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)

Each Divine Liturgy is a new experience with the Lord God. Attentive believers are nourished by the content of the Divine Liturgy. Participating believers are united with Jesus Christ through His Precious Body and Blood.

Believers are renewed in the Divine Liturgy. Departing from the church believers take their renewed selves into their homes, workplaces and communities. Renewed believers make a positive difference where they go.

The Church entered into the Dormition Fast this past Friday. The Fast continues each day until the Feast of Dormition on August 28 when the Festal Divine Liturgy will be served.

The Dormition Fast is an added opportunity during the year for believers .During the Fast believers can put forth the extra effort to concentrate on renewing themselves in Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday's Gospel spoke of the power and value of prayer and fasting. The Dormition Fast is a beneficial time to put increased prayer and fasting into practice.

Believers put on Christ at Baptism. The whole person is committed to Christ at Baptism. The believer is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Chrismation. Each Divine Liturgy renews the believer in Christ.

Periods of fasting enable believers to reject and rid themselves of sins which have crept into their beings. Prayer and fasting facilitate the believer's unification with Christ.

The Dormition Fast increases the believer's consciousness of the presence of the Mother of God in their lives. The Mother of God was chosen of all women to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Mother of God represents a purity for believers to seek in their earthly daily lives. The Dormition Fast encourages personal purity in Christ. The Mother of God serves as an intercessor in behalf of striving believers.

Today's Gospel from St. Matthew offers a lesson in being compassionate in daily relationships. Every person needs and benefits from God's compassion.

Our daily relationships correspond to our relationships with Jesus Christ. The way we relate with others reflects how we relate with Christ. Our relationships with others reveal whether we honor Jesus Christ's teachings.

The servant initially receiving compassion in today' Gospel did not show compassion to the servant indebted to him. Followers of Jesus Christ are expected to show compassion to others as Christ shows compassion.

Honest self-examination determines whether our relationships correspond with Jesus' teachings. The Dormition Fast is an opportunity to work on becoming more Christ-like in daily life.

Living according to Christ's teachings brings joy to the soul. Unity with Jesus Christ improves our relationships in and outside the home. Relationships grow and develop when they are based on Christ's teachings.

The Divine Liturgy is the best school for learning the essentials of relationships founded in Jesus Christ. The Holy Gospel offers teachings on relationships which have shined down through the centuries.

Jesus is the God of love, mercy and compassion. Persons baptized into Christ are expected to practice love, mercy and compassion in daily life. The Church teaches believers how to become more Christ-like in daily life.

Each Divine Liturgy is vital for remaining Christ-like in life. Growth in Christ is to continue throughout life until entry into God's Kingdom and eternal life. The Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of God's Kingdom.

May today's Divine Liturgy and the Dormition Fast result in our renewal in Christ. Through the prayers of the Mother of God may we learn to always practice love, mercy and compassion in our daily relationships.

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Venerable Isaac, Dalmatius and Faustus. August 3.16, 2025. Father Rodney Torbic