

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

Exodus 40:28-29

"Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's glory. But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it." (OSB)

The end of the book of Exodus is in many ways the *crescendo* of the Pentateuch! It is here that the Israelites get a true taste of the goal of all God's creative and saving work: *Immanuel*, "God with us." It is only a *taste* because Israel must still undertake the journey to the Promised Land (and then its conquest and apportioning), and even more, to Zion where God has chosen to set His Name and where a *permanent* structure, the Temple, will be constructed as God's dwelling.

Yet the central point of the Scriptural revelation must not escape us, that God desires to *dwell with, among, and in His people*. This has been apparent since the Garden of Eden, and indeed we can see here the beginning of a reversal of humanity's banishment from Eden—Israel as God's new humanity has been restored, in *some* measure, to communion with God, sharing in *some* measure in God's glory. And this is an effect of God's grace, mercy, and loving-kindness toward His people, as God's relationship with Israel is based on His unmerited forgiveness after their "fall" in the Golden Calf episode.

As we have indicated in previous reflections, the Tabernacle is a type and shadow of Christ Himself, showing in outline God's plan to *tabernacle* among His people and His creation and to reveal His glory in the person of His Incarnate Son (Jn 1:14-18). And then, through the Incarnation, to form a new people for Himself, the Church, who become the living stones of the eternal, spiritual Temple which God indwells by His Spirit (1 Pet 2:5; 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:18-20; Eph 2:19-22).

It is interesting, then, that Moses is not able to enter into the cloud of the Shekinah Glory that fills the Tabernacle—the Cloud being a very tangible ("incarnate") manifestation of God's presence. Moses has already encountered God—Christ Himself—in the Burning Bush, and on Sinai in the "hole of the Rock," and in his comings and goings from the "tabernacle of testimony." Yet here he must remain outside. Perhaps St. Paul gives us the reason when he says that the way into the Tabernacle of Christ's Body was not yet revealed while the earthly Tabernacle was still standing, and because the Old Covenant saints are not made perfect apart from us, the New Covenant Church (Heb 9:8; 11:39-40). Moses is not able to enter into the Shekinah Glory, not because he is unsaintly, but to show that Christ and the New Covenant Church are the true goal of all of God's economy of salvation.

We are not surprised as Orthodox Christians, given our loving veneration of the Theotokos, who is our Mother and symbol of the Church, that the Evangelist Luke sees in Mary's bearing of Christ the fulfillment of the Shekinah Glory:

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." (Lk 1:35)

Mary's womb is the New Tabernacle, *overshadowed* by the Holy Spirit, and filled with Christ Himself, God's Glory, at which time "our nature regained its unbroken character, becoming immortal through the letters written by his finger" (St. Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Moses* 2.216). Luke's account of the Transfiguration of Christ is linked to this as well by the catchword, "overshadow":

While [Peter] was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Luk 9:34-35)

A New Sinai (cf. Exod 24:15-16) and a New Tabernacle, Christ Himself. May we follow the Apostolic example and enter the Cloud with faith, love, and fear!



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

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His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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May 26, 2019
SUNDAY OF THE
SAMARITAN WOMAN



CHRIST IS
RISEN!

Tone 4

Eothion 7: St. John 20:1-10

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: St. John 4:5-42

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the Apostles, saying, "Death hath been spoiled! Christ-God is risen, granting to the world the great mercy!"

TROPARION FOR MID-PENTECOST - Tone 8 - In the midst of this Feast, O Saviour, give thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for thou didst call out to all, saying, Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to thee.

TODAY: Orthros, 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy, 10 am
Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Teens after Liturgy

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (June 2):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	MaryLynne B.	Anonymous
EPISTLE READER:	Jennifer Howanetz	Rdr. Nathan
USHERS:	Dan M. & Justin G.	Justin G. & Peter C.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Marcia Ibrahim <small>Marcia's 65th Birthday</small>	----
GREETERS:	Nick & Martha M.	Colin & Sandy M.
CLEANING TEAM:	Kim B.; Todd & Kristi M.	Teens & Nathan, Rebecca
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Donation—Camp Scholarship

* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

Mark Your Calendar:

Ascension
Thursday, June 6

Holy Bread Baking Workshop
Saturday, June 8, 9 am

Pentecost
Sunday, June 16, Kneeling Prayers, 1 pm

Apostles' Fast
June 24-29

Vacation Church School
July 29—August 2

Dormition Fast - August 1-14
Daily Paraklesis
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4pm

Liturgy w/ Youth Choir
Sunday, August 4

Transfiguration
August 5-6

International Food Festival
September 20-21

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Nikon	Demetra
Bp Alexander	
Fr. Julian	
Daniella-Gabriella	
Lawrence	
John	
Child Gregory & family	
Lasha B	
Otari B	<u>Catechumens</u>
Daniel H	Zachary, Evan,
Veronica	Tina, Robert, &
Maria & William	Michael
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Andrea Jeremy Michael

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Skin Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "Disregard"
Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

The Doors! The Doors!

Starting this month, the south entrance doors to the Great Room will be locked by the Ushers at 10 am. This is to provide more security to the great room and classrooms.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on May 18: 47 Divine Services on May 19: 201
OFFERINGS: To be reported next week.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

SPECIAL APPEAL for VCS

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

This Week:

- Monday, May 27:** **MEMORIAL DAY**
Outdoor Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. (at Cemetery)
Trisagion at Cemetery – Weather Permitting
Cookout & Farewell to Kh. Vera
- Tuesday, May 28:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Wednesday, May 29:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
COMPLINE & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 30:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, May 31:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Saturday, June 1:** **VESPERS at 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.**
- Sunday, June 2:** **SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Teens, & Coffee Hour.
Women of St. Mariamne, 12 p.m.

Ministry Highlights

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10)

"Youth Ministry" (Teen SOYO)

The purpose of the Youth Ministry (Teen SOYO) at St. Philip is to fully integrate each teen into the life of the Church so that a profound and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ within His Holy Church can be realized. The committed and faithful group of adults who form our Youth Ministry Team work together to support the parents and families who shape the lives of our teens, providing a safe and nurturing environment for spiritual formation, service and fellowship. The Youth Ministry of St. Philip is a member of Teen SOYO - The Youth Movement of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The Youth Ministry Team is Ben and Holly Daniel, Nathan and Rebecca Jekel, Ken and Leeanna Gula.

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)