

ΠΡΟΧΩΜΕΝ

LET US ATTEND!

Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον - Ἱερά Μητρόπολις Νέας Ζηλανδίας
Ecumenical Patriarchate - Holy Archdiocese of New Zealand

Αριθμός Φύλλου - Number of Leaf 46°

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Απόστολος (Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 13:17-21)

Ἀδελφοί, πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν καὶ ὑπέικετε, αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες, ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες, ἀλυσιτελὲς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο. Προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν, πειθόμεθα γὰρ ὅτι καλὴν συνείδησιν ἔχομεν, ἐν πᾶσιν καλῶς θέλοντες ἀναστρέφεσθαι. Περισσότερως δὲ παρακαλῶ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι ἵνα τάχιον ἀποκατασταθῶ ὑμῖν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης, ὁ ἀναγαγὼν ἐκ νεκρῶν τὸν ποιμένα τῶν προβάτων τὸν μέγαν ἐν αἵματι διαθήκης αἰωνίου, τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν, καταρτίσαι ὑμᾶς ἐν παντὶ ἀγαθῷ εἰς τὸ ποιῆσαι τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ, ποιῶν ἐν ἡμῖν τὸ εὐάρεστον ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ᾧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων· ἀμήν.

Apostle (St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21)

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.



Ευαγγέλιο (Λουκᾶν 13, 10-17)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἦν διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. Καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακύψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. Ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησεν καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ, Γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου, καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη, καὶ ἐδόξαζεν τὸν θεόν. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγεν τῷ ὄχλῳ ὅτι ἐξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι ἐν αὐταῖς οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. Ἀπεκρίθη δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος καὶ εἶπεν, Ὑποκριταί, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δὲ θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ οὖσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ Σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

Gospel (Luke 13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Ο Άγιος Νικόλαος,

Ἔδρασε την εποχή των αυτοκρατόρων Διοκλητιανού, Μαξιμιανού και Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου. Στην αρχή αφιερώθηκε στον ασκητικό βίο, λόγω όμως της ξεχωριστής αρετής του τιμήθηκε, χωρίς να το επιδιώξει, με το αξίωμα του αρχιεπισκόπου Μύρων. Από τη θέση αυτή καθοδηγούσε με αγάπη το ποίμνιό του και ομολογούσε με παρρησία την αλήθεια. Για το λόγο αυτό συνελήφθη από τους τοπικούς άρχοντες και ρίχτηκε στη φυλακή. Όταν όμως ανήλθε στον αυτοκρατορικό θρόνο ο Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος ελευθερώθηκαν όλοι οι χριστιανοί και έτσι ο Νικόλαος επανήλθε στο αρχιεπισκοπικό θρόνο. Μάλιστα έλαβε μέρος στην Α' Οικουμενική Σύνοδο, όπου ξεχώρισε για τη σοφία και την ηθική του τελειότητα. Προικισμένος με το χάρισμα της θαυματουργίας έσωσε πολλούς ανθρώπους και όσο ήταν εν ζωή αλλά και μετά την κοίμησή του. Για παράδειγμα όταν κάποτε κινδύνευσε κάποιος στη θάλασσα- λόγω σφοδρών ανέμων- και επικαλέστηκε το όνομα του αγίου σώθηκε και μάλιστα ενώ βρισκόταν στη μέση του πελάγους βρέθηκε αβλαβής στο σπίτι του. Το θαύμα έγινε αμέσως γνωστό στην Πόλη και ο λαός προσήλθε αμέσως σε λιτανεία και αγρυπνία προκειμένου να τιμήσει το θαυματουργό Άγιο. Πέθανε ειρηνικά το έτος 330 μ.Χ.

Απολοτίκιο. Ήχος δ'.

Κανόνα πίστεως, και εικόνα πραότητας,
εγκράτειας διδάσκαλον, ανέδειξε σε τη ποιμνη σου,
η των πραγμάτων αλήθεια,
δια τούτο εκτήσω τη ταπεινώσει τα υψηλά,
τη πτωχεία τα πλούσια, Πάτερ Ιεράρχα Νικόλαε,
πρέσβευε Χριστώ τω Θεώ,
σωθήναι τας ψυχάς ημών.

