

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE HALLOWING OF THE CHURCH

Anthem of the Chancel

Remember your Church, which you purchased of old.

O our Lord, by your mercies keep your Church, which you chose and confirmed from of old. Remove from her wars and conflicts, and bind up her children in love and unity. May her priests remain in peace and the true faith. Preserve her pastor in your compassion, that he may be an advocate and ask from you at all times peace for his flock.

Preserve your mercies for your friends.

O our Lord, by your mercies keep your Church, which you chose and confirmed from of old. Remove from her wars and conflicts, and bind up her children in love and unity. May her priests remain in peace and the true faith. Preserve her pastor in your compassion, that he may be an advocate and ask from you at all times peace for his flock.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.

Amen.

O Christ the Son, who came for our salvation, remember your Church, which you purchased of old, and subdue before her the nations which desire war. As you promised to Peter, her founder, that the gates of Sheol and its tyrants would never prevail against her, confirm for her your word, O our Savior, for you are her King, the Guide of her children, and the boast of her inhabitants.

The Lections

1 Kings 6:1-19

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD. The house which King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. And he made for the house windows with recessed frames. He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running round the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary; and he made side chambers all around. The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad; for around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house.

When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry; so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the temple, while it was being built.

The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house; and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. So he built the house, and

finished it; and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar. He built the structure against the whole house, each story five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar.

Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, "Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my ordinances and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel."

So Solomon built the house, and finished it. He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the rafters of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress. He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the rafters, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the most holy place. The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long. The cedar within the house was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers; all was cedar, no stone was seen. The inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

Ezekiel 43:1-6; 44:1-5

. [A man sent from God] brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the east; and the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with his glory. And the vision I saw was like the vision which I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and like the vision which I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, the Spirit lifted me up, and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple. . . .

Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And he said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way."

Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD; and I fell upon my face. And the LORD said to me, "Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I shall tell you concerning all the ordinances of the temple of the LORD and all its laws; and mark well those who may be admitted to the temple and all those who are to be excluded from the sanctuary.

The Shuraya

"Let us go to his tabernacle; let us worship at his footstool!" Rise up, O LORD, to your resting place,

You and the ark of your might.

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and your righteous ones with glory.

For your servant David's sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one. 3The LORD swore to David in truth, from which he will not turn back:

"One of the fruit of your belly I will set on your throne."

The Apostle

Hebrews 9:16-end

For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Hence even the first covenant was not ratified without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Zumara

Hear, O my daughter, consider, and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house; for the king will desire your beauty.

All the glory of the king's daughter is within; her clothing is adorned with fine gold. She shall go to the king with gifts, and they shall admit her fellow-virgins after her.

The Gospel

Matthew 22:41-23:22

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

Sit at my right hand,

till I put thy enemies under thy feet'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it."

Anthem of the Mysteries

Text: Thus far is the end of the matter.

He led them to the harbor which they desired.

We have arrived at the harbor of the ineffable Mysteries, that we all may receive and be made worthy to wash the filth from our souls and approach the pure Sacrifice without spot. May we inherit eternal, undying life, as Christ our King promised to his friends, and meet our God with hymns of praise, and together with thousands of cherubim and ten thousands of seraphim say, Holy, holy, you are holy. O magnificent King of Glory, have mercy upon us.

Sing to the Lord with harps and the sound of music.

We have arrived at the harbor of the ineffable Mysteries, that we all may receive and be made worthy to wash the filth from our souls and approach the pure Sacrifice without spot. May we inherit eternal, undying life, as Christ our King promised to his friends, and meet our God with hymns of praise, and together with thousands of cherubim and ten thousands of seraphim say, Holy, holy, you are holy. O magnificent King of Glory, have mercy upon us.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Sanctify your Church in your compassion, O our Savior, and cause your grace to dwell in the temple which is set apart for your honor. Erect within it your splendid Altar, O Lord, upon which is borne your Body and Blood.

Anthem of the Bema

Great, O our Lord, is your gift to mortals, for you have given our race communion in the Mysteries, in which the medicine of life is hidden. In your loving-kindness you have had pity on our lost estate and have recalled it from error.

Therefore the Church in her companies cries aloud with the sound of praise in memory of the dowry which the Son of the King gave to her in his love. Priests as well as the angels celebrate the earnest of life.

Verses:

A crown of victory he has given to his Church. Let there be glory to him from all mouths.