

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
1201 Hathaway Lane NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5720**

Phone: 763-574-1001

web site: <http://www.resurrectionskete.org/>

email: rusmnch@msn.com

**Sunday, 11 June, 2023
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30 AM
Confessions 8:45-9:15 AM**

**Sunday of All Saints
Нед. Всех Святых**

**Monday 12 June: Beginning of Sts.
Peter & Paul Fast**



Святая Церковь *всякий день* творит память Святых. Но так как были угодники Божии, безвестно подвизавшиеся, не явленные Церкви, то, чтобы не оставить их без чествования, св. Церковь установила день, в который прославляет всех от века угодивших Богу, чтобы никого не было не прославляемого ею. Творить же это тотчас после сошествия Святого Духа узаконила она потому, что все святые соделались и соделываются святыми благодатию Святого Духа. Благодать Святого Духа приносит покаяние и оставление грехов, она же вводит в борьбу со страстями и похотями и

венчает этот подвиг чистотою и бесстрашием. И таким образом является новая тварь, годная для нового неба и новой земли. Поревнуем же и мы идти вслед святых Божиих. Как это делать – учит нынешнее Евангелие: оно требует не боязненного исповедания веры и Господа, преимущественной любви к Нему, поднятия креста самоотвержения и сердечного от всего отрешения. Положим же начало по этому указанию. Сегодняшнее Евангелие в немногих словах дает ключ к этой тайне. Церковь напоминает два изречения Господа Иисуса Христа: "всякого, кто исповедает Меня пред людьми, того исповедаю и Я пред Отцем Моим Небесным; а кто отречется от Меня пред людьми, отрекусь от того и Я пред Отцем Моим Небесным". И другое: "Кто любит отца или мать более, нежели Меня, не достоин Меня; и кто любит сына или дочь более, нежели Меня, не достоин Меня". Вот, собственно, и вся тайна.

И суд святых только в том, что будет Христос; будут они, которые выбрали Его и последовали за Ним в Его унижении. И будут те, которые не выбрали, погнушались, постыдились, побоялись. А Он – вот, с Отцом Небесным, со Святым Духом, со святыми Ангелами. Весь слава, весь могущество, весь любовь. Весь такой, каким, собственно, и был всегда. Вот и весь суд.

Но, слава долготерпеливому Богу, еще есть для нас время для покаяния. Святые уже выбрали, а мы еще колеблемся. Святые уже дошли, а мы еще идем. Святые уже восстали совершенным восстанием, а мы еще падаем и встаем, встаем и снова падаем...

Но, "имея вокруг себя такое облако свидетелей, ... с терпением будем проходить подлежащее нам поприще".



Last Sunday we celebrated the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of Christ's Church on earth, while today we celebrate the fruits of this grace-filled Church – the Sunday of All Saints, who provide us with an extraordinary example of how to live rightly on earth, in order to attain the Kingdom of Heaven. All the saints who are commemorated today followed the way of Christ, and all of them – in their own time and in their own circumstances of life – fulfilled God's commandment of love for God and one's brethren. And often their times were quite difficult, sometimes even more difficult than ours, and often the circumstances of their lives were spiritually more dangerous and physically worse than ours.

Just think, dear brethren: all these saints were people like ourselves. And all of them were different people, just as we are different. And their paths were different. But they all had three features in common. These features are defined for us in today's Gospel. They are necessary for everyone, which means for us too, and it is impossible to bypass them.

This is the first feature. "*Whosoever, therefore, shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father who is in heaven.*" It is as though the whole world around us is asking us, pressuring us: "Are you a Christian, or are you one of us, of the world?" And we cannot leave this question without an answer. Thus with our words, our actions, our thoughts, and our feelings we must reply loudly and firmly: "Yes, I am a Christian!"

The second feature is: "*Whosoever loves his father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me.*" Even now the Lord demands this absolute love from us, to love Him above everyone and above everything. And when we acquire such love for Him, only then will we be

able to truly love our friends, and our neighbors, and even our enemies.

The third feature is: "*Whosoever does not take his cross and does not follow Me, is not worthy of Me.*" Every person has sorrows and tribulations in his life. And they are very individual, each person having his own, and they make up each person's own cross to bear. It is very difficult, very hard, but such is our life and such is God's will concerning us...

Let us thank God even for this cross of ours. We cannot attain salvation without it. That is the reason the Lord gives it to us. The good Lord wants all of us to be saved, and to be joined together in one eternal triumph with all the saints whom we glorify today. (*Abp Andrew of Novo-Diveevo, 'One Thing Needful'.*)

Why did the Lord sit upon a foal when he entered Jerusalem? He sat upon a foal so that He as the Word of God might subdue and convert our souls—which, as the Prophet says, are like irrational and unthinking animals--to His Divinity. What does it signify that He is met with palms and olive branches? When someone goes to battle with his enemy and returns victorious, all his subjects greet him as victor with palm branches, for palm branches are a symbol of victory. Likewise when a man suffers offense from another and wishes to appeal to someone who can defend him, he brings him olive branches, crying out and entreating for mercy and aid, for olive branches are a symbol of mercy. Therefore we meet our Master Christ with palm branches for He is Victor, for He has conquered our enemy; and with olive branches asking of Him mercy, entreating that just as He has conquered for us, so we might conquer through Him--that we might be bearers of the sign of victory not only for the sake of the victory He has won for us, but also for the victory we have won through Him, by the prayers of all the saints. For to Him is due every glory, honor and worship unto the ages. Amen. (*Abba Dorotheos*)