



**13 - 19 Oct, 2019**

**Jesus Christ, the Merciful, part 2**

**‘For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’**

Romans 6:23

**Christ, the new Adam (Rom 5:12-18)**

- † **The first Adam ate of the tree of knowledge, lost Paradise and consequently, the whole human race got infected with the entrance of corruption and death**
- † **The New Adam, Who is Christ the Tree of Life, restores life to all who unite with Him**

**Human beings’ disobedience (Gn 3)**

- † **Among the many trees in paradise, two were different from the others. *‘And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil’ Gn 2:9***
- † ***‘And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’ Gn 2:16-17***
- † **Adam and Eve, in their disobedience, preferred the tree of knowledge over all the trees even over the tree of life**

***‘God did not forbid the fruit of this tree out of envy but only for the good of the human being, to be given to him at the proper time after he had grown in spiritual maturity’ Saint Gregory the Theologian***

- † **The tree of knowledge is good since all God’s creation is good**
- † **Human beings were to eat from the tree of knowledge at the appropriate time**
  - **They were to grow spiritually first, to be suitably prepared**
  - **Solid food does great harm to those who still need milk**

- † At this moment, it was necessary that they did not eat of the tree of life as well
- † To protect them, God guarded it by the Cherubim, who belonged to the first rank of Angels

### The Father's Divine Mercy

- † God expelled Adam and Eve out of paradise so that they will not eat of the tree of life. *'Then the Lord God said, '...And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden... So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life' Gn 3: 22-24*
- † For if they eat of the tree of life at this moment, they will live in eternal death; that is remain in the fallen and evil state forever
- † The Father established a plan to save us from our own destruction; to repent through the Incarnation of the Son

### Christ's Divine Mercy

- † Christ Himself, through His death and resurrection, opened the gate of Paradise for us
- † Through Christ, we taste the tree of life, overcome death and enter Paradise again
- † *'Greatly sadden was the Tree of Life when it beheld Adam stolen away from it; it sank down into the virgin ground and was hidden \_ to burst forth and reappear on Golgotha; under the Old Covenant the Tree of Life continued to remain hidden from humanity, and it was only with the Crucifixion that it was finally made manifest' Saint Ephrem the Syrian*

### Bibliography

1. Ephrem the Syria. *Hymns*. New York: Paulist Press. 1989
2. Moss, Vladimir. 'Mercy and Judgement.' Orthodoxchristianbooks. January/February, 2018. Accessed August 12, 2019. <http://www.orthodoxchristianbooks.com/articles/868/mercy-judgement/>
3. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

### Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

## Verse to memorize

'By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren' 1 John 3:16

## In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

### God acts

† God Wisdom treats me with mercy not justice

### My reaction

† Am I living His mercy by refusing to compromise?

† Am I laying my life with wisdom, justice and mercy to others?

### 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 Armenian Catholic Church in prayer

### الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات،  
ليتقدس اسمك،  
ليأت ملكوتك،  
ليتك مشيئتك،  
كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض،  
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا،  
وأغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا،  
كما نحن نغفر لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا،  
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب،  
لكن نجنا من الشرير.  
أمين

### قانون الايمان

نؤمن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل،  
خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى،  
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد،  
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور،  
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق،  
مولود غير مخلوق،  
مساو للأب في الجوهر، الذي به كان كل شيء،  
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا،  
نزل من السماء، وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء،  
وصار إنساناً وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي  
وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب،  
وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب،  
وسيأتي أيضاً بمجدٍ عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات  
الذي لا فناء لملكه، وبالروح القدس الرب المحيي  
المُنبتق من الأب والإبن،  
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن، يُسجد له ويُمجّد،  
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل.  
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية،  
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا،  
وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي. أمين