

October 18, 2020: The 20th Sunday after Pentecost (The raising of the son of the widow of Nain)

Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19:

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16



Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

Two large crowds came face to face near the gate of the city of Nain: one that was following our Lord Jesus Christ, eager to hear His divine words and to receive His healing power, and the other, compassionately following a distraught widow, on the way to bury her *only son*.

In other words, the Son of God, the giver of life came face to face with Death, the taker of life. Having compassion on this poor woman, the Savior says: *“Do not weep.”* Then, to prove one more time to those who refused to believe that He is indeed the Son of God, *He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.*

This is one of only three miracles performed by Christ upon the dead. The other two are the raising of the daughter of Jairus and the raising from the dead (after four days) of Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary. By performing these type of miracles, Christ shows that death doesn't have the last word when it comes to man's existence. The Master of life and death is God, who gives life and who sent His only begotten Son into the world to liberate man from the grasp of death and offer him the chance to inherit eternal life. The eyewitnesses of this miracle understood this when they said: *“God has visited His people.”*

It is now our turn to believe in the infinite power of Christ our Savior who voluntarily tasted and defeated death in order for us to make us partakers of life eternal!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, which limits the number of people attending Church services, we are asking our members to make sure that, for time being, only 1 (one) person from each family attend our Sunday Divine Liturgy.

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: washing their hands, social distancing, etc.

Thank you all and may God keep us safe!

Live-Streaming the Liturgy

Due to some technical problems, last Sunday live-streaming the Liturgy was not possible.

We apologize and ask you to tune in again.

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations for the rest of the year.

We also encourage you to renew your financial pledge and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!