

# OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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RT. REV. ANDRE ST. GERMAIN (retired)

REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. THEOPHAN LEONARCZYK, Eparchial Chancellor

*"Enter the Church and repent ... for here is the physician, not the judge. Here one is not investigated, one receives remission of sins." (St. John Chrysostom)*

July 2, 2017

*The Commemoration of the Deposition of  
the Honorable Mantle of the Mother of God in Blachernae*

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), RICHARD ASHOOH, ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, PAUL MANSUR, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, JOE NEHME, MAURICE PARE, PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND CHRISTELLE SLAYBE

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Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

N.A.M.Y. Advisor: ROBIN ANDERSON

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN ILLUMINATION: Please contact the clergy in advance to arrange for the required baptismal instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: At least six months prior to the proposed wedding, please contact the clergy to arrange for the required interview and instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed;

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Anyone too infirm to attend our services may receive Communion in the home. Please advise the clergy whenever this sacrament is needed.

## **THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY**

### **The Troparion of the Resurrection (3<sup>rd</sup> Tone) Page 52**

#### **Troparion of the Feast of Deposition (8<sup>th</sup> Tone)**

Ever-virgin Mother of God, refuge and protection of the human race, you gave your mantle and cincture to your city as a powerful defense. These garments remained incorrupt because of your virginal child-bearing. Time and nature are renewed in you, wherefore we pray that you may grant peace to the universe and great mercy to our souls.

#### **The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1<sup>st</sup> Tone): Page 16**

#### **Kontakion of the Deposition (4<sup>th</sup> Tone)**

O Pure One whom God Himself has blessed; you have given as a blanket of purity to all the faithful the holy mantle that had covered your pure body. We celebrate with love the deposition of this mantle and sing out gleefully: "Rejoice, O Virgin most honorable, glory of all Christians!"

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#### **THE PROKIMENON:**

**SING PRAISE TO OUR GOD, SING PRAISE!**

**SING PRAISE TO OUR KING, SING PRAISE!**

*All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!*

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**Today's Readings: Romans 6: 18-23 and Matthew 8: 5-13**

## **LITURGY INTENTIONS**

#### **Saturday, 4:30 PM:**

For the repose of Elias Solomon (49<sup>th</sup>), Joseph Baroody (46<sup>th</sup>),  
Zahia George (44<sup>th</sup>), Theodora Smit (35<sup>th</sup>), Peter Flamant (26<sup>th</sup>),  
Martha Khatler (24<sup>th</sup>) and Anthony Stephen (16<sup>th</sup>)

#### **Sunday, 10:00 AM:**

For the health and salvation of the members of our parish  
who graduated from high school and college in 2017:  
Grace Anderson, Emma Ashooh, Amanda Ouellette,  
Maya Ashooh, and Nicholas Leonarczyk

#### **Next Saturday, (July 8) 4:30 PM:**

For the repose of Mary Maloley (34<sup>th</sup>), Joseph Jadda (34<sup>th</sup>),  
Afef Nassif (29<sup>th</sup>), Nabeeha Baroody (28<sup>th</sup>), and Rachel Hykil (20<sup>th</sup>)

#### **Next Sunday, (July 9) 10:00 AM**

For the repose of the members of this parish who have departed from this life,  
and for the repose of all of our departed friends, family, and loved ones



**MAHRAJAN 2017 is coming!**  
***(and here is how you can you help)***

**We need grape leaves!**

Grape leaves will be needed by July 11, so please wash and pack them in your freezer as they become available. We need about 3,000!

**Add your message to our book!**

Please consider placing your message or memorial in the Mahrajan 2017 souvenir book – only \$100 per page!

**Make a donations for food!**

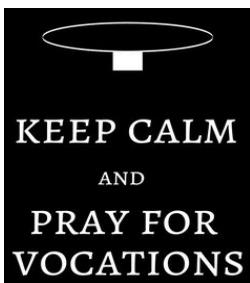
Help us with our costs is by donating a food or ingredient. There are signup sheets in the hall, along with the cost. Envelopes are also available there, if you would like to use them. We are counting on your generosity. All donors will be recognized in our annual souvenir book.

**Help with food preparation!**

We need help in the kitchen for food preparation on July11 at 6 PM for rolling about 3,000 Grape Leaves.

**Help us find ads!**

Help us to get ads for the Mahrajan 2017 souvenir book by soliciting places where you do business.



In the readings today, both Paul and Christ are urging people to live in a faith relationship with God so that they might experience dynamic freedom and salvation. That faith must be expressed in the attitudes and actions of one's life. Faith opens the door to a transforming relationship with God. We need priests top help us keep moving in that direction in our Christian lives. Have you ever considered that ministry for yourself? Have you encouraged others to it? Have you prayed for more vocations? That in itself is an act of faith.

**Attendance Last Week: Sat., 4:30 PM: 33    Sun. 11 AM: 64**

**Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 690.<sup>00</sup>**

*The average Sunday envelope donation: \$22.<sup>64</sup>*

*The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 78,063.<sup>38</sup>*

**SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**

Wed., July 5	7:00 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: Offered for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and throughout the world</b>
Sat., July 8	4:30 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
Sun., July 9	9:15 AM	<b>Sunday Orthros</b>
Sun., July 9	10:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b>

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017!



*Congratulations to those in our parish who received college degrees:*

	<b>School</b>	<b>Degree Received</b>
Grace Anderson	St. Anselm College	Bachelor of Arts in Classics, and in Natural Sciences
Emma Ashooh	American University	Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Policy, and Law
Amanda Ouellette	Plymouth State College	Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology

*Congratulations also to those in our parish who have graduated from high school this year:*

	<b>School</b>	<b>Next Year's Plans</b>
Maya Ashooh	Bedford High School	University of New Hampshire
Nicholas Leonarczyk	Manchester Memorial High School	Manchester Community College

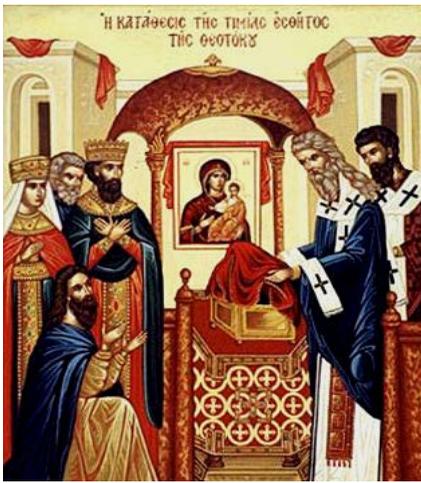
## **Wednesday Evening: Divine Liturgy for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and throughout the world**

Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ suffering in the Middle East and throughout the world. The Divine Liturgy will be offered on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM, for their intention, and for the repose of those Christians who have lost in this persecution.

Let us also pray of the conversion of the persecutors, remembering that in the Liturgy of St. Basil we pray: “Remember, O God ... those who love us and those who hate us, and those who have begged us, unworthy though we be, to remember them in our prayers. Remember all Your people, O Lord our God, and upon all pour forth Your rich mercies, granting them everything they need for salvation.” ***Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!***

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***“But I say to you,” the Lord says, “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you.” Why did he command these things? So that he might free you from hatred, sadness, anger and grudges, and might grant you the greatest possession of all, perfect love, which is impossible to possess except by the one who loves all equally in imitation of God. –St. Maximos the Confessor***



## The Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae:

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Great (457-474), the brothers Galbuis and Candidus, associates of the emperor, set out from Constantinople to Palestine to venerate the holy places. In a small settlement near Nazareth they stayed in the home of a certain old Jewish woman. They noticed a room where many lamps were lit, incense burned, and sick people were gathered. When they asked her what the room contained, the pious woman did not want to give an answer. After persistent requests, she said that she had a very precious sacred item: the Robe of the Mother of God, which performed many miracles and healings. Before Her Dormition

the Most Holy Virgin bequeathed one of her garments to a pious Jewish maiden, an ancestor of the old woman, instructing her to leave it to another virgin after her death. Thus, the Robe of the Mother of God was preserved in this family from generation to generation.

The jeweled chest, containing the sacred Robe, was transferred to Constantinople. At Blachernae, near the seacoast, a new church in honor of the Mother of God was constructed. On June 2, 458 Saint Gennadius transferred the sacred Robe into the Blachernae church with appropriate solemnity, placing it within a new reliquary.

Afterwards, the maphorion (i.e., the outer robe) of the Mother of God, and part of her belt were also put into the reliquary with Her Robe. The Russian pilgrim Stephen of Novgorod, visiting Constantinople in about the year 1350, testifies: “We arrived at Blachernae, where the Robe lies upon an altar in a sealed reliquary.”

On June 18, 860 the Russian fleet of Prince Askold, a force comprising more than 200 ships, laid waste the coastal regions of the Black Sea and the Bosphorus, then entered into the Golden Horn and threatened Constantinople. The emperor Michael III (842-867), prayed all night prostrated upon the stone tiles of the church of the Mother of God at Blachernae. The holy Patriarch Photius spoke to his flock, calling for tears of repentance to wash away sins, and to seek the intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos with fervent prayer.

After serving an all-night Vigil in the Blachernae church, they carried the sacred Robe of the Mother of God in a procession around the city walls. They dipped its edge into the waters of the Bosphorus, and then they transported it to the center of Constantinople into the church of Hagia Sophia. The Mother of God protected the city and quelled the fury of the Russian warriors and Askold lifted the siege of Constantinople.

On July 2, the wonderworking Robe of the Mother of God was solemnly returned to its place in the reliquary of the Blachernae church. In remembrance of these events an annual feastday of the Placing of the Robe of the Mother of God was established by holy Patriarch Photius.

The Russian Prince Askold accepted holy Baptism with the name Nicholas, and many of his retinue were also baptized. By the blessing of the Mother of God and by the miracle from Her holy Robe not only was the deliverance of Constantinople accomplished, but also the liberation of the Russians from the darkness of pagan superstition to life eternal.

# O Lord, Save Your People

THE YEAR 1938 SAW AN ESCALATION of warlike activities in Nazi Germany. In March Hitler invaded Austria and began to move against Czechoslovakia. Attacks on synagogues and Jewish businesses increased and thousands of German Jews were arrested. The response of one Russian-American, Irving Berlin, was to compose the song “God Bless America” which would become like a second National Anthem during World War II and the years that followed.



## Praying for the Nation

Christians have always prayed for their country, even when its leadership was persecuting them. The Lord Jesus was displayed on the cross as an anti-Roman revolutionary (the “King of the Jews”), yet He never advocated revolt as many Jewish zealots did. His approach was rather, “*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Mk 12:17).

The apostolic writings, composed when Roman officials began repressing Christians, still insisted, “*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities*” (Rom 13:1). St Paul here offered his most elaborated statement on supporting the civil authority by prayer “*For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. .... But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ... For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor*” (Rom 13:1-7).

The main points in this passage would be repeated frequently in the apostolic writings and by the early Christian defenders of Christianity. The ultimate source of civil power is God and therefore it is God who has placed rulers in authority.

The power of earthly rulers is legitimate, if limited to the temporal order. As St Justin the Philosopher (100-165) explained, “*Whence to God alone we render worship, but in other things we gladly serve you, acknowledging you as kings and rulers of men, and praying that with your kingly power you be found to possess also sound judgment... as Christ intimated when He said, ‘To whom God has given more, of him shall more be required’*” (Justin, *First Apology*).

From the start, the Church rejected the Empire’s idolatry and emperor-worship. It condemned many of its cultural values as well and as a result it suffered greatly at the hands of the Empire’s leaders, but in principle it respected the God-given place of the Empire and its Emperor. In St Paul’s view civil authorities have a place in God’s purposes: to insure “*that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence*” (1 Tm 2:2). When the state is at peace then

believers are free to live godly lives, raising up their praises to God without hindrance. This passage is the inspiration for our prayer for civil authorities to this day. In the anaphora of the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom the priest prays, "...for our civil authorities, for the government and the armed forces. O Lord, grant them peaceful rule that we too, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and quiet life in all virtue and honor."

In the Liturgy of St Basil our prayer is similar, but with an added note. "Remember, Lord, this country and all those in public service whom You have allowed to govern on earth. Grant them profound and lasting peace. Speak to their hearts good things concerning Your Church and all Your people that through the faithful conduct of their duties we may live peaceful and serene lives in all piety and holiness. Sustain the good in their goodness; make the wicked good through Your goodness." We recognize that, while rulers may be legitimate, they may not always be godly.

### **The "Christian State"**

In AD 313 the Edict of Milan decreed religious toleration in the Roman Empire. This was followed in a few years by the proclamation of Christianity as the state religion in the Empire. The state came to be seen as a servant of God. At the height of this development the Emperor was seen as a kind of secular deacon, wearing a sticharion and orarion as part of his imperial regalia and receiving Communion at the holy table.

There were also Christians who felt that God did not desire a "Christian state." The North African philosopher Lactantius viewed history this way in his synopsis of Christian thought, the *Divine Institutes*: "God might have bestowed upon His people both riches and kingdoms, as He had given previously to the Jews, whose successors and posterity we are. However, He would have Christians live under the power and government of others, lest they should become corrupted by the happiness and prosperity, slide into luxury and eventually despise the commandments of God. For this is what our ancestors did" (V, 23). When Constantine became Emperor he appointed Lactantius as tutor to his son Crispus. We do not know whether the philosopher's attitude to a Christian state changed after that.

In any case, while civic tranquility may free believers to pursue union with God, times of persecution or civil strife often bring out the strengths of some, adorning the Church with holy martyrs, confessors and passion-bearers. Each era and condition of life may become the arena for following Christ.

### **The Battle-Hymn of the Empire**

One of our most frequently-heard prayers, the troparion of the holy cross, was originally a battle-hymn for the Christian Empire. The literal translation of the original Greek text is: "O Lord save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to our emperor over the barbarians and preserve Your dwelling-place by the power of Your cross."

With the fall of the Eastern Christian Empires (Byzantium, Russia) the hymn has been adapted in various ways to remove the references to the emperor and the barbarians. One popular version says "grant victory to our country over its enemies." In some churches, however, the following is sung: "grant victory to Your people over their enemy (i.e. the devil)." This version stresses that the Christian people as a whole, rather than any earthly realm, is the dwelling-place of God and that our real enemy is not the nation next door but our spiritual foes, the powers of evil.

**Please remember** to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Paul Archambeault, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Al Auclair, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Sarah Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Sarah Dagher, Janet Drake, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclar, Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Blaise Notter, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Ellen Osgood, Josephine Paquette, Sheila Quinn, Susan Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvas, Denise Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, and Iris Angelina Velasquez.

**If you are visiting our church,** our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Please give us the chance to get to know you by joining us for some coffee, pastry, and conversation in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to know more about the Melkite Catholic Church, check out the brochure entitled **"Welcome to this Holy House,"** located on the table in the back of the church.



  <p><b>Joe Ashooh, Agent</b> 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 <a href="http://www.joesthere.com">www.joesthere.com</a></p> <p><small>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</small></p>	<p><b>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC</b> <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> <b>Abraham Dagher, Realtor</b> 814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101 <b>(603) 629-9988</b></p>	 <p><b>Chuck Stephen</b> 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 <a href="mailto:chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com">chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com</a> <a href="http://www.glenwoodinvestment.com">www.glenwoodinvestment.com</a></p>
<p><b>THE STEPHEN GROUP</b></p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p><b>JOHN STEPHEN</b> <i>Managing Partner</i> <a href="mailto:jstephen@stephengroupinc.com">jstephen@stephengroupinc.com</a> <a href="http://www.stephengroupinc.com">www.stephengroupinc.com</a></p>		<p><b>Glenwood Investment Group</b> <i>"Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth"</i></p>  <p><b>Stephen LAW GROUP PLC</b></p> <p><b>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law</b> 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 <a href="http://www.StephenLaw.com">www.StephenLaw.com</a></p>
<p><b>Check out <a href="http://www.melkite.org">www.melkite.org</a> -new educational material is posted regularly!</b></p>	<p><b>Mahrajan 2017 is coming! Aug. 18, 19, 20</b></p>	 <p><b>Your Ad Here \$300 per Year</b></p>

## Today's Readings:

### A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (6:18-23)

BRETHREN, now that you have been freed from sin, you have come to serve justification. I speak in a human way because of the weakness of your flesh. For as you yielded your members as slaves to uncleanness and iniquity, so now yield your members as slaves of justification so as to be sanctified. For while you were the slaves of sin, you had nothing to do with justification. But what fruit did you gather then of those deeds of which you are now ashamed? For the end of such things is death. But now, set free from sin and become slaves to God, you have your fruit resulting in sanctification, and as your end, life everlasting. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life everlasting in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### الرسالة (رومة) 6 : 18-23

يا إخوة، بعدَ أنْ أعتقنتم إلى الخطيئة استعبدتم إلى للبرِّ، أقولُ كلاماً بشرياً من أجلِ ضعفِ جسدكم. فكما جعلتم أعضاءكم عبيداً للنجاسةِ والإثمِ للإثمِ، كذلك الآنَ اجعلوا أعضاءكم عبيداً للبرِّ للقداسة. لأنكم حينَ كنتم عبيداً للخطيئة، كنتم أحراراً من البرِّ، فأَيُّ ثمرٍ حصلَ لكم حينئذٍ من الأمورِ التي تستحيون منها الآنَ؟ إنما عاقبتُها الموت، وأمّا الآن وقد أعتقنتم من الخطيئة واستعبدتم لله، فتحوزونَ ثمركم للقداسة، والعاقبةُ حياةٌ أبدية، لأنَّ أجرَةَ الخطيئةِ موتٌ، وأمّا موهبةُ اللهِ فحياةٌ أبديةٌ في المسيح يسوعَ ربنا.

## The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Evangelist (8:5-13)

At that time when Jesus entered Caparnaum, there came to him a centurion who begged him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying sick in the house, paralyzed, and is grievously afflicted." Jesus said to him, "I will come and cure him." But in answer the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, and have soldiers subject to me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." And when Jesus heard this, he marveled, and said to those who were following him, "Amen I say to you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel. And I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west, and will feast with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be put out into the darkness outside; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; as you have believed, so be it done to you." And the servant was healed at that hour.

### لانجيل الرابع بعد العنصرة

### الانجيل (متى 8: 5-13)

في ذلك الزمان، لما جاء يسوع الى كفرناحوم، دنا اليه قائد مئة وسأله قائلاً: يا سيدي، إن غلامي مُلقى في البيت مُقعداً يعذبُ بعدابٍ شديد فقال له يسوع: أنا آتي واشفية. فأجاب قائد المائة وقال: يا سيدي لستُ أهلاً أن تدخل تحت سقفي ولكن قل كلمة لا غير فيبيراً غلامي. فإني أنا أيضاً إنسانٌ تحت سلطان، ولي جُندٌ تحت يدي. فأقول لهذا اذهب فيذهب ولإلّاخَرَ أنت فيأتي. ولعبدي اعمل هذا فيعمل. فلما سمع يسوع تعجب وقال: للذين يتبعونه الحق أقول لكم إنني لم أجد مثلاً هذا الايمان حتى ولا في إسرائيل وأنا أقول لكم إن كثيرين يأتون من المشارق والمغرب ويتكثرون مع إبراهيم وإسحق ويعقوب في ملكوت السماوات، وأما بنو الملكوت فيلقون في الظلمة البرانية هناك يكون البكاء وصريف الأسنان. ثم قال يسوع لقائد المئة: اذهب وليكن لك كما آمنت فشفي غلامه في تلك الساعة.