

Nov. 8, 2020: The 24th Sunday after Pentecost (The raising from the dead of the Jairus' daughter)

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22:

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56:



And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched

Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.” But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.” When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

A few weeks ago, the gospel reading of the 20th Sunday after the Pentecost, related to us the raising from the dead of the widow's son from Nain. Based on all four gospel accounts, our Lord Jesus Christ performed only three miracles upon those who had departed this life. The third one was the raising of Lazarus, the brother of Maria and Martha.

Given the major impact of such a miracle upon the eyewitnesses (and not only), we can justly state that the limited number of raisings from the dead was due to the fact that Christ did not want people to believe in Him (God) out of fear, but out of their free will and conviction.

For a ruler of the synagogue (Jairus) to make such a public display of humility and faith (*"and he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying"*) was not only extraordinary but down right dangerous. By so doing, he put his job and his social position on the line.

On the way to Jairus' house, Jesus performed another miracle upon a woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years and whom no physician could help. What's interesting about this, is the fact that Christ explains how a miracle actually takes place: *“Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”* This "power" going out of Him is what we call the uncreated energy of Christ God in response to one's faith. Although many people would touch Him (*"Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”*), the woman's touch was motivated by her firm belief in the healing power of Christ: *“Somebody touched Me.”* The emphasis is not on "somebody," but on "touched." This wasn't an accidental or uninterested touch, but an intentional, emotional and faith motivated touch.

Both these miracles, as well as all others related in the Gospels are Messianic signs and proof of the Lord's divinity, manifested upon the people with compassion and infinite love.

Fr. George Bazgan

Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel



Troparion:

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high!"

Kontakion:

Chief Commanders of God; ministers of divine glory; guides for men and leadership of the Incorporeal; as Chief Commanders of the Incorporeal, plead for our welfare and for great mercy.

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!

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!