



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

### PARISH OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY, “EVANGELISMOS”

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### SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2019

#### Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy, Ch.2 vs.1-7

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

#### Explanation: Faithfulness in Prayer

Often people ask the question; “what is God’s Will (for me)?” Implied in this question is what God may have in mind for us in our personal lives. What kind of life will we have. Will I be successful, what should I do with my life? In all of this and implied in the question is the seeking of reassurance about the course of one’s life. What will become of me? What is best for me? How can I put my life to good use? In reality this epistle passage answers all these

question for all of us both individually and universally for all mankind. It may however not be what we may all expect to hear.

“For God’s will it is that “all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy Ch.2 vs.4)

This means that all things that we experience, all things that we think and act upon should be seen by us as an opportunity to come to know God and to follow Him, to pray to Him not only for ourselves and our loved ones, but for all mankind. That all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Otherwise, what is the point of life if we live it, and expend it and expire from it without gain. The only gain that is relevant is that we seek God’s mercy in prayer for the salvation of our souls. There is no greater love than that corresponding the great Love that Christ showed for us when He died on the Cross for us. We give thanks to Him for this always in our prayers.

#### **Gospel Reading: Luke Ch.4 versus 16-22**

***“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:***

***“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”***

*Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." So all bore witness to Him, and marvelled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"*

### **Explanation: Unbelief in Nazarath**

This passage recorded by Luke is profound. It is a declaration by God Himself in the presence of the people. Jesus Himself stands in the Temple before all those present reading the passage recorded by the Prophet Isaiah declaring to the world that He is the Messiah. He utters the words not only to those present in the synagogue but to the whole world,

**"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

The reaction of those present was to marvel at Him so that their eyes were fixated on Him, He is the true Author of what He read to the people, what was read came forth from His mouth as was recorded by the Prophet Isaiah in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC. This now being read before the people by Christ Himself, the 'anointed One', fulfils the prophecy that God would become man to recover His creation; to recover mankind from the fall of Adam and Eve. He came to liberate His creation from the forces of darkness, from sin and its consequence, the corruption of mankind and mortality; to replace the darkness with His Light, to replace death with new life through His Resurrection to all who would believe. And in order to do all this it was necessary for God to become man. So now the words that Christ utters are His own in the presence of the people in the synagogue. They who heard Him did not know then what Christ would do for them; that He would suffer at the hands of His Creation; that He would be judged and condemned without cause, being innocent of any crime for He was without sin; He would be

nailed on the Cross paying the price for our sins and to be Resurrected on the third day granting new life to His creation – to all those that would believe in Him; He would ascend into to the heavens thereby crushing Satan and all his works and opening the gates of heaven to all those who would believe in Him.

This passage read by Christ to the people in the synagogue divided time and history. Those who came before Him, those present with Him during his earthly life; and those who have lived after His Resurrection.

We now live in difficult times in the world but we should not forget that we also live in times that are blessed because of the good new of the Gospel, preparing us for the eternal heavenly kingdom.

We should remember what Christ said and preached showing us the importance of faith and the importance of the Church for our salvation:

“Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.” (Matt. Ch.3 vs.2)

"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. (John Ch.3 vs.5)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” (John 6:53)

We now have the Church that was established for our salvation on the day of Pentecost, we have access to the Sacraments that heal us, by Baptism by Chrismation by Confession for the forgiveness sins, by receiving Him, His Body and His Blood - Holy Communion.