

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, May 3, 2015*

YEAR B - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Lord is risen! Greetings & salutations to you all, my brethren. Today is the 5th Sunday in our Easter season. This week we see an interesting parallel between our first reading from Trimorphic Protennoia & our Gospel reading from John. In both texts we read of the fruit that is produced by the different sorts of vegetation - the corruptible & the incorruptible. In the Trimorphic Protennoia we see the archons in a state of disarray. Because of the voice of the Holy Spirit thundering into the cosmos, even the archons themselves are granted a portion of gnosis; not a full enlightenment, of which they would be incapable of receiving anyway, but enough for them to realize what a pitiful state of ignorance they're in. The archons lament, "The tree from which we grew has fruit of ignorance. Death is in its leaves, & darkness is under the shadow of its boughs...Even the chief creator of our birth...did not know this speech."

Now contrast this with the words of the Logos, who states, "I am the vine, the true one, & my Father is the vine-grower. Every branch bearing fruit he purifies that it may bear even more fruit." But the dead branches "are gathered & thrown into the fire & burned." We see, therefore, the juxtaposition between the fruit of ignorance & the fruit of gnosis. The one leads to chaos & the utter destruction, while the other leads to purification & continued fruitfulness.

There is also a connection between our first reading & our Epistle from 1st John. The Epistle discusses the perfecting of the Agape of God in us. This is the message of Christ. The law of the Demiurge says "Fear the Lord." The law of the True God of Light & Life, the law Jesus brings to us, says, "Fear is not in Agape; but the perfect Love casts our Fear, for fear has to do with punishment, but the one fearing has not been perfected in Agape." If, therefore, "Fear is the beginning of Wisdom," Agape is the fulfillment of Wisdom. We are told, "In this Agape has been perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment, for as he is, so are we in this cosmos." This is the very Day of Judgment feared by the archons who, in our first reading, state, "The time is short, & the days are brief, & our age is fulfilled, & the weeping of our destruction is near."

But those who have partaken of the fruit of gnosis, the fruit of the True Vine, do not know Fear, for Wisdom has lifted that one up to Her. But how do we know that the Love of God abides in us? It is not enough to have strong sentiments or inward feelings, no matter how strong & pure they may be. The Love of God in us is made known through our actions toward others. Just as it is not enough to merely harbor a sentiment, neither is it enough to pay lip service to the Love of God. Every action, large or small, should be an expression of God's love. Whether we are performing acts of charity or simply encountering a stranger on the street, remember that you are ministers of the Church of God, of Christ's mission in the cosmos. Do this & none of the authorities or the rulers of the cosmos will have any power over you, for you will be a reminder to them that to defy the Light is to bring about their own destruction.