

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Mt.18:23-35

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses (KJV)

Feast of the Dormition

Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother God has arrived in God's Holy Church. Believers have been preparing for the feast through participating in the Dormition Fast.

God's Holy Church remembers the Mother of God throughout the year in the Divine services. Multiple feasts are set aside during the course of the year to commemorate her life and miracles attributed to her.

The present feast focuses on the end of the Mother of God's earthly life and Her translation into eternity. While the Mother of God departed this earthly life as it is known, she remains alive in remembrance in God's Holy Church.

Believers throughout the world and throughout the centuries turn to the Mother of God in prayer and in hope. God's Holy Church continues to remember and celebrate the Mother of God until the glorious Second Coming.

God's Holy Church prays fervently to the Mother of God throughout the year in the Divine services. The Mother of God is felt to always be present and within reach of prayers directed to Her.

The Mother of God's love for believers and those who turn to Her in prayer and in faith has become well-known. The Mother of God's prayerful intercession with Her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is greatly valued.

This feast comes toward the end of the liturgical New Year. The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God comes shortly after the beginning of the liturgical New Year.

The hunger of the soul is addressed when prayers are directed to the Mother of God. The Mother of God is readily available for believers to turn to in times of need and in times of joy.

An earthly ending to the Mother of God's life did not end Her relationship with God's Holy Church and faithful believers. Lives continue to be enriched and changed due to the actions and love of the Mother of God.

Miracles attributed to the Mother of God are too numerous to number. While many miracles are well-known, too many remain unknown except to private individuals or groups.

The Mother of God was blessed to experience Jesus' earthly birth. She witnessed His death on the Cross. Her relationship with Jesus Christ is unique to Her.

Believers learning about the Mother of God and praying to Her wisely invest their efforts. Turning to the Mother of God in prayer is an expression of faith and hope.

The Mother of God is associated with the joy of Christ's birth. She had part in the miracle at the wedding of Cana. The joy she has brought to lives through the centuries is beyond measure.

Mary's departure from this life is carefully considered and remembered in the Church. The Church is grateful to the Mother of God. Serious believers are grateful to the Mother God.

Believers grow in faith and love when drawing inspiration from the Mother of God. The Mother of God is a source of spiritual nourishment for believers studying Her life and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank God for the Feasts of the Church dedicated to the Mother of God. Thank God for the love and example of the Mother of God. Thank God for the opportunity to pray to, celebrate and learn from the Mother of God.

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. August 15/28, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic