

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, December 31, 2017*

YEAR B - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Greetings and welcome on this New Year's Eve. Before we look at the message of today's readings, let us take just a moment to reflect over the past year. 2017 was another very productive year for the ACP. We saw the Church grow through Baptisms, ordinations, and affiliations. We have seen the expansion of the ACP into at least seven states, marking a slow but steady progress of our mission. There have also been many works translated this past year as a part of our ongoing project begun by myself a couple of years ago, and now augmented by the efforts of Tau Bruno II. These translations of books, articles, rituals, and other rare documents is something long over-due in the Gnostic and esoteric community. Many of these works that are now being made available either publicly or privately, comprise an integral part of our Gnostic, Martinist, and esoteric Masonic tradition; and there are already several new endeavors planned for 2018.

Now, looking at our readings for the day, there is a theme that may be found to tie all three of them together; it is the concept of the Fullness, or of being "filled," or of fulfillment. The first reading, from the Apocryphon of James, says that only those who are "filled" shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The passage from Galatians speaks of the "fulness of time." And our Gospel reading related that the child Jesus was "being filled with wisdom."

In the Epistle and Gospel readings we read clearly of the "fulness of time" and "being filled with wisdom." But our reading from the Apocryphon of James merely states that one must be "filled." So, what does this mean? It means that one must be at one with, absorbed with, the Light of the Pleroma; for the Pleroma, the Fullness, is a realm of Spiritual Light itself. But this spiritual or pneumatic light is not at all like ordinary light. It does not enlighten our physical vision, but our inner vision, our understanding. It is the Light of Gnostis. This Light is also Love, and Hope, and Faith. All of these Virtues are manifestations of the pneumatic light, the Light of the Pleroma; and each form one of the branches of the Gnostic Tree, that is to say the Cross; and each constitutes a path to the salvation of the soul.

It is important to remember that the Pleroma is not Gnostis alone; it is only along with Faith, Hope, and Love that the Fullness is truly full; or rather, it is only in uniting these paths that one may truly experience the Fullness that is the Pleroma. Not everyone, it is true, will experience all of these rays of the Pleromic Light to the same degree; and each ray is salvific in its own way. But the happiest and most blessed is the one who can find the greatest equilibrium in the paths. But know too that Love is the greatest of all these, even greater than Gnosis, as St. Paul has made clear to us. Gnosis is good, but it is something we receive; Love is something we spread into the world. That is what we are called to do.