



July 4, 2010

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;
FEAST OF THE HOLY MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - TONE FIVE:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted upon the Cross in the Flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

HOLY MARTYR JULIAN TROPARION - TONE FOUR:

Your Holy Martyr, Julian, O Lord, through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through his intercessions save our souls!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE FIVE:

You did descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to You: O Lord, save us!

HOLY MARTYR JULIAN KONTAKION - TONE TWO:

Let us all praise the honorable Julian today, the unconquerable pious warrior and seeker of truth; to him let us cry out: pray to Christ God for us all!

HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE SIX:

Steadfast Protectress of Christians and constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners; 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 always protect those who honor you!

EPISTLE & COMMENTARY

THE PROKIMENON IN THE 5TH TONE:

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us, from this generation forever!

ROMANS 12: 6-14

Brethren, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

ALLELUIA

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

You have said: Mercy will be established forever, and My truth will be prepared in the heavens.

COMMENTARY

As the Apostle Paul continuously describes in his epistle to the Romans, a believer can only be justified through faith in Christ Jesus. This faith is only truly alive, however, when it is accompanied by good works. St. Paul lists a few of the gifts granted by God through which good works are possible. Each of us, as a unique creation of God, is imbued with certain spiritual gifts. We are all called to be good stewards of these Divine Gifts, utilizing them according to the grace given to us in our baptism. May the Holy Spirit grant us the humility to utilize these Divine Gifts out of Love of God and not for love of the self!



GOSPEL & COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 9: 1-8

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

COMMENTARY

Our Lord Jesus Christ reinforces, in this pericope, that faith is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic's friends helped in his healing. Three signs of Jesus' Divinity are shown here: 1) He knows the secrets of hearts; 2) He forgives sins, a power belonging to God alone; 3) He heals by the power of His word. May Jesus Christ, the Son of God, strengthen our faith as well, so that we too may be healed of our sinfulness!



SPIRITUAL ARTICLES

From The Prologue for Jun. 21/Jul. 4 by St. Nikolai Velimirovic:

The Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus

Julian was of noble and senatorial origin. He lived in Tarsus in Cilicia and suffered during the reign of Diocletian. Even though he was only eighteen years of age when he was subjected to torture for the Faith, St. Julian was sufficiently educated and strengthened in Christian piety. The imperial deputy led him from town to town for an entire year, torturing him and all the while trying to persuade him to deny Christ. Julian's mother followed her son at a distance. When the deputy seized Julian's mother and sent her to counsel her son to deny Christ, she spoke to him for three days in prison, giving him the opposite advice,

teaching him and encouraging him not to lose heart but to go to his death with thanksgiving and courage. The torturers then sewed Julian in a sack with sand, scorpions and serpents and cast the sack into the sea, and Julian's mother also died under torture. His relics were thrown onto the shore by the waves, and the faithful translated them to Alexandria and buried them honorably in the year 290. St. Julian's relics were later translated to Antioch. St. John Chrysostom himself delivered a eulogy on the holy martyr Julian. "From the mouth of the martyr," Chrysostom said, "proceeded a holy voice, and together with the voice a light emanated brighter than the rays of the sun." Further, he added: "Take anyone, be it a madman or one possessed, and bring him to the grave of this saint, where the relics of the martyr repose, and you will see how he (the demon) without fail will leap out and flee as from a burning fire." It is obvious from these words how numerous must have been the miracles that had taken place at the grave of St. Julian.

The Venerable Julius and Julian

Julius and Julian were brothers from the Greek province of Mirmidonia. From childhood they were reared in Christianity with the vow that they would always live in chastity and serve the Church. Julius was a presbyter and Julian a deacon. They received a decree from Emperor Theodosius the Younger to destroy pagan temples and build Christian churches throughout the empire. Like two apostles, these two brothers converted non-Christians into Christians in the East and the West and built churches. They built more than a hundred churches during their lifetime. They reposed peacefully in the Lord near Milan. The inhabitants of Milan invoke the help of St. Julius against wolves.

The Holy Martyr Archil II, King of Georgia

Archil was the son of King Stephen and the grandson of the great Georgian King Wachtang. King Archil, a great Christian and a defender of Christianity, was tortured by the Moslems and beheaded for Christ on March 20, 744. He was eighty years old when he suffered for the Lord and took up his habitation in blessed eternity.

The Holy Martyr Luarsab II, King of Kartli in Georgia

Luarsab's father, George X, suffered for the Faith and was poisoned by a Persian Shah. Luarsab, however, was cast into prison near Shiraz, where he languished for seven years. Then, by order of Shah Abbas I, he was hanged in prison with two of his servants on June 21, 1622. A heavenly light was seen over his grave.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Saints Julius and Julian

When Julius and his brother Julian
Had built their ninety-ninth church
To the Most-high God,
Julian constructed a tomb
For his brother, the holy Julius.
And when he showed his brother the grave,
Julius meekly said to him:
"Prepare yourself, my brother in the flesh.
This grave was built for you.

Prepare yourself to go to God
Before your brother, the sinful Julius.”
And God designated Julius
To build yet a hundredth church
On a certain isolated island.
As the most glorious Julius said, so it happened.
The younger brother reposed before the older brother,
And the older brother added the hundredth church.
And when he built the hundredth on the island,
Then he also took up his habitation in eternity.

REFLECTION

When a man begins to train himself in keeping silent, silence seems to him to be lesser than speech; but when he is trained in silence, then he knows that speech is lesser than silence. A monk said to St. Sisoies: “I would like to preserve my heart but I cannot.” The elder responded: “How can we preserve the heart when the gate to our heart—the tongue—stands open?” Charillos, the nephew of Lycurgus, was once asked why his uncle issued so few laws. He replied: “For those who speak little, many laws are not needed.”

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Residents of Heaven – An Exhibit of Byzantine and Modern Orthodox Icons

with *V. Rev. Stamatis Skliris, Iconographer*
at the “*David Allan Hubbard Library, Fuller Theological Seminary*”
135 N. Oakland Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101
June 10 – July 5, 2010

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14th ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAYS GATHERING
Saint Sava Mission
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September 3-5, 2010

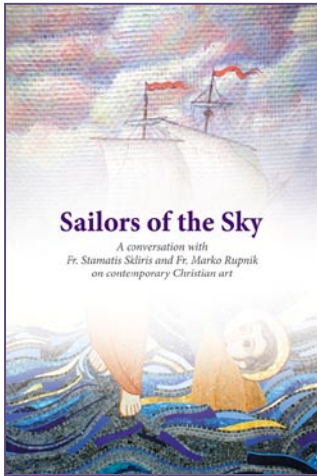
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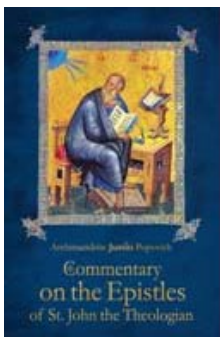
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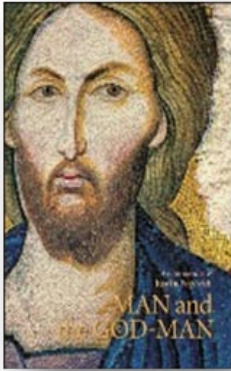
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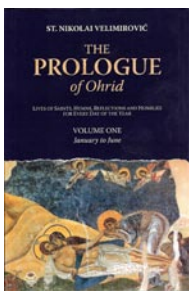


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