



## **ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of North America  
Primate- His Eminence Metropolitan  
JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022  
TONE 1 / EOTHINON 2; SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
& SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

VENERABLE DAVID OF THESSALONICA; JOHN, BISHOP OF THE  
GOTHS IN CRIMEA

## **WELCOME!**

***“The Newest Church in Santa Clarita is the Oldest Church in the World.”***

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes all of you to our community this Sunday- for truly, ***“This is the Day that the Lord has made.”*** We are honored to have you worship with us. If you are new to our community or simply have any questions, please introduce yourselves to Fr. George after the Divine Liturgy. He would love to meet you.

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

### **TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE**

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

### **ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant 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.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For Second Sunday after Pentecost)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (2:10-16)**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek; for there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law; and as many as have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law (for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God but the doers of the Law are justified. For when the nations who do not have the Law do by nature the things contained in the Law, these then, in spite of not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, and their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them) in the day when God judges the secrets of persons, according to my gospel, through Jesus Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For Second Sunday of Matthew)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:18-23)**

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

## THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Venerable David of Thessalonica; and John, bishop of the Goths in Crimea, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.  
Choir: Amen.

## HOLY OBLATIONS

**For Victor and Kati Sarbu, Lily Ana, and Christian** as they move to Indiana. May our Lord continue to protect and grant all good things to your beautiful family in your new life.. The parish of St. Simeon is grateful for all of your work for the youth in our Lord's Vineyard. God bless you always. With all of our love and appreciation.

## TRISAGION

**For Chris Hencke (3 days).** May the Lord grant him rest with all of His Saints. Memory Eternal! Offered by his faithful brothers and sisters in Christ of St. Simeon.

**Please submit your oblations to: stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com  
by 9pm on Wednesday.**

### **Thought for the Week**

***“For it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified.”***

To understand this most profound statement of St. Paul we must first understand some of our most precious Orthodox theology (forgive me again for being theological). We must understand what the terms **“righteousness”** and **“justified”** mean in the above passage.

Being righteous is not a moral category but it is entering into the life of God by keeping His commandments. On the surface, this sounds a bit legalistic but it is not. Keeping the commandments and being forgiven of our debts (sins) is not a change of our legal status before God, it is rather an act of Love by our God. To keep our Lord’s commandments is to love Him and to love our fellow humanity. To sin is a failure to love and that is precisely the debt (or ransom) that our Lord paid on the cross. The cross, in its most profound meaning is that He has freed us from an inability to love by recreating us to be able to love. To truly love is to die to ourselves and to live for others. This understanding of salvation takes us out of the category of doing right and wrong and puts us into the category of loving or failing to love.

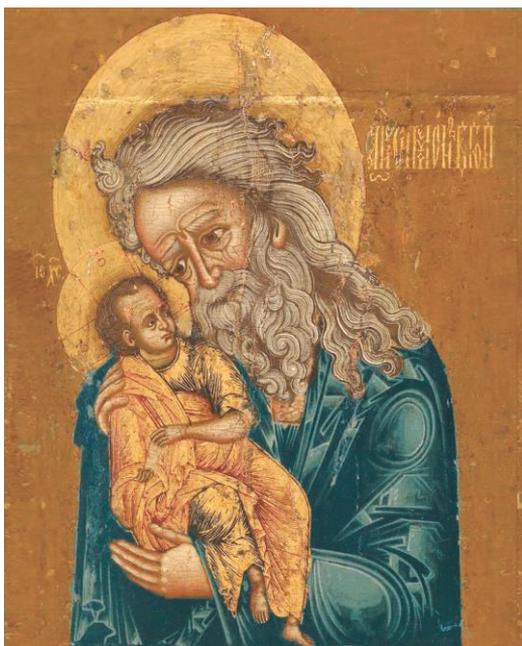
Sin (or our debt) is in its very essence a failure to love. St. Paul writes; <sup>8</sup> ***Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Rom 13:8-10 NKJ)***

It is also in this same way that we, as Orthodox understand what being “justified” means. This is not a legal term that means simply “to be rendered righteous, or to go from guilty to not guilty

before God” (as is so often explained in western theology). It has a much deeper and more subtle meaning. Its meaning can be approached if we read another passage from St. Paul; ***“Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. (Rom 5:18 NKJ)”*** To be justified, means to have life infused into us by God- and that life is love itself. To be justified means to be resurrected to life, to a life of love. And this love does not come from ourselves, but is given to us, is recreated in us by God Himself as a free gift. Read what St. John writes: ***We love Him because He first loved us. (1Jo 4:19 NKJ.*** It is indeed a free gift which has been given to each and every one of us; each of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus and who partake of His Holy Body and Blood, and who strive to love Him by keeping His commandments.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, everything we need has been given to us by our Lord as a free gift. This everything is the ability to love God and to love our neighbor. We must, however, open this gift up and make it our own. We must make it real by using it, by cherishing it, by protecting it at all costs in our relationships with others and with our Lord. We must reject all self-centeredness, all selfishness, and become compassionate and merciful in all that we do. We must forgive others, if we are to be forgiven. We must ultimately die to ourselves and live for our God and for others. This, beloved, is what it means to be a doer of the law. Amen.

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant  
depart in peace,  
according to Thy word**



**For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.**