

*From the Divine Office for Paul of Thebes & John the Hut-Dweller (Jan. 15)*

*Venerable father Paul, the whole world is filled with the fame of your holy deeds; through them, you have received the recompense of your labors in Heaven. You destroyed hordes of demons and have been united to the choirs of angels, whose pure lives you imitated. By your boldness with Christ our God, ask peace for our souls. (Vespers)*

*Since your early youth, you have longed with fervor for the things of the Lord: leaving the world and its pleasures, you became an example of the monastic life. John most blessed, you built your hut at the door of your parents' house and overcame the Devil's guiles. Wherefore Christ Himself has glorified you as you deserve. (Troparion)*



**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS  
JANUARY 15, 2023**



**JESUS HEALING THE TEN LEPERS**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**  
**256 Hamilton St.**  
**Worcester, MA 01604**  
**Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199**  
**Email: olphmelkite@gmail.com**  
**Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor**  
**Email: Brymc56@comcast.net Cell: (978) 314-1962**  
**Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM**

**Antiphon (1st)**

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, and sing praise to His name.

***Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.***

2: Say to God: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

***Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.***

3: Let all the earth worship You and sing praises to You; let it sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

***Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.***

**Entrance Hymn**

**Priest:** Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.

**People:** *O Son of God, Who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!*

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7) pg. 42**

You destroyed Death by Your cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the weeping of the myrrh-bearers, and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy.

**Patronal Troparion (Tone 1) Pg. 15**

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

**Kontakion of the Presentation of our Lord (Tone 1)**

O Christ our God who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our public authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the lover of Mankind.

In Christ God enters the world to become one with mankind once more and, through this complete and eternal union with Him, to deliver it from eternal death. The Son of God becomes like us in all things except sin and in Him God and man are perfectly united. Once again God is fully in communion with a Man, the Lord Jesus, and through Him with all mankind.

Since being human means to endure suffering and death, Christ shared in those things as well. What was unique about Christ is that He did not remain in death but, once He had experienced it, He triumphed over it.

And so Christ's death on the cross is not emphasized in the Christian East as a sacrifice to atone for original sin; rather it is as the inevitable consequence of His desire to become one of us. Christ's death on the cross is an unavoidable result of His being fully human because all humans die.

**The Lepers: an Icon of Salvation**

As Blessed Theophylact observed, the lepers represent all humanity, scarred by their common affliction but still dear to Christ. "He healed the whole leprous nature of man, when, for every man's sake, He took flesh and tasted of death."

Without a doubt all ten welcomed their cleansing from leprosy; they accepted the gift but ignored the Giver. Only one returned to Christ, glorifying God. He not only received the blessing of health, he also enjoyed a relationship with the Healer. He welcomed, not only the cleansing from leprosy, but also the presence of the One who brings wholeness and salvation to all who accept Him in their lives. His physical healing is the prelude to his communion with Christ, in which is his – and our –salvation.

**To Whom Was the "Ransom" Paid?**

*St Gregory the Theologian asks this question to demolish what he felt were false ideas about our salvation.*

**"To whom and why is this blood poured out for us and shed – the great and most precious blood of God, the High Priest and Victim? We were in the power of the Evil One, sold to sin, and had brought this harm on ourselves by sensuality. ... If the price of ransom is given to none other than him in whose power we are held, then I ask, to whom and for what reason is such a price paid?"**

**"If it is to the Evil One, then how insulting is this! The thief received the price of ransom; he not only receives it from God, but even receives God Himself. He receives so large a price for his tyranny that it was only right to have mercy on us.**

**"If to the Father, then, first, in what way? Were we in captivity under Him?... And secondly, for what reason? For what reason was the blood of the Only Begotten pleasing to the Father, who did not accept even Isaac, when offered by his father, but exchanged the offering, giving a lamb instead of the reasonable victim?"**

**45th Oration on Holy Pascha**



### DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today HS Anthony Poti  
+Diane Moossa

Jan 22 +Alice Esper (40 day). Requested by the Esper & Dowd families

This week's Coffee is hosted by Eric Ewanco  
Next week's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by the Esper & Dowd families

Please remember in your prayers: George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Vi Gazal, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Anthony Poti, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, Richard Abraham, Sr., Daneil Sarrouf, Bob Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt Willian Rahall, Lauren Abraham and the people of Ukraine.

If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

### CALENDARS

The 2023 calendars are at the rear of the church. Please take only one until we're sure everyone has gotten one. We will not do a general mailing of calendars. If you know someone who would like a calendar and can't get to church, please let me know and I will send them one.

### Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 768
Candles	\$ 60
Coffee Hr.	\$ 35
Stole	\$ 400
Memorials	\$ 380
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,643</b>

God bless you for your generosity!



Welcome to any visitors we have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.

Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.



### HOUSE BLESSINGS

The post-Theophany period is the traditional time for blessing homes. If you would like me to come and bless your home, please see me after the Divine Liturgy or contact me at (978) 314-1962 (Brymc56@comcast.net).

I would love to come and spend some time with you!

Fr. Bryan

### ADULT EDUCATION

We will begin an adult education series on **January 31, 2023 at 6:30PM**. Our text will be Fr. Justin Rose's book "Come, Follow Me." It is a Byzantine Christian approach to evangelization and disciple-making. It fits in well with Bishop Francois' motto: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples. Please plan to join us!



## Twelfth Sunday of St Luke

CHRIST'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE TEN LEPERS offers several points on which we can reflect. We see that Christ heals, that He heals foreigners as well as Israelites, and that the only one who glorifies God is that foreigner, a Samaritan. Christ's response to the Samaritan, however, is a bit more complicated and merits our attention.

According to St Luke, when the Samaritan returns glorifying God, Christ responds, "*Arise, go your way; your faith has made you well*" (Lk 17:19 New King James Version). Is Christ referring to the original healing in which all ten lepers were cleansed or does the Samaritan receive something else because he came back glorifying God?

Some popular English versions offer interesting alternative translations which suggest an answer. "Thy faith hath made thee whole" says the original King James Version. The New American Bible and the Jerusalem Bible translate this phrase "*Your faith has saved you.*"

The Greek verb in this sentence is *sesoken*, a form of the word *sonon* which we regularly translate in our prayers as "save." It may be translated as "heal," "make whole" or "save" depending on the context. In such a case it is wise to consult the Tradition for the best interpretation. Early Church commentators on this passage suggest that the Samaritan received more than the physical healing of his disease: he found salvation. As St Athanasius wrote, "This one was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you'" (Festal Letter 6).

In his *Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke* Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria writes that "This miracle also signifies the common salvation that came to the whole human race. For the ten lepers represent all of human nature – it was leprous with wickedness, carrying about with it the ugliness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleanness, and standing afar off from God." The complete healing of mankind is, in fact, what we refer to as "salvation."

It is not uncommon for people to be asked by some Christians (usually Evangelicals or Pentecostals), "Are you saved?" By this they generally mean something like, "Have you personally appropriated the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ?" Their point is similar to that made by Blessed Theophylact. The ten lepers all were cleansed but only one personally appropriated what Christ had done by returning and glorifying God.

### What Does It Mean to Be Saved?

When Western Christians talk about salvation they often think of it as described in the fourth-fifth centuries by St Augustine and in the eleventh century by Anselm of Canterbury. In their view all mankind was unrighteous and unclean through the original sin of Adam. It was necessary that mankind make atonement through a well-pleasing sacrifice. That sacrifice was made on the cross, by which Christ offered Himself for the sins of Adam and of the entire human race.

As this view was developed, the West focused increasingly on the cross. Christ's death was the sacrifice offered to atone for sin and ransom mankind. Some saw the cross as an instrument of the Father's wrath originally meant for us, now taken out on His Son! Others thought of Christ's death as a ransom paid to the devil in whose power mankind had fallen. These views took Western Christians further and further from the thinking of the early Church.

The Eastern Fathers had a different view of sin and salvation. Instead of atonement and sacrifice they stressed the loss and restoration of relationship with God as the heart of the question of sin and redemption. The original sin, the sin of Adam, was a break in relationship with God. Adam declines to heed God's warning and eats of the tree, determining for himself what is good rather than heeding God. Going it alone, Adam no longer "walked with God" but hid from Him (Gen 2).

### Prokimenon

**Reader:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**People:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** Bless the Lord. O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

**People:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** How great are Your works, O Lord!

**People:** In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Epistle:** Col. 3:4-11

### Alleluia

String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and Your right hand shall lead You wonderfully.

**Verse:** You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of joy above Your companions.

**Gospel:** Lk. 17:12-19



### BISHOP'S APPEAL

**The Bishop's Appeal is in full swing. The Appeal makes it possible to grow the diocese by helping to establish new outreaches and missions, train candidates for the diaconate and priesthood as well as assist our retired priests.**

**Bishop Francois' motto is: *Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples.***

**Let us become disciples and help make disciples. Let each of us share our time, talents, and treasure to build up the Diocese of Newton.**

**Please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal!**

**God bless you!**