

Sunday after the Ascension

(Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council)

May 31, 2009

Saintly Notes

The Martyr Hermias (May 31st)

Hermias grew old as an imperial soldier and in his old age suffered for Christ the King. Since the evil judge tried in vain to dissuade him from the Faith of Christ and counseling him to offer sacrifices to the idols, the judge then gave orders that his teeth be knocked out with a stone and the skin peeled from his face with a knife. After that they threw him into a fiery furnace but, by the Grace of God, he was saved and stood up.

Following that, by order of the judge he drank a bitter poison which was given to him by a magician, but the poison did him no harm. Witnessing this, the magician was so amazed that he openly confessed Christ for which he was immediately beheaded.

Afterwards, they gouged out both of Hermias' eyes but he did not grieve and cried out to the judge: "Take for yourself these bodily eyes that gaze upon the vanity of the world. I have eyes of the heart by which I clearly see the light of the truth." He was hung then by the feet upside down and those who did this to him were blinded and staggered around him. St. Hermias beckoned them to come to him, laid his hands on them and, by prayer to the Lord, restored their sight.

Witnessing all of this, the judge became as enraged as a lion, drew a knife and severed the head of this godly-man. Christians secretly removed the body of Hermias and honorably buried it.

His relics gave healing to all the sick and to the afflicted. St. Hermias suffered in the year 166 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Antoninus.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)



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All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

May 31, 2009

The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Martyrs Hermias and Eusebios

This Week's Schedule

Today: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy (Graduates Honored)
Monday: Church Office Closed
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy; (Pentecost Sunday)

Third Antiphon

Tone 4

Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the earth. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

Troparion of the Ascension: Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion

for Ascension—Tone 4

See above.

Troparion

of the Holy Fathers—Tone 8

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through

them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

Troparion

Of All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion

of the Ascension—Tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved, I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Acts 2:1–11

Gospel: John 7:37–52; 8:12

Alegalynarion

Tone 8

"It is truly meet . . ."

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise ye the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

Troparion of Ascension (see above)

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Alexander Sieck, Alexander Haynes, Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg.

Special Attention

- **Bring in Your Food for the Hungry Collection Boxes.** You may leave your collection boxes on the Narthex table or give them to one of the greeters or ushers.
- **Many Years to Our Graduates.** We will recognize and honor our college and high school graduates this morning following the Divine Liturgy. Remember to keep our graduates and all of our children in your prayers.
- **Women's Summer Bible Study. Attention all Ladies -** We will have a Bible Study and Brunch on Saturday, June 20, 9-11 am, in the Parish Hall. Please bring your Bible and a dish to share. We'll take some time for fellowship, as well. Please let Kh. Barbara know if you plan to attend.
- **Parish Life Conference.** Fr. Nicholas and Deacon David and others from our parish will be attending the PLC in Jackson, MS from June 10 through the 13th. Please pray that the convention will be successful and that those traveling to and from Jackson will be safe.
- **3^d Hour Prayers and Daily Vespers on June 10, and Great Vespers on June 13th Are Cancelled Due to the Parish Life Conference**
- **Our Parish Feast Day, All Saints, Will Be Celebrated on June 14th.** Please plan now to attend both the Divine Liturgy that day and the free All Saints Bar-B-Q that follows. All our members and friends of All Saints are invited. Let's celebrate our 17th year birthday.

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimention:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all Thou hast done.

†**Epistle: Acts 20:16–18, 28–36 (RSV)**

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

†**Gospel: John 17:1–13 (RSV)**

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may

glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

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A Word from Our Fathers

“Pride is a denial of God,
an invention of the devil,
contempt for men.

It is the mother of condemnation,
the offspring of praise,
a sign of barrenness.

It is a flight from God’s help,
the harbinger of madness,
the author of downfall.

It is the cause of diabolical possession,
the source of anger,
the gateway of hypocrisy.

It is the fortress of demons,
the custodian of sins,
the source of hardheartedness.

It is the denial of compassion,
a bitter Pharisee, a cruel judge.

It is the foe of God.

It is the root of blasphemy.”

(St. John Climacus)

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