



■ † Saturday of Souls

Let Us Listen to Our Mother, the Church*

Epistle (I Thess. 4:13-17)

Brethren, I would not have you to be ignorant concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord: that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Gospel (St. John 5: 24-30)

The Lord said: Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word, and believeth in Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself, and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is

coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth—they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of Mine own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father Who hath sent Me.

Now the Holy Church directs our attention beyond the borders of our present life, to our fathers and brothers who have passed on from here.

The Church hopes, by reminding us of their state (which we ourselves shall not escape), to prepare us to spend Cheese-fare week properly, as well as the ensuing Great Lent.



Let us listen to our mother the Church! And commemorating our fathers and brothers, let us take care to prepare ourselves for our passing over to the other world.

Let us bring to mind our sins and repent for them, resolving in the future to keep ourselves pure from any defilement. For nothing unclean will enter the Kingdom of God, and at the Judgement no one unclean will be justified.

After death do not expect purification. You will remain as you are when you cross over. You must prepare your cleansing here.

Let us hurry, for who can predict how long one will live? Life could be cut off this very hour.

How can we appear unclean in the other world? With what eyes will we look at our fathers and brothers who will meet us? How will we answer their questions: “What is this evil that is in you? What is this? And what is this?” What shame will cover us!

Let us hasten to set aright all that is out of order, to appear in at least a somewhat tolerable and bearable state in the other world..



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.