



**7 – 13 Oct, 2018**

**Body of Christ**

**‘Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the Church.  
How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is  
in Him unless he knew where His believers are?’ Martin Luther**

### **The Body of Christ**

- † ***‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us’ (Joh 1:14).*** The word ‘flesh’ refers to the physical nature of Christ. Christ is the perfect expression of God in human form. In Him, God became visible and tangible to us
- † **At the last supper (*Luk 22:1-23*),** Jesus gave a new meaning to the Bread as a representation of His Body. His words ‘this is My Body’ are repeated today in the Divine Liturgy of the Eucharist to confirm that all believers are united to Christ through His Body that is the Bread. This ‘new meal’ instituted by Christ is called Communion because through it, we commune with God and with other believers
- † **Saint Paul described the Church, on earth and in Heaven, as the Body of Christ (*Rom 12:4-8*)**
- † **The Church as Body of Christ and the Eucharistic Body of Christ are inseparably linked. ‘For we, though many, are one bread and one body, for we all partake of that one bread’ verse 17 of the reference (*1 Cor 10:17*)**

### **The Church as the Body of Christ (*1 Cor 12:12-31; Rom 12:4-8*)**

- † **When thinking of the Church as the Body, it is vital to understand who serves as the head; it is Jesus Christ Himself**
- † **Scientifically, the human head is the meeting place for the body’s major sensory organs**
  1. **Christ leads and guides the Body for His honor and for His glory (*1Cor 10:31*)**
  2. **Christ, the Head, also provides life, nourishment and support to the different parts of the body (*Col 2:18, 19*)**
  3. **Each member of the Church is placed perfectly by the Holy Spirit and given gifts with which to serve the rest of the body (*1 Cor 12:4– 7*)**
  4. **By using spiritual gifts, believers honor the Head and build up the Body**

### **The purpose of the Church**

- † **The Church serves as the hands and feet of Christ in the world**

- † The Church seeks to accomplish that mission and reaches UP, IN, and OUT (*Eph 2: 10*)
  1. First, the body of Christ reaches UP through its worship of God. The worship of believers is a response of trust in God and an expression of gratefulness for what Christ has done for them (*Eph 1:11, 12*)
    - We live in the ways God designed us to live: *'We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them'* (*Eph 2:10; Rom 12:1,2*)
    - Worship includes our way of life; the treatment of people, our daily work, our free time, our chore time, and everything we do and say
  2. The Church's purpose reaches IN by helping to shape believers in the likeness of Jesus Christ (*Rom 8:29*) and to become 'perfect in Christ' (*Col 1:28*)
    - Christians have a responsibility to *'grow in the grace and knowledge' of Christ* (*2 Pet 3:18*)
    - The Church promotes spiritual growth through the community; through relationships and solid doctrinal teaching
  3. The Church reaches OUT by bringing Christ, the Truth, to non-believers
    - Before Jesus left earth, He gave His disciples the promise of His authority and His presence (*Mat 28:18- 20*)
    - These two elements empower believers to continue the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ around the world until the end of the age
- † It is impossible (and improper) to exclude any of these areas from the life of a healthy Church
- † All three activities complement each other

### History is not haphazard or cyclical

- † The Incarnation of Jesus divided the history timeline into BC and AD
- † Today, history is moving toward a specific point— the second coming of Christ to judge the living and the dead (*1The 4:16-17; Mat 25:30-32*)
- † Let us be ready for His sudden return (*1 The 5:2*)

### Bibliography

1. *Life Application Study Bible KJV* (Tyndale House Publishers, Illinois , 2007), Kindle Edition
2. *NKJV, Know The Word Study Bible, Gain a greater understanding of the Bible book by book, verse by verse, or topic by topic* (copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982) Kindle Edition, 2016
3. *The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World*

(For the Old Testament text copyright of St Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology, 2008 and for the New Testament text the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982), Kindle Edition, 2008

## Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

## Verse to memorize

'Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen' Revelation 1:7

## During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

## During this coming week, we will lift the Maronite Church in prayer

قانون الايمان  
نؤمن بالله واحد  
اب ضابط الكل  
خالق السماء والارض  
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى  
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح  
ابن الله الوحيد  
المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور  
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق  
مولود غير مخلوق  
مساو للاب في الجوهر  
الذي به كان كل شيء  
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا  
نزل من السماء  
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء  
وصار إنساناً  
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي  
تألم ومات وقبر  
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب  
وصعد إلى السماء  
وجلس عن يمين الله الأب  
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم  
ليدين الأحياء والأموات  
الذي لا فناء لملكه  
ونؤمن بالروح القدس  
الرب المحيي  
المنبثق من الأب والإبن  
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن  
يُسجد له ويمجد  
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل  
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية  
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا  
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة في الدهر الآتي  
أمين

الصلاة الربانية  
أبانا الذي في السماوات  
ليتقدس اسمك  
ليأت ملكوتك  
لتكن مشيئتك  
كما في السماء  
كذلك على الأرض  
أعطنا خبرنا كفاف يومنا  
وأغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا  
كما نحن نغفر  
لمن خطي إلينا  
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب  
لكن نجنا من الشرير  
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد  
إلى أبد الأبدين  
أمين