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St. Stephen's Armenian
Apostolic Church

ԿԻՐԱԿՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԼՐԱԳԻՐ

Sunday Bulletin

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Տէր Կարապետ Թէլֆէան, Չոզետր Չովիւ

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Fifth Sunday after The Coming of the Holy Spirit

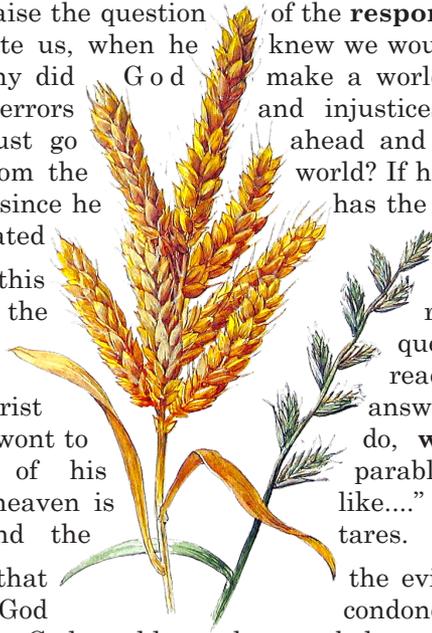
Discovery of the Box of the Holy Mother of God

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who digned to take body through the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin, who became man and were crucified, who trampled down death by death, O Christ our God, save us!

Armenian Divine Liturgy

Today's readings raise the question of the **responsibility for sin**. Why did God create us, when he knew we would sin? Why does God allow sin? Why did God make a world with sin? Why does he abide the errors and injustices of the world? Why doesn't he just go ahead and correct all error and remove sin from the world? If he allows sin, isn't he to blame for it, since he has the ability to stop it, and since he created us this way?

When we turn this page, we will see that each of the readings of today addresses these questions. Then, in the Gospel reading, we will see that the Lord Christ answers these tough questions as he is wont to do, **with a parable**, and, like most of his parables, it begins with, "The kingdom of heaven is like...." It is the parable of the wheat and the tares.



The parable says that the evil of the world is not something that God condones. Evil is when we do not behave as God would have us behave. He created in his image, with free will. If he were to correct all evil, we would not have a chance to learn. We need a chance to learn and grow. Therefore, he does not force us. Through his compassion he gives us time to learn. There will be an end, at which time, he will judge and reward us accordingly.

Ով մեկնեացէ զմեզ ի սիրոյն Քրիստոսի, նեղութիւն, թէ անձկութիւն, թէ Հալածանք, թէ սոյլ, թէ մերկութիւն, թէ վիշտք, թէ սուր:

The Breath of God (ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՇՈՒՆԶ)

Entrance

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who deigned to take body through the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin, O Christ our God, save us!

Psalm (92)

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; The Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.

Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, Unto length of days.

Hymn

Let us offer thanksgiving with song to the Creator of heaven and earth!

Psalm (64)

It is fitting to sing a hymn to You in Zion, O God, and a vow shall be rendered to You in Jerusalem.

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of earth.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah (2)

5 O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD.

6 For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with eastern ways; They are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they are pleased with the children of foreigners.

7 Their land is also full of silver and gold, And there is no end to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, And there is no end to their chariots.

8 Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands,

That which their own fingers have made.

Psalm (46)

Response. Great is our Lord, and great is His strength; His understanding exceeds every measure.

Antiphon. Praise the Lord, for a psalm is a good thing; Let praise be sweet to our God.

A Reading from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Romans (9)

Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand

for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth." And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah." What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Psalm (149)

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let Israel be glad in his Creator, and let the sons of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13)

Deacon. Stand up.

Priest. ✝ Peace be with you all.

People. And with your spirit.

Deacon. In awe, let us listen ...

Priest. ✝ ... to the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People. Glory to you Lord our God.

Deacon. Let us attend.

People. God speaks.

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"
 31 "The kingdom of heaven is like that. Whoever sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The tares are the evil ones. The sowing of the tares is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are angels. As for the tares, they will be gathered up and burned up, and the wheat will be gathered up and will yield a harvest of life. Whoever hears and understands these things will be blessed in the kingdom of heaven." 32 "And Jesus said to the multitude, "I will tell you a secret, but you do not understand it. It is written: 'Whoever hears and understands these things will be blessed in the kingdom of heaven.'"
 33 "Therefore, let everyone hear and understand these things."



26th Anniversary of HH Aram I

Today is the 26th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Aram I in the Throne of St. Gregory in the See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church. We thank God for our Holy Father and for all the doctors and monks of the brotherhood of Cilicia. A special one of those doctor-monks, is our own Archbishop Anoushavan, our spiritual father.

We pray that Catholicos Aram and Archbishop Anoushavan and all the bishops and vartabed brothers of Cilicia and all the Sees of the Armenian Apostolic Church will firmly and steadfastly continue the apostolic mission passed on to them by Jesus Christ through our holy founders Sts. Thaddeus, Bartholomew, Gregory, and all the saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church. We pray that Christ would keep all the Sees of the Armenian Apostolic Church unshakeable, from Cilicia to Etchmiadzin to Constantinople to Jerusalem.

Through the beneficence of His Holiness Aram I, and through the intercessions of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Der Voghormia

1. Charlie Alex
2. Levon Darakjian
3. Michael Papelian
4. Genevieve Soovajian
5. Andy Winters
6. Richard Zoccoli

Weekly Services

- Sun 10am Morning Worship
- Sun 10:30am Holy Badarak
- Thu 6pm Choir
- Sat 12pm Midday Worship
- Sat 5pm Evening Worship

Meet Der Hayr

Der Hayr is available (gratis) for confession, visitation, house blessing, etc.

June

- 27 Su **Fifth Sunday after Coming of Holy Spirit** (6th week)
- 28 Mo Callistratos, his Companions, and Lukianos the Priest
- 29 Tu Zechariah the Prophet
- 30 We Fast

July

- 1 Th Elisha the Prophet
- 2 Fr Fast
- 3 Sa 12 Holy Apostles + Paul 13th Apostle
- 4 Su **Sixth Sunday after Coming of Holy Spirit** (7th week)
- 5 Mo Fast
- 6 Tu Fast
- 7 We Fast
- 8 Th Fast
- 9 Fr Fast
- 10 Sa Feast of the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Church
- 11 Su **Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ** (Res+100d)

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What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8.31-35)