



# The Forerunner

Weekly Parish Bulletin

Sunday, October 31, 2021

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE**

*St. Amplias, Apelles, Stachys, Urban,  
Aristobulus & Narcissus of the 70*



## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

(Tone 2)

When You descended to death, O life immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your God-Head! And when from the depths, You raised the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O giver of life, Christ our God, Glory to You!

## APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

(Tone 4)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom; for by it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know you the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to You.

## ORDINARY KONTAKION

(Tone 2)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the cry of us sinner, but in Your goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith; Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for You ever protect those who honour You.

## PROKEIMENON

*“The Lord is my strength and my song.  
The Lord has chastened me severely”*

(Ps. 117:14,18)

## THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

(2Cor. 11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is blessed for evermore, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under Arétas the king guarded the city of the Damascenes, willing to seize me, and through a window I was let down in a basket by the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast, though it is not expedient; but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows—who was caught up to the third heaven. And I know that this man—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which no person is allowed to utter. On behalf of this one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my infirmities. For if I would desire to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall speak the truth. But I refrain from it, lest anyone should think of me above that which he sees me to be, or hears from me. And to keep me from being exalted above measure through the abundance of revelations, I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to buffet me, to keep me from being exalted above measure.

For this thing I beseeched the Lord three times, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Most gladly therefore will I rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## **THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE**

(Luk. 16:19-31)

The Lord said, “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they

will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST**

*By: Fr. Michael Gillis*

### **“The Problem with Plumbing”**

*Does a spring pour forth from the same opening  
freshwater and brackish water? (James 3:11)*

Can you imagine what it would be like to live your whole life in a world where water had to be drawn by hand fifty to a hundred metres from your home and carried into your house? All the water you use in a day, for cooking, drinking, bathing and cleaning, all of it had to be carried in a bucket from the well into the house. And, of course, this would be cold, or at least cool water. If you wanted warm water, you had to make a fire and heat the water. (By the way, there are still many people in the world who live this way.) Of course you may have experienced such a thing as a hot spring, so you knew that there were some places where the water came out of the ground hot--hot and often undrinkable.

This is the world St. James lived in when he wrote his epistle, and so everyone understood his metaphor: one spring did not produce both fresh and brackish water; so, St. James reasons, one person’s mouth should not pour forth both blessing and cursing.

But now imagine if St. James were translated 2000 years forward and found himself in a modern house. In this house he would find a spring, or tap (many taps), that produced both cold and hot water. And for St. James, knowing nothing about plumbing, it would be an

inexplicable miracle. How could this be? How can both cold and hot water come from the same spring?

When we read the bible, we experience something similar to what I think St. James would experience if he were to be transported from his world into ours. We experience this when we read in the bible of God's justice and wrath, and of God's mercy and love--often in the same passage! We read that God is Truth, and of God sending delusion, "strong delusion so that they will believe a lie" (2 Thes. 2:11). We read of human free will and of divine predestination. Jesus says both, "Whosoever wills" and "You did not choose me, but I chose you." How can this be? How can both be true at the same time? How can both cold and hot water come from the same tap?

Because we understand modern plumbing (at least a little bit), we know that it's what's behind the wall that makes this possible. Similarly, the spiritual realities that are revealed to us in the bible and through our life experience, while they often seem contradictory to us, would make perfect sense if we could only see behind the wall, behind the wall created by a logic trained by our five senses, a logic formed by the assumptions and experiences of merely physical reality.

But maybe this is why contradictions are so necessary. The very paradoxes and non sequiturs of life lead us to conclude that there must be something more, Someone more. This

is probably why the bible and Orthodox theology generally do not attempt to resolve the tension, the contradictions, the incongruity, the paradox. It is in the space between the yes and the no, between judgement and mercy, between knowing and not knowing that we actually come to know not the what or how behind the wall of eternity, but the Who!

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to announce something on The Forerunner, please e-mail Elias Neto at [neto.elias@aol.com](mailto:neto.elias@aol.com) by Thursday

- Fraser Valley Orthodox Youth Group every Thursday, 7:00 pm. Address: 2051 Windsor Street, Abbotsford. For questions, contact: [fraservalleyorthodoxyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fraservalleyorthodoxyouth@gmail.com)  
Masks are mandatory for those attending.
- This week (October 31 to November 6) will be a regular week with Matins (9:00 am) and Liturgy (10:00 am) on Saturday and Sunday. Please remember that we ask the congregation to wear masks to the Saturday services. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings we will serve daily Matins at 7:00 am. Wednesday (7:00 pm) and Saturday (6:00 pm) we will serve Vespers with time for confession afterwards.

For pastoral care, please contact:

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This Bulletin is a publication of:

HOLY NATIVITY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
4828 216A Street, Langley, BC V3A 2N5  
*Thank you for your presence today!*

## PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

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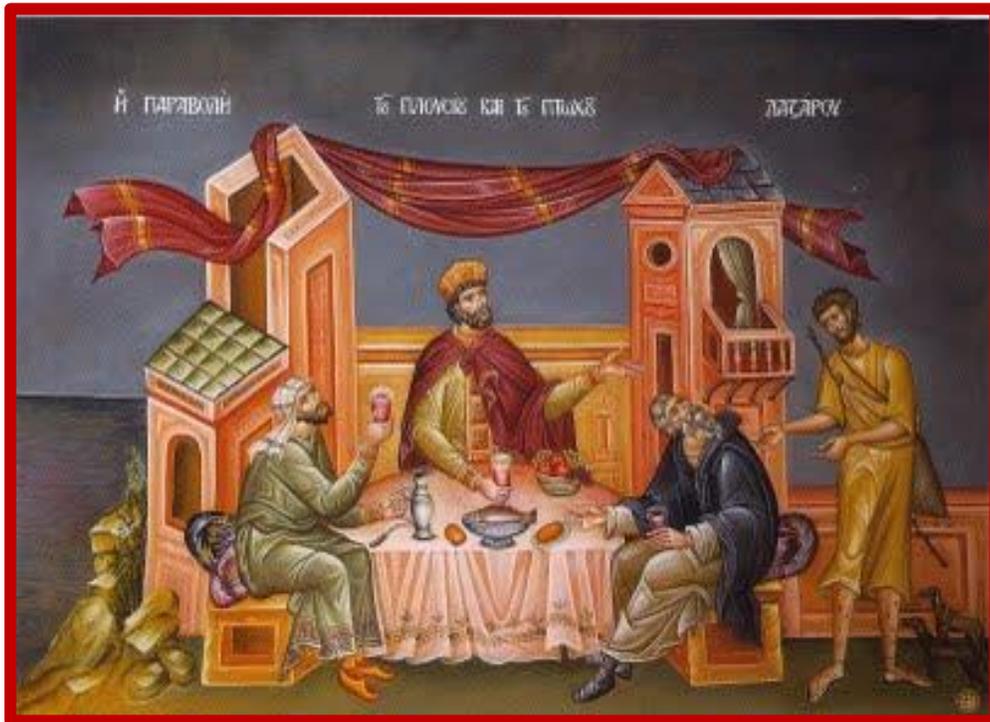
## PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING

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Icon: The rich man's supper and the suffering of Lazarus

**Readings for the Week:** **Mon.** 1Cor. 12:27-31; 13:1-8. Mt. 10:1, 5-8; **Tue.** Php. 2:16-23. Luk. 11:34-41; **Wed.** Php. 2:24-30. Luk. 11:42-46; **Thu.** Php. 3:1-8. Luk. 11:47-54; 12:1; **Fri.** Php. 3:8-19. Luk. 12:2-12; **Sat.** Heb. 8:1-6. Luk. 12:8-12.