



***“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”***

We are not without a witness when facing the Father. His Son is the one who brings us. It is not the angels that pray for our forgiveness but Christ himself. It is through Him and in Him that we discovered at Ascension the love of the Father, like never before. The love that embraces. In Christ, the prodigal humanity returns to the Father. We have never been forgiven and loved as we are today. Our alienation is healed within the communion with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We can partake today of the holiness that comes out of communion. The longing for communion of a sinful man becomes the longing for communion of the one who is holy. Ascension heals in us the sorrow of the Resurrection, when we did not know to recognize Christ every time. When we did not go towards the same village. When we went fishing instead of searching for Him. When He had to go through the doors that were locked because of fear in order to greet us with peace. And He breathed upon us the Holy Spirit, so we can have communion with Him and with each other. The sorrow of being with Him only for a little while changes at Ascension because we encounter Christ in all. He is among us. Out of communion with the Father, of the filial love that the Son is sharing with us, we can no longer endure in us the spirit of segregation. As we experienced the love of the Father that heals the egotism in us, so every movement that hinders communion in us pierces our heart with sorrow. And so we become sensitive to everything that breaks communion in us, within the community and within the world, to everything that keeps us away from the love we are experiencing. We become sensitive to the pain of the other who is outcast. Who is out of communion because of his sins or because of ours. Marginalization within humanity becomes a pain for the one who has been embraced by the Father. And it moves, as a community, to reach out to every outcast soul that is forgotten either because of illness or social status, or because he has sinned, him or his parents, or because we were not able to look outside of ourselves. The church, who tasted, through the Holy Spirit, the perfect communion between the Father and the Son is moved to embrace all.

The one who is segregated and forgotten because of his sickness is visited and healed. The one who sinned and broke communion is forgiven. The one who is pushed aside for being poor, is brought at the very core and made rich through grace, presiding within the church, he becomes the bread and wine, the gift that heals the communion of the saints. The good news is brought to the one who is sorrowful, and a crown of glory is placed on the head of the one who was persecuted. The rich are made poor, so they can receive the simple joy, and the kings are made servants so that they can learn what it means to be human and regain their dignity. The one who is lost is greeted with “Christ is risen!” and resurrected from the dead.

On Saturday morning Mark, who’s been coming to early breakfast for years, since before Covid, had some time to spare. And so he exchanged a few questions and remarks about today. He always had something to say. Something different and new. About a book, about a story from a newspaper, from

and old or a new manual. He has the gift of finding light things about humanity. Just like Hector, who finds pieces of colorful plastic and lights on the streets, Mark finds something bright and good in humanity, and he is ready to share it, if asked. On Saturday he expressed his pain that things look bad. This might have been the first time, in all these years, when he was tempted, and could not resist, by the power of the negative reality around and within us. And in a way, he is not wrong. It felt this week that many things were breaking, and people had fewer good intentions than the day before. Even in our small and forgotten world, things from the chapel have been stolen and disappeared, "old friends and new friends" with old practices are returning, and lie, instead of faith, seems to have replaced the logic. Illnesses did not cure, but on the contrary, we are getting worse... So when and where do we see the completion of goodness in us, in the city, within humanity itself?

***"And I will deliver to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred sixty days, having been wrapped around in sackcloth."* Revelation 11:3-6**

And yet, today we are given to listen to the prayer of the Son to His Father. We remember a time when we were told and we did not listen and afterwards we hid because we were ashamed, and a time when we heard but could not understand and our heart turned cold, and a time when Jesus spoke in parables and we needed him to explain to us plainly. And a time when He explained to us the scriptures about Himself because we did not believe. A time, not farther than this week, when we asked Him to show us the Father, and He asked us how we could ask him that, since we have seen Him and been with Him. ...

And today, when it is given to us to listen to the prayer of the Son to the Father, we are so intimate with Him, so close. Today it is given to us to listen to the Son talking to the Father. To listen to the Son's prayer. We are witnesses of His intercession. Because we hear the Son praying for us. Interceding for us. Completing in us the work of His salvation. He offers us, through himself, as a gift for the Father. As we hear, we see and understand that goodness is working in us today. At the ascension we see completed what we experience daily, over time.

In our own life we are people of magic. And at times bipolar. And we pendulate, we think, from very bad to worse. Within our own imagination. Easily condemning others and ourselves, and easily believing in a magic potion that will change us instantly and forever in a fraternity of angels that dance on earth, escaping the heaven. And nobody could blame us for that. Because the worse is real and we can escape from it through fantasia that asks for a better place now. And we go quickly to that better place and afterwards we come back to a worse place. Just as a visitor said on Friday: "The change in us starts with accepting and beholding your own brokenness. The realization of that makes you free. (He had probably attended a few AA meetings, something in him betrayed him that day). And after that, he continued, trusting completely in Christ."

On Wednesday, P. apologized again for not being religious. When asked what he believed in he pointed to the cross in the chapel, the cross of St Damian, and he said: "*In Christ, in Him ... and living a life the way He shows us to live.*"



The embrace of the Father, and the communion we taste, shows us from very close the brokenness of humanity in us and the time it takes for us to learn what it means to be loved. There is a need for time in order for that to happen and come to full completion. The Father embraces fully the humanity through His Son, as broken as it is today, because the Son is healing its illness by day and by night, as the Holy Spirit is bringing about communion. The goodness of Christ is at work in us today. At times we cannot see it and experience it the way we experience and live and see it at the Ascension. That's why, in the scripture today, we are given to listen to the prayer of the Son to His Father. In order to become a witness of salvation that the Son has been completing in us. So we can forgive without resentment and heal each other not without love. With faith, the church embraces all, through the arms of the Holy Spirit, because the goodness of Christ is working in us today. By knowing this truth, the poverty is not seen without reward and brokenness not without healing. We are not judgemental with the weak and find hope even for ourselves. Because today, within the communion of the Holy Trinity, the Word has been gifted to us. And today we listen. And believe. And witness the love that heals all wounds. And the time needed for that to come to full completion. Because Christ is among us!



**St. Silouan Chapel at St. John the Compassionate Mission**

155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9  
416-466-1357 • info@stjohnsmmission.org • stjohnsmmission.org

**St. Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission**

193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3  
647-358-4105



We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate, “Mother Church of Christ’s poor,”  
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

©2026 St. John the Compassionate Mission