

of Solomon and in everyone who respected God.

With living faith in the true God the Saints “obtained promises”, in other words, they saw the fulfillment of the promises of God to them: for example Abraham through faith became the father of a whole nation and the spiritual father of all the righteous ones. But also the prophets saw their prophecies being fulfilled. For example Him whom Isaiah saw symbolically on a high throne, in other words, God: “whom Isaiah saw symbolically in a high throne God, him the Virgin Mary gave birth to as a man.

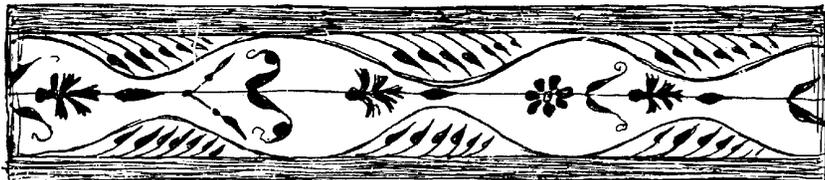
Faith strengthened them to face illnesses (like Hezekiah), various threats (from beasts like Daniel, from the fire, like the three children, from slaughter, like David, from Saul) and times they pursued their enemies like Joshua of Nun). They saw the dead being resurrected, like the Prophet Elijah who resurrected the son of the widow.

The second and essential fruit of the Comforter is hope. Hope springs forth from patience in trials. The more we endure in trials and afflictions which the grace of God allows, all the more, hope in holiness and eternal life increases. The Saints of the Church forbore persecutions, humiliations, imprisonments (Heb. 11:35, 36). They underwent a martyr’s death (verse 37) but they were also forced to live with deprivations so that they would not lose the witness of faith in the true God “so that they could obtain a better resurrection” (verse 35). In other words, for them to participate in the common resurrection of the dead and in the common honor and glory from God, as befits the Saints.

Many times we ask ourselves if we, Christians of our age, are able to become saints and to be numbered in the choir of All Saints. Because God himself exhorts us: “become ye holy that I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16), but also the Apostle Paul urges us to conduct our spiritual struggle with patience (Heb. 12:1). Our faith in Christ will make the hope of our sanctification certain, as certain as it is that Christ sat at the right of God His Father, in order to assure us that the path of holiness is achievable and true.

And if we disbelieve because we are not doing miracles like the Saints, again the Lord chases away from us this hesitation telling us: “Do not rejoice that (with the invocation of my power) even the demons are submitting to you. Rather rejoice that your names (on account of your faith and patience) have been written in heaven” (Lk. 10:20).

Archimandrite Ch. N.



Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 4, 2013

6th Sunday of Matthew

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August 4, 2013

6th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ton Synanarhon Logon (Hymn of the Day) Tone 5

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

Epi tou Orous Metemorphosis Tone 7

Today in the divine Transfiguration, the whole of human nature shines God-like, crying out in joy: "Christ is transfigured, saving all mankind."

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

today

We welcome Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Orthodox Diocese of America along with Fr. Blasko Paraklis.

This Week

Feast of the Transfiguration

Mon - *Great Vespers* - 6:30 pm

Tues - *Orthros/Liturgy* - 8:30/9:30 am

Weds - *Paraklesis* - 6:30 pm

Fri - *Paraklesis* - 6:30 pm

Two Hands

God made us with *two hands* - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. We are made for giving. This is why we experience the greatest joy in life not in receiving but in giving. "It is more blessed," said Jesus, "to give than to receive."

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The first fruit of the Holy Spirit is faith. With this power of faith the Saints of the Old Testament, patriarchs, prophets, kings, the righteous ones, "defeated kingdoms", in other words, they faced absolutist states and they defeated them with the power of God: for example Moses, the Pharaohs of Egypt, the three children, the Persians, Gideon, the Midianites, David the enemies of Israel et. al.

With the enlightenment of faith they worked wondrous powers. As the Apostle mentions: "they worked righteousness", they rendered justice and implemented the justice of God in their life. The sense of righteousness was manifest in the righteous Job, in the righteous Abraham, in the righteousness