



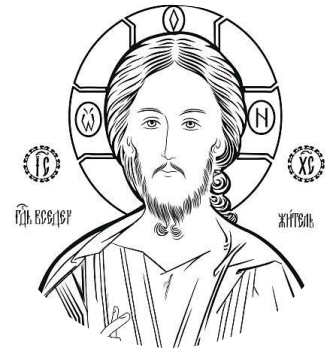
The Forerunner

Weekly Parish Bulletin

Sunday, October 10, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

St. Eulampios and St. Eulampia of Nicomedia (Martyrs)



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

(Tone 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

DOXASTICON FOR St. EULAMPIOS AND ST. EULAMPIA OF NICOMEDIA

(Tone 4)

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

(Tone 4)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, has shone on the world the Light of knowledge; for by it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee the Sun of Righteousness, and to know thee the Day Spring from on high. Wherefore O Lord, glory to thee.



ORDINARY KONTAKION

(Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

PROKEIMENON

*“The Lord will give strength to His people.
Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring
unto the Lord glory and honor”*

(Ps. 29:11;1)

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

(2Cor. 6:1-10)

Brethren, since we are fellow workers, we entreat you also not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, “At an acceptable season I hearkened unto thee, and in a day of salvation I helped thee”; behold, now is “the acceptable season”; behold, now is “the day of salvation”; giving no occasion of stumbling in anything, that the ministry is not blamed, but in everything commending ourselves, as ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in

imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in vigils, in fasts, in purity, in knowledge, in longsuffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

(Luk. 7:11-16)

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died 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. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you: arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

By: Fr. Michael Gillis

"Homily for Thanksgiving"

For Thanksgiving, the archdiocese suggests that we chant "Glory to God for All Things: An Akathist of Thanksgiving." Perhaps after Matins on Monday, October 11, I will chant this

akathist in the Church with whoever is there. However, I am providing you with the link to its location on the archdiocese website so that you can chant it (or read it, or part of it) with your family at home. (On Sunday I will have a few copies at Church in modern English for those who prefer it.)

"Glory to God for all things" were the last words of St. John Chrysostom as he died alongside the road while he was being marched, sick and cold in the winter, into exile (for the second time). The akathist of Thanksgiving was written by a prisoner in a communist gulag thanking God also for all things.

Isn't it strange how much easier it is to thank God when you have almost nothing, than it is when you have much more than you need? I have noticed this in myself. I am very thankful to God when I have a little bread (when I might not have any), but when I have bread going mouldy because I have so many other things to eat, I forget to give thanks. When we have abundance, we have to force ourselves to give thanks, otherwise we won't.

One of the ways we can force ourselves to remember to give thanks is to actively seek ways to give to those in want. St. John Chrysostom said, when asked why God created the world such that a few would be very rich and the majority be very poor, St. John said that it was in order that those in abundance could be saved by giving away their abundance, and so that those who relied on the generosity of others could be saved through thanksgiving. Maybe if we want to feel more thankful, we need to give away more of our abundance.

One of my favourite verses in this akathist hymn is the following:

"No one can put together what has crumbled into dust, but You can restore a conscience

turned to ashes. You can restore to its former beauty a soul lost and without hope. With You, there is nothing that cannot be redeemed. You are love; You are Creator and Redeemer. We praise You, singing: Alleluia!"

The beauty of repentance is that no matter how "crumbled to dust" and "turned to ashes" my soul and conscience have become, God can fix it. God can heal and restore what I have destroyed, what my messy and confused life in this world has destroyed. Repentance isn't me getting my act together. I've tried: it cannot be done. Repentance is bringing the dust and ashes of my life to Him, offering Him all that I have—which is dust and ashes.

God is the One who does the fixing and restoration part. I do the offering part. Of course, this is a process that takes a lifetime, probably more. I'm continually having to be set free from my delusion that there are still a few "pretty good" parts of my life that I can offer to God. Life itself reveals to me again and again that even the parts that seem to me to be "pretty good" are merely dust and ashes too.

It's like the time I hired a builder to rebuild the mantelpiece over our fireplace. He came in and said the whole thing needed to be torn out. I protested a little, and the builder pushed his finger through the beautiful varnish into the rotted wood beneath. I remember thinking, "Why did he do that? He destroyed the beautiful varnish." Like that builder, God is using life to poke holes in my varnish, to reveal that even the parts that look fine to me are also

corrupted to the core.

God loves us so much that he receives us, and receives us with joy, the way we are. But he loves us too much to allow us to stay the way we are.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to announce something on The Forerunner, please e-mail Elias Neto at 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
Please note that due to Health Restrictions, masks are mandatory for those attending.
- This week (October 10 to 16) 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 Matins and Liturgy. 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 afterward.
- Fr. Michael will be away from Monday 10/18 to Friday 10/22. There will be no services at the church during his absence.

For pastoral care, please contact:

The Very Rev. Fr. (Abouna) Michael Gillis

Ph: (604) 512-1013

E-mail: frmichaelg@gmail.com

This Bulletin is a publication of:

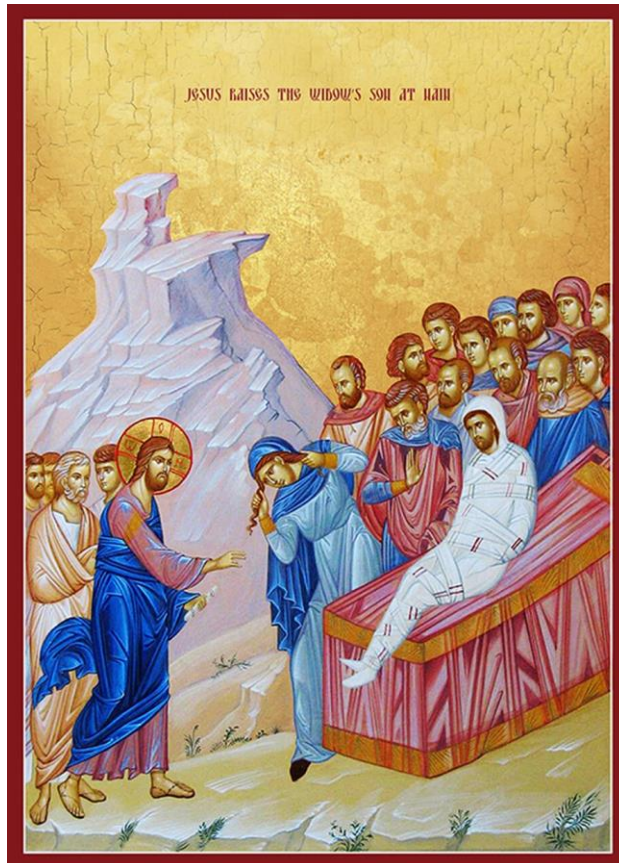
HOLY NATIVITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

4828 216A Street, Langley, BC V3A 2N5

Thank you for your presence today!

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING



Icon: Jesus raises the Widow's Son at Nain.

Readings for the Week: Mon. Act. 8:26-39. Luk. 7:36-50; **Tue.** Eph. 2:19-22; 3:1-7. Luk. 8:1-3; **Wed.** Eph. 3:8-21. Luk. 8:22-25; **Thu.** Eph. 4:14-17. Luk. 9:7-11; **Fri.** Eph. 4:17-25. Luk. 9:12-18; **Sat.** 1 Cor. 14:20-25. Mt. 27:33-54.