

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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Saturday: Vespers at 4:30 PM followed by confession

Sunday: Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

Check out our website @ www.sainteliasny.com

Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Mesopotamia

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother Saint Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, Saint Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.



Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When Saint Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. Saint Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where Saint Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenaries. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fierce-some men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?"

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On November 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Martyrs Galaktion and Episteme of Homs.

Galaktion's mother was barren until she was baptized. After her baptism, she converted her husband to the true Faith. Their son Galaktion was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith. When Galaktion was old enough to marry, his father betrothed him to a pagan-born maiden named Episteme. By no means did Galaktion want to enter into marriage, and convinced Episteme to be baptized, then to be tonsured a nun at the same time that he became a monk. Galaktion withdrew to a monastery and Episteme to a convent. They were first in labor, prayer, humility, obedience, and love. They neither left their monasteries nor did they see one another until just before their deaths. A fierce persecution began and both of them were brought before the tribunal. The pagans mercilessly tortured the pair and beheaded them. Their friend Eutolius took their bodies and honorably buried them. Eutolius had been a slave of Episteme's parents, and then a monk with Galaktion. He wrote the life of these martyrs of Christ who received their heavenly wreaths in 253.

On this day, we also commemorate the Apostles Hermas, Linus, Gaius, Patrobas and Philologos of the Seventy. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ،

خَلِّصْنِي، يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولَسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةَ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، انظُرُوا مَا أَعْظَمَ الْكِتَابَاتِ الَّتِي كَتَبْتُهَا إِلَيْكُمْ بِيَدِي. إِنَّ كُلَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُرْضُوا بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يُلْزِمُونَكُمْ أَنْ تَخْتَنُوا، وَإِنَّمَا ذَلِكَ لِئَلَّا يُضْطَهُدُوا مِنْ أَجْلِ صَلِيبِ الْمَسِيحِ. لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْتَنُونَ

هُمْ أَنْفُسُهُمْ لَا يَحْفَظُونَ النَّامُوسَ بَلْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَخْتَنُوا لِيَفْتَخَرُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ. أَمَّا أَنَا، فَحَاشَى لِي أَنْ أَفْتَحِرَ إِلَّا بِصَلِيبِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِهِ صُلِبَ الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا صُلِبْتُ لِلْعَالَمِ. لِأَنَّهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ

مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ يَتَوَبُونَ. " فَقَالَ لَهُ: "إِنْ لَمْ يَسْمَعُوا مِنْ مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، فَإِنَّهُمْ، وَلَا إِنْ قَامَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ، يُصَدِّقُونَهُ."

THE ELEVENTH EOTHINON DOXASTICON IN TONE EIGHT

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

When Thou didst show Thyself to the Disciples after Thy Resurrection, O Savior, Thou didst appoint Simon to shepherd the sheep, for the renewal of love, asking him to tend the flock. And Thou didst say to him: If thou lovest Me, O Peter, feed My lambs, feed My sheep. But he at once inquired concerning the other Disciple, showing his exceeding love. Wherefore, by the intercession of both, O Christ, keep Thy flock from corrupting wolves.

المَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ

أَيُّهَا الْمُخَلِّصُ، لَمَّا أَظْهَرْتَ نَفْسَكَ لِلتَّلَامِيذِ بَعْدَ الْقِيَامَةِ، أَعْطَيْتَ لِسِمْعَانَ رِعَايَةَ الْأَعْنَامِ، لِتَجْدِيدِ الْمَحَبَّةِ، طَالِبًا مِنْهُ الْإِهْتِمَامَ بِالرَّعِيَّةِ. لِذَلِكَ قُلْتَ لَهُ: إِنْ كُنْتُ تُحِبُّنِي يَا بُطْرُسُ، إِرْعَ حِمْلَانِي إِرْعَ خِرْفَانِي. أَمَّا هُوَ، فَاسْتَخْبَرَ لِلْحَالِ عَنِ التَّلْمِيذِ الْآخَرِ، مُظْهِرًا حُبَّهُ الْمُفْرِطَ. فَبِشَفَاعَاتِهِمَا، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ مِنَ الذُّنَابِ الْمُفْسِدِينَ إِيَّاهَا.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

أَنْتِ هِيَ الْفَائِزَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةُ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءِ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سُبِّبَتْ بِوَأَسْطَةِ الْمُتَجَسِّدِ مِنْكَ، وَادَمَ دُعَى ثَانِيَةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَتَقَتْ، وَالْمَوْتُ أُمِيَتْ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَلِذَلِكَ نُسَبِّحُ هَاتِعِينَ: مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلهُنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

لَيْسَ الْخِتَانُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا الْقَلْفُ بِلِ الْخَلِيقَةِ الْجَدِيدَةِ. وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ يَسْلُكُونَ بِحَسَبِ هَذَا الْقَانُونِ، فَعَلَيْهِمْ سَلَامٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَعَلَى إِسْرَائِيلِ اللَّهِ. فَلَا يَجْلِبُ عَلَيَّ أَحَدٌ أَتْعَابًا فِيمَا بَعْدُ، فَإِنِّي حَامِلٌ فِي جَسَدِي سِمَاتِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ. نِعْمَةٌ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مَعَ رُوحِكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ. آمِينَ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (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.'"

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقُدَيْسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: كَانَ إِنْسَانٌ غَنِيٌّ يَلْبَسُ الْأَرْجُونَ وَالْبَزَّ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ تَتَعْمًا فَاجِرًا. وَكَانَ مَسْكِينٌ اسْمُهُ لِعَازَرُ مَطْرُوحًا عِنْدَ بَابِهِ مُصَابًا بِالْقُرُوحِ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَشَبَعَ مِنَ الْفَقَاتِ الَّذِي يَسْقُطُ مِنْ مَائِدَةِ الْغَنِيِّ. بَلْ كَانَتْ الْكِلَابُ تَأْتِي وَتَلْحَسُ فُرُوحَهُ. ثُمَّ مَاتَ الْمَسْكِينُ، فَنَقَلَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِلَى حِضْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. وَمَاتَ الْغَنِيُّ أَيْضًا، فَدُفِنَ فَرَفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ فِي الْجَحِيمِ وَهُوَ فِي الْعَذَابِ، فَرَأَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ وَلِعَازَرَ فِي حِضْنِهِ. فَنَادَى قَائِلًا: "يَا أَبَتَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ارْحَمْنِي وَأَرْسِلْ لِعَازَرَ لِيُعْمَسَ طَرْفَ إصْبَعِهِ فِي الْمَاءِ وَيُبْرِدَ لِسَانِي، لِأَنِّي مُعَذَّبٌ فِي هَذَا اللَّهيبِ." فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: "تَذَكَّرْ يَا ابْنِي أَنَّكَ نِلْتَ خَيْرَاتِكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ، وَلِعَازَرُ كَذَلِكَ بَلَايَاهُ. وَالآنَ فَهُوَ يَتَعَزَّى وَأَنْتَ تَتَعَذَّبُ. وَعِلَاوَةً عَلَى هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَبَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ قَدْ أُثْبِتَتْ، حَتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، وَلَا الَّذِينَ هُنَا أَنْ يَعْبُرُوا إِلَيْنَا." فَقَالَ: "أَسْأَلُكَ إِذْنًا يَا أَبَتَ أَنْ تُرْسِلَهُ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِي. فَإِنَّ لِي خَمْسَةَ إِخْوَةٍ، حَتَّى يَشْهَدَ لَهُمْ لِكَيَّ لَا يَأْتُوا هُمْ أَيْضًا إِلَى مَوْضِعِ الْعَذَابِ هَذَا." فَقَالَ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: "إِنَّ عِنْدَهُمْ مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءَ، فَلْيَسْمَعُوا مِنْهُمْ." قَالَ: "لَا يَا أَبَتَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، بَلْ إِذَا مَضَى إِلَيْهِمْ وَاحِدٌ