

# The Gospel's Voice



## Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration

Number 15, February 2017

### The Holy Meeting

When the forty days prescribed by the Law of Moses for the purification of the mother of a newborn child were fulfilled (see Lv 12: 2-4), the All-Holy Mother of God and St. Joseph brought the Infant Jesus in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, for every firstborn child, belonging by right to the Lord (Ex. 13:15) was to be consecrated to the Temple and, as it were, exchanged for the offering of a one-year-old lamb, or, for poor families, a pair of turtledoves and two doves (Lv 12,8).

Arriving in the Temple, Mary carrying the Infant and Joseph were received, it is said, by the high priest Zachariah, the father of St. John the Precursor, who unexpectedly placed the Mother of God in the place reserved for the virgins. At that time a man named Simeon, a righteous and pious observer of all the commandments of God, had waited for many years the fulfillment of the prophecy which the Holy Spirit had inspired him. That is, he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord. This old man, who was representing the waiting of Israel, stretched forth his arms, his hands covered with the folds of his cloak, to receive the Savior as on a throne of cherubim. He blessed God and said:

"Now, O Lord Sovereign, you can let your servant go in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation" (Lk 2: 9).

The Covenant of Israel, having become obsolete at the apparition of Christ, and the obscure Law, demanded by Him to withdraw before the light of grace. This old man, seeing and touching the Savior who had been announced and whose coming had been prepared by the righteous and prophets for so many centuries, could ask God in all confidence to be freed from the bonds of flesh and corruption to leave room for the eternal youth of the Church. He solemnly announced abolishing the figures and uttering the ultimate prophecy concerning the Savior, predicting to his Mother that His Passion and His vivifying Resurrection would be a sign of contradiction, and that they would bring about the fall of the ungodly and the raising of those who will believe in Him.

*From the Synaxarion*



And here is a comment from Saint Silouane the Athonite:

A sinful soul, imprisoned in its passions, cannot have peace or rejoice in the Lord, even if it possessed all the riches of the earth and reigned over the whole world. If a king, happily feasting with his princes and sitting in all his glory on his throne, suddenly received the news: "*King, you are going to die instantly,*" his soul would be troubled, and he would see all his weakness.

But how many poor people have nothing but their love for God, and who, if they were told, "*You are going to die at once,*" would reply in peace: "*May the will of the Lord be done. Glory to the Lord because He has remembered me and wants to take me where, the first is arrived, the good thief!*" "

There are poor people who are not afraid of death, but meet it with peace, like the old Simeon who sang his song: "*Now, Lord, according to your word, let your servant go in peace.*" "

Only those who bear in their souls the peace of God, or at least who have experienced it, can understand what peace was in the soul of old Simeon. From this peace, the Lord said to his disciples, "*I give you my peace.*" The one who possesses it goes in peace towards eternal life and says:

"*Glory to You, Lord, for now I come to You and I will be able to contemplate your Face forever in peace and love. Your peaceful and gentle look has attracted my soul, and it languishes after You.*" "

Archimandrite Sophrony, *Saint Silouane, vie, doctrine, écrits*,  
Le Cerf, 2016, pp 303-304

# Divine Liturgy

*Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.*

**Thursday 2nd of February:** The Holy Meeting (*Matines*)

**Sunday 5th:** Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

**Sunday 12th:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Sunday 19th:** Sunday of the Last Jugment (*last day of meats*)

**From the 20th to the 26th:** *Week of milk products.*

**Sunday 26th:** Sunday of Adam's Exil.

**Monday 27th:** *beginning of the Great Lent.*

*Every week day at 9h30, Matines.*

## The Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration

Grande-Rivière N-O

Mauritius

(behind Garage BALA)

**Divine Liturgy every Sunday  
at 9.30 a.m.**

Father Athanasios: 57 33 32 53

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