Fifth Sunday of Great Lent—The Judge

1: Today’s Scripture Reading, 31st March 2019 Bulletin 13/2019

PENTECOSTAL MARKS THE PHASE OF GREAT LENT 3:1-4:9

The Judge

And when judgment is given, which is the beginning of the end, and they have committed the last to God, He will render to every man according to his works;

For we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. For it is written, “As a man acts, so will he receive.”

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The Epistle of St Paul to the Philippians 3:1-4:9; Righteousness through Faith

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not irksome, but for you it is safe.

Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the concision: for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh: though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh: if any other man thinketh to have confidence in the flesh, I yet more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; as touching zeal, persecuting the church; as touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless.

Knowing Christ is Above All

Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death; if by any means I may attain unto the resurrection from the dead.

Press on Toward the Goal

Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you: only, whereunto we have attained, by that same rule let us walk.

Citizenship in Heaven

Brethren, be ye imitators together of me, and mark them that so walk even as ye have us for an ensample. For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is perdition, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself.

Stand Firm in the Lord

Wherefore, my brethren beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my beloved.

I exhort Euodia, and I exhort Syntyche, to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yea, I beseech thee also, true yokefellow, help these women, for they laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
Think on These Things

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Jesus teaching the twelve

Jesus teaching the twelve
The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 17:20-18:14

The Coming of the Kingdom of God

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say,‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. People will tell you,’There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.

“Where, Lord?” they asked.

He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’

And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’”
Commemoration of the forty Holy Martyrs

The Forty Holy Martyrs martyred in approximately 320 AD were Christians from various towns and cities of Lesser Armenia. They served as soldiers in the royal regiment of Sebastia. Upon the decree of Roman Emperor Likianos, interrogations were organized by Lucias, Duke of Caesarea, to reveal the Christian soldiers. Forty of the soldiers remain steadfast in their faith, defy the judges by their brave answers, and are imprisoned. One cold winter night the soldiers are thrown into a lake near Sebastia, to freeze them to death. Only one of the forty soldiers, being unable to endure the tortures, comes out of the water, and tries to find salvation in a bathhouse built on the bank. The lone soldier dies and becomes deprived of both earthly and heavenly life.

At dawn, halos are seen encircling the heads of the soldiers. One of the guards charged with the execution of the forty, witnessing the holy phenomenon accepts Christ and throws himself into the lake to be martyred along with the others. In the morning it becomes apparent that through a divine miracle, the forty soldiers have been saved from freezing. This infuriates their captors who execute them and thus, they become martyrs. The martyrs’ remains are buried in Sebastia, where subsequently a Forty-domed Cathedral is built. The Cathedral of Sebastia stood for nearly one thousand years until the invasion of Tamerlane and the Mongols at the end of the 14th Century. The name of the “Forty Martyrs Cathedral” has survived to this day.

Sunday of the Judge

The fifth Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Judge. The message of the day teaches us with the parable of the widow and the Judge. This parable comes to us in the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 18:1-8). The parable tells the story of a widow who repeatedly came to a judge, who neither feared God nor respected man, and pled for her rights. For a long period of time the judge refused to act, but in the end, he fulfilled her request, to put an end to her continuous appeals. Otherwise, he feared that she would continue to return indefinitely.

After telling this parable, the Lord assures everyone, that if a man as corrupt and unfair as this judge decided in favor of the widow, then God surely would judge in favor of his own people and grant the requests of all those who submit to Him through prayer. This parable exhorts us to always and continually pray, as prayer symbolizes the soul’s eternal striving and thirst for God. The parable also contains an appeal from Christ. After telling the parable, Christ says: “But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when He comes?” In His words, Jesus gives a reference to the Second Coming, and sadness and anguish are felt in the Lord’s remark. It is truly painful for the Savior that many people may be subject to just, yet cruel judgment, instead of becoming the inheritors of the Kingdom of God.
Քրիստոս ճանաչում է մեզ, իսկ մե՞նք

Տեր Համբարձում

«Նա իր ոչխարներին անուններով է կանչում և նրանց դուրս է հանում» (Հով 10:3)։

Քրիստոս մեզ մեր անուններով է կանչում որովհետև անձնապես ճանչնաչում է մեզ։ 

Անունը իմանալը պատկերացում է այն սերտ մտերմության, որ գոյություն ունի Աստծո և իր զավակների միջև։

Երբ Քրիստոս հայտարարում է, որ մեզ մեր անուններով է ճանչում, խորքի մեջ ցանկանում է ցույց տալ մեզ, և մանավանդ վստահություն ներշնչել, որ մենք ի՛րենն ենք, իր բարեկամներն ենք, իր սեփականությունն ենք, իր պաշտպանության առարկաներն ենք։

Այսօր աշխարհում յուրաքանչյուր մարդ իր անձնագիրն ունի, որի միջոցով ճանաչվում իր երկրի կառավարության կողմից։ Քրիստոսի համար սակայն, մենք թիվ ու թվանշան չենք։ Քրիստոսի համար մեք անուն ունեցող ա՛նձ ենք, ապրող և իրական անձ, սիրելի ու կարեւոր անձ։ Քրիստոսի համար մեք իր Արյան գինն ենք, և ուստի՝ այսօրից ավելի՛ կարեւոր, հրեշտակներից ավելի՛ թանկարժեք։

Աստծո խոսքը ուղղված Եսայի մարգարեին, ուղղված է նաեւ մեզանից յուրաքանչյուրին.

«Մի՛վախցիր, քանզի ես քեզ փրկեցի, քեզ քո անունով կանչեցի. դու իմս ես» (Ես 43; 1)։ Մեկ անգամ, որ Աստված փրկեց մեզ, մենք դարձանք իր բաժինը և ժառանգության։ Աստված չի կարող «դու իմն ես» ասել ոեւէ մարդու որ Քրիստոսով հաշտված չէ իր հետ։ Մեղքը մեզ օտարական դարձրեց մեր Երկնավոր Հորից։ Քրիստոս եկավ և վերստին ընդունեց մեզ։ Մենք այլեւս օտար չենք իրեն համար։

Աստծո և մեր միջև կա՛ անկեղծություն, կա՛ հարազատություն, կա՛ ջերմ սեր, կա՛ խոր կապվածություն, կա՛ իրար նայելու և իրարով կշտանալու անզսպելի ցանկություն։ Նա մեզ ընդնել է իր սրտի մեջ, իր սիրո մեջ, իր ծրագիրի մեջ, իր արքայության մեջ։ Մենք խորթ չե՛նք իր համար։ Մենք ծանո՛թ ենք իրեն։ Մենք արժե՛ք ենք իր համար։

Մենք իր ուրախության և ցնցութեան առարկաներն ենք։ Մենք իր հբարտության ու պարծանքի անօթներն ենք։

Մենք այս բոլորը եղանք Քրիստոսով և Քրիստոսի համար, որովհետև ընդունեցինք մեր օտարական լինելը և դիմեցինք Քրիստոսին՝ մեր գթառատ Հովվին, մեր հոգիների Տեսուչին, և Նրանից խնդրեցինք ապաստան և պաշտպանություն, փրկություն և հաշտություն։

Thank you

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Council would like to extend its gratitude to all members of our community who attended and supported the Michink luncheon. A special thank you to our Ladies Guild for their hard work in preparing delightful and tasty offer of Armenian Lent dishes for the occasion.

In addition this week Lenten food for The Services of the Hour of Peace and the Hour of Rest was prepared by St Yeghiche Armenian Church’s Ladies Guild. We thank them for all their time and effort.
This: Հոգեհանգիստ - Memorial Service

Repose of the soul service at St Yeghiche Armenian Church is requested:

By Armenian Community of United Kingdom would like to commemorate and pray for the souls of April War Heroes, where nearly 100 Armenian Soldiers and Civilians perished over four days in April 2016.

By the Armenian Church In United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland for the soul of Louise Manoogian Simone on the 40th day of her passing.

May the Lord rest the souls of the deceased members of our community in peace and console their loved ones with the comforting power of His Holy Spirit.

Please Pray For Our Sick: Please notify the Pastor whenever you know of anyone who is sick, whether at home or in the hospital. Let us pray for one another.

Rev Fr Nshan Alaverdyan is available to visit parishioners in the hospital, nursing homes, or home visitations. He is also available to conduct Home Blessings, administering Holy Communions, consultations and other sacramental needs. Please call the church office at 020 7373 8133 or Fr Nshan at 07548 777 147.

ENQUIRIES:

For ecclesiastical/parish matters including requests for Christenings, Home Blessing (Dnorhnek), Donations in Lieu of Flowers, arrangements for Marriages and other church administrative matters please contact Mr Viken Haladjian, phone: 07970 146 280 or 020 7373 8133 or by emailing info@styeghiche.org.uk

Alternatively please approach a member of the Parish Council at church every Sunday after Badarak.

Requiem Service (Hokehankisd)

For Requiem Service (Hokehankisd), please call the church office at 020 7373 8133, or e-mail us your request to info@styeghiche.org.uk by Thursday, in order to include the name(s) of your beloved one(s) in the Sunday bulletin. There is no set monetary amount for requesting Hokehankisd; any amount donated is appropriate and appreciated. Please remember our Church in your prayers. Your kind donations are gratefully accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Council would like to invite members of the Armenian community to become registered members and take part in Parish activities. Become a dues paying member and let your voice be heard, be eligible to vote and be elected to one of Parish offices. Please contact a member of the Parish Council at the side entrance desk of the Church or visit our website www.styeghiche.org.uk

St Yeghiche Parish Council appeals to all members for prompt payment of their annual membership dues and generous donations, thus saving your parish administrative and postage costs.

Please hand in your membership dues and donations to the members of the Parish Council at the side entrance desk of the Church. Alternatively please post your cheque to: St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish (Ltd Account) at: HSBC, Acc.no: 42674432, Sort code: 40-02-26, IBAN: GB13 HBUK 40022642674432, BIC: HBUKGB4106F

St Yeghiche Armenian Church is a Registered Charity, Reg No 1173403. Please complete a Gift Aid Form with your donation. Forms are available from Parish Council.