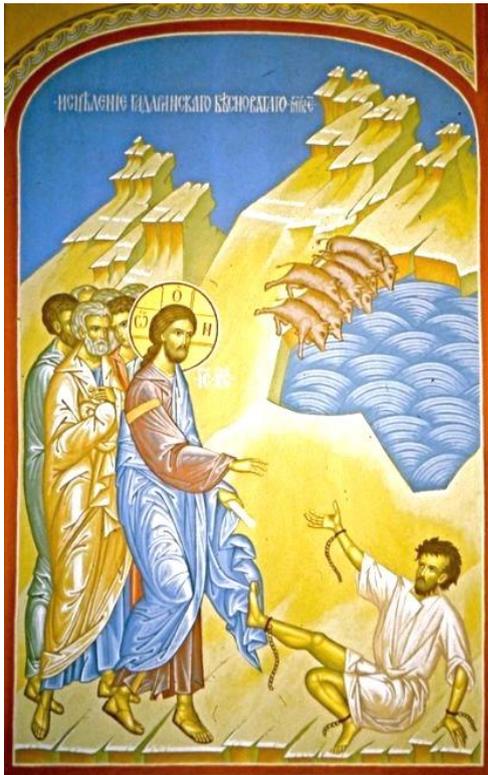




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 231/25 October 2020



**Twenty-Third Sunday
after Pentecost**

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode. 3.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let things on earth be glad, for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm; He hath trampled on death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. From the bowels of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 2.

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the supplicant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

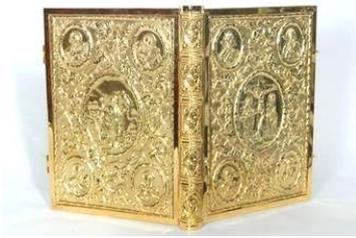
**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.
Psalm 98.9,1**

**Exalt the Lord our God.
Verse: The Lord reigns; let the people
tremble.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ

Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



The Gospel According to Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus

then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Word of the week – Reflection

Let's not expect that the vain world will easily be uprooted from within us as long as we're content to remain within the vain world. When we distance ourselves from the world, then our intellect also distances itself easily from the world and wants to be close to God.

- *St. Paisios the Athonite*

'You've ascended the ladder of renunciation; don't turn back' (Saint John of the Ladder). How many times, in the course of marriage or family life, are we troubled by the thought that perhaps we married the wrong person. Our mind goes to other loves and we invent scenarios in which we'd have been happier with someone else or with other choices. We wonder whether we've made mistakes in the way we've brought up the children, if we should have done things differently, if we gave them as much time as we should have, listened to them enough, if we were too lenient or too strict. We have the same concerns regarding our professional choices, the way we've handled our money, how we did at school or university, issues where we were called upon to make decisions which had consequences. And these thoughts torment us.

In our spiritual tradition we come across the phrase: Don't turn back'.

This isn't an incitement to avoid self-criticism. It's a recommendation that we shouldn't allow our brain to dwell on what can't be changed, on what we've left behind, on what belongs to yesterday. It's an invitation to transcend the thought that's saddening us concerning what's irreversible, and a decision to get down to business in the conditions of the times as they are, in our today and tomorrow. Faith, like philosophy, is a continuous recollection of death, not as a cause of worry or sorrow, but as a wake-up call for what we can be doing. It's a constant reminder of Him Whom we need in order to stand up to life's challenges. To correct the mistakes which can be rectified. We should choose love where once our criterion was only ourselves. We should give and not be satisfied with just taking.

- *Protopresbyter Themistoklis Mourtzanos*

An inclination towards sin isn't yet invincible. It becomes invincible from the moment the soul begins to study carefully and persistently how to satisfy its passion.

- *St. Theophan the Recluse*

Prayer is grace. God grants it when there is zeal and humility.

- *Elder Amfilohios Makris*

Quotations from Pemptousia.com



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Sunday <i>October 25</i>	8:00 pm	Vespers, Lita – St. Demetrius of Thessaloniki
Monday <i>October 26</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – St. Demetrius of Thessaloniki
Tuesday <i>October 27</i>	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy – St. Demetrius of Basarabov
Wednesday <i>October 28</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Saturday <i>October 31</i>	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy & Memorial Vespers
Sunday <i>November 1</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Sts. Kosmas and Damian



Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Dimitry Mironidis and Dimitry Downie (October 25th – St. Demetrius).
- **Bible study on Revelations:** Thursday at 7pm. Please contact Fr. John for the Zoom link.



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