

The Icon of Christ, Not Made by Hands (August 16)

At the time when our Lord preached the Good News and healed every illness and infirmity of men, there lived in the city of Edessa on the shore of the Euphrates Prince Abgar who was completely infected with leprosy. He heard of Christ, the Healer of every pain and disease and sent an artist, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ in which he begged the Lord to come to Edessa and to cure him of leprosy.

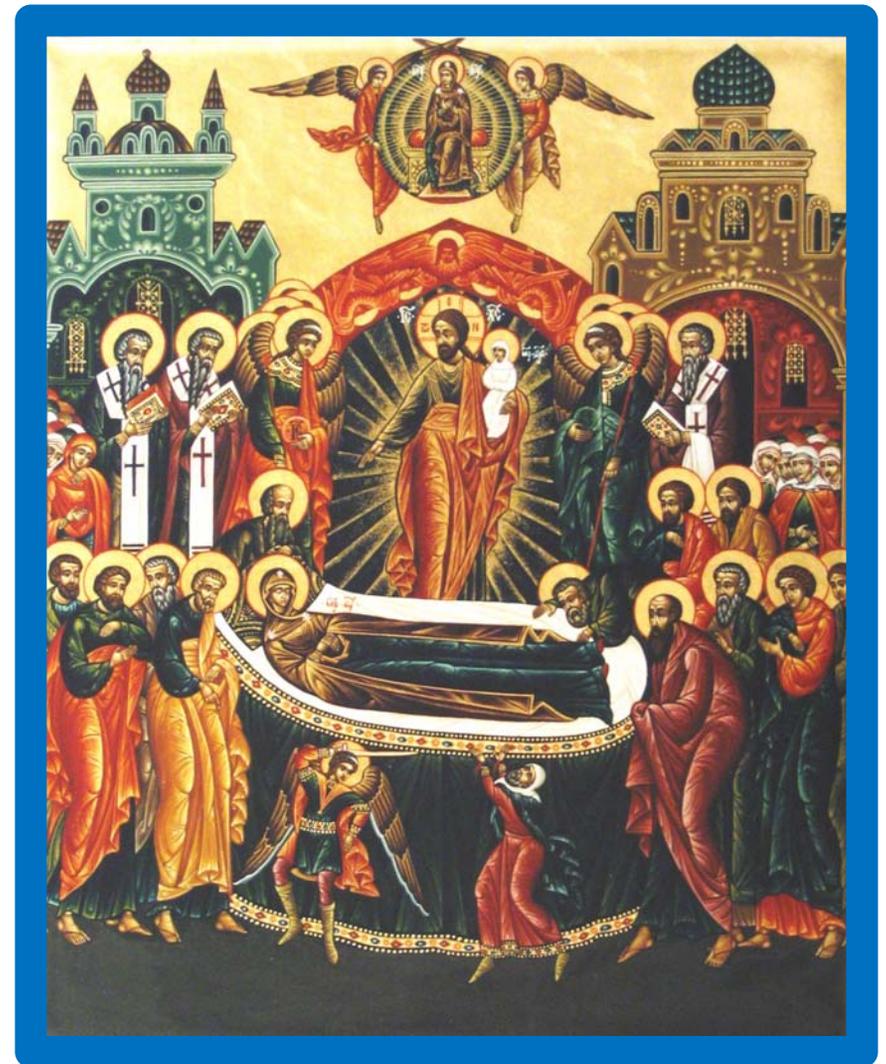
In the event that the Lord was unable to come, the prince ordered Ananias to portray His likeness and to bring it to him, believing that this likeness would be able to restore his health. The Lord answered that He was unable to come, for the time of His passion was approaching took a towel, wiped His face and, on the towel, His All-pure face was perfectly pictured. The Lord gave this towel to Ananias with the message that the prince will be healed by it, but not entirely, and later on, He would send him a messenger who would erase the remainder of his disease.

Receiving the towel, Prince Abgar kissed it and the leprosy completely fell from his body but a little of it remained on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus, preaching the Gospel, came to Abgar and secretly healed and baptized him. The prince then destroyed the idols which stood before the gates of the city and above the gates he placed the towel with the likeness of Christ attached to wood, framed in a gold frame and adorned with pearls. Also, the prince wrote beneath the icon on the gates: "O Christ God, no one will be ashamed who hopes in You."

Later, one of Abgar's great grandsons restored idolatry and the bishop of Edessa came by night and walled up that icon over the gates. Centuries have passed since then. During the reign of Emperor Justinian, the Persian King Chozroes attacked Edessa and the city was in great hardship. It happened that Eulabius, the Bishop of Edessa, had a vision of the All-Holy Theotokos who revealed to him the mystery of the sealed wall and the forgotten icon. The icon was discovered and, by its power, the Persian army was defeated.

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

August 16, 2009



Dormition of the Theotokos

10th Sunday after Pentecost

After - Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

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

August 16, 2009

The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Recovery from Edessa of the Icon of Christ Not Made by Hands:
‘The Holy Napkin’

This Week’s Schedule

Today: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy
Monday: Church Office Closed: 6:30p Paraklesis
Tuesday: 7:00p Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday: 9:15a 3rd Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers
Thursday: 7:00p Building Committee Meeting
Friday: 6:30p Great Vespers
Saturday: 9:00a Women’s Bible Study; 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

First Antiphon

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, *Who art risen from the dead;* who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Third Antiphon Tone 1

Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart; I will sing and chant in my glory. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He hath given me? I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

(Troparion for the Dormition)

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for living thou wast translated, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

Troparion for the Resurrection—Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of Life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy

Kingdom, glory to Thy Providence, O Thou Who alone art the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of the Icon of Christ—Tone 2

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

Troparion for Dormition—Tone 1

See above.

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 for Dormition—Tone 2

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, who is never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But being the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-Virgin womb did translate her to life.

The Trisagion

Holy God . . . Alleluia.

Scripture for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2–12

Gospel: Matt. 18:23–35

Agalynarion

Tone 7

It is truly meet . . .

Communion Hymn Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn Tone 2

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Nicholas Christopoulos, Christian Christopoulos, William Christopoulos, Christopher Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous, Gabriel Pope.

Special Attention

- **Vacation Worship.** Remember that vacation time is not a time to avoid worship. Fr. Nicholas can give you a list of churches in the area where you will be vacationing. If you cannot get to a church, do morning prayers together with your spouse or family, and don’t forget to pray before meals. If you will be gone for an extended period of time, mailing envelopes for your financial worship of God are also available on the narthex table.
- **Women’s Bible Study.** August 22, 9-11 am in the parish hall. All women invited. Please bring your Orthodox Study Bible and a breakfast/brunch dish to share. Contact Kh. Barbara if you have any questions.
- **Building Project 2009.** Keep your eyes and ears open for continuing information on our new temple and education wing.

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

†**Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9–16 (RSV)**

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

†**Gospel: Matt. 17:14–23 (RSV)**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him

said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

†**Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9–16 (RSV)**

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

†**Gospel: Matt. 17:14–23 (RSV)**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him

said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

**A Word
from Our Fathers**

“For us Christians, Jesus Christ is the measure of all things, divine and human. . . . He is our most perfect ideal. In Him we find the answer to all our problems, which without Him would be insoluble. He is in truth the mystical axis of the universe. . . . With Christ man steps forward into divine eternity.”

(Elder Sophrony)

**A Word
from Our Fathers**

“For us Christians, Jesus Christ is the measure of all things, divine and human. . . . He is our most perfect ideal. In Him we find the answer to all our problems, which without Him would be insoluble. He is in truth the mystical axis of the universe. . . . With Christ man steps forward into divine eternity.”

(Elder Sophrony)