and have murdered strangers.
- 7 And they have said, the Lord shall not see, nor shall the God of Jacob dispute it.
  - 8 It behooves you to attend,  
you indifferent ones among the people, and also the foolish -think!
  - 9 He that planted the ear, shall He not hear?  
Or he that formed the eye, shall He not notice?
  - 10 He that chastised the heathen nations - He that  
teaches man knowledge - shall He not admonish?
  - 11 The Lord knows the thoughts of men, that they are vain.
  - 12 Blessed is the man that Thou have warned, O Lord,  
and taught him from Thy law,
  - 13 to ease him from the days of malevolence, until a pit is dug for the evil ones.
  - 14 For the Lord will not deny His people, nor will He abandon His inheritance,
    - 15 until righteousness returns into judgment,  
and thereupon all hearts will be straight.
    - 16 Who will rise up with me against the evildoers?  
Or who will stand up with me against creators of iniquity?
    - 17 Had not the Lord helped me, shortly my soul would have dwelt in Hell.
    - 18 Had I said, "My foot has slipped"; Thy mercy, O Lord, would have helped me.
      - 19 Because of the multitude of grief within my heart,  
Thy consolation has brought gladness to my soul.
      - 20 Let not the lawless ones approach your throne,  
those who frame troubles out of orderliness.
      - 21 Who pursue the soul of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood.
      - 22 But the Lord became my refuge, and my God the helper of my hope.
      - 23 And the Lord shall give them their just desserts for their iniquity,  
and according to their wickedness,  
the Lord God shall make them vanish from sight.

*Glory. Both now. Alleluia.*

This psalm is of the 13th Kathisma. Except when this Kathisma is read, there is no place in our worship for this psalm.

## SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL Ἁγίας Σοφίας τοῦ Θεοῦ

Washington, D.C.

November 29, 2009

The Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

The Tone for this day is Plagal Four

The Morning Gospel of the Orthros is No. Three

Mark 16:9-20

Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen

## Twenty-fifth Sunday following Pentecost

**PROKEIMENON:** Make your vows to the Lord our God, and perform them.  
God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel. Psalm 75: 11 + 1

### The Reading is from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 4:1-7

BRETHREN, I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

### The Gospel is from Luke 18:18-27

AT THAT TIME a ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Compiled by John P. Nasou, M.D.

## Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

### Meditations on Today's Scriptures



#### EPISTLE

Paul urges those who hear his words to follow their calling by God with the virtues characteristic of all Christians. We must do this in the bond of peace and humility. He declares that the Holy Trinity is one and we receive God's grace "according to the measure of Christ's gift" which is immeasurable.



#### GOSPEL

Jesus is very lenient to this man and applies to him only the demands of the 10 Commandments. But He adds "Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor." When asked later who could be saved under this commandment. The answer Jesus gives them says in effect: its none of their business because God has his own rules for the salvation of those who make a reasonable effort. In St. John Chrysostom's homily on this chapter of Luke, he teaches that Christ always tests us with what is most difficult for us to do. If what is needed to achieve salvation is easily accomplished, then there is no test of true repentance and sincerity. This is repeatedly stressed in the words of our Lord. The simile of the camel going through the eye of a needle is very appropriate in this setting and does not need any rationalization to get the point across.

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*Today We Commemorate St. Philomenos who was martyred in the 3rd century.*

Philomenos was a native of Lycaonia. He was a baker and furnished bread to Galatia. Accused before the Governor of Ancyra, he confessed his faith. To torture him, his hands and feet were bound with iron chains. Then he was suspended and his body was torn open with a sword. Then, he was taken down and placed into a red-hot furnace. Preserved from all these tortures by Christ's power, he was bound, and dragged through the town until he died.