



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
**THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor  
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465  
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179  
[www.stconstantinehelen.org](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020**

Κυριακή 11η Οκτωβρίου 2020

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ζ΄ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ

Αποστ: Τίτου 3:8-15

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 8:5-15

Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council

Today's Readings

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

**A SEED - THE SMALL MIRACLE OF SALVATION**

What is a seed? A seed is something mostly small in size, and most people dismiss it or take it for granted. We have to realize, however, that a seed contains a miracle. When you look at it from the outside, or touch it, it's hard, it's dry, you would say that it is like a soft little rock, it has no life and it probably doesn't really have any purpose. But when it is given water, life begins to show. The outer shell dies but the inner kernel comes alive by the mysterious forces of growth. The inner powers of the kernel are released when the seed is in proper soil and receives adequate moisture. The kernel germinates, and new life begins. As long as nourishment, in the form of fertilizer, good soil and water is provided, growth will continue. From the seed comes a flower, a plant, or a tree, but when we look at the seed, how could we ever see the potential of what there was to come? We couldn't. It moves us to ask if this seed, can it be a miracle in human beings. The seeds we use to grow physically are different, but it is the same kind of system as a seed, it follows a system of nourishment, good soil or good environment in our case and sure enough, the seed grows. We grow physically. Spiritual growth isn't seen the same way. Spiritual growth needs the exercise of our own free will to make good, intelligent, moral and spiritual decisions, to be committed to them and follow through with our actions. And just like physical growth, it needs good nourishment and an environment to grow.

In today's Parable of the Sower, Jesus teaches that both seed and soil are necessary for growth. Both seed and soil need proper interaction to produce a satisfying crop. The seed is the word of God. The soil is the life and heart of every human being. The parable tells us that there is a lot of seed that is lost when it falls into unreceptive soil, soil that doesn't take it and have it grow. However, when seed and soil work together, a lot of growing happens. We read in the parable "And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As Christians, we all want to be part of that group.

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1

In today's lesson, Jesus explains to us, that despite four groups receiving the seeds, only one group would hold it in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience."

This group consists of those who hear the Word, they do struggle, they serve the Lord happily, and they are looking to fertilize their spiritual soil, they try to understand the word of God more and more. They try to do good to those around them, and become a light for the world. And it is those people, with the seeds that they are given, who heard the word of God and it grew into something special – something worthy of God's seeds.

With something that can be so small as a seed, in today's Gospel we are to realize the miracle of salvation for all of us. Let us pray that the Lord grant us all to hear the Word of God and treasure His Seeds in our hearts, to bring forth fruit a hundredfold.



<< 'Ο σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. >>

---

Saints Constantine & Helen  
**LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN**  
PAVING OUR FUTURE



**Be a part of our church's history and leave your mark of faith and love!**

Show your support by donating a personally engraved brick paver(s), which will be used to pave our church's walkway.

**Brick Pavers are available in two sizes:**

4" x 8" for \$175

8" x 8" for \$300

\$1,200 to donate a premium seating wall with engraved plaque. **(SOLD OUT)**

Each brick paver can be engraved in 3 ways:  
**Heritage:** Engraved with your individual, family, company or group name.

**Tribute:** Engraved with name in memory of a loved one.

**Inspiration:** Engraved with a short saying or sentiment.

There is no limit on the number of pavers you can purchase. All funds raised through this effort will go towards our church beautification projects and capital improvements.

Contact us with any questions  
at [sschlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:sschlegacy@gmail.com).



---

## Η παραβολή του καλού Σπορέα Λουκά κεφ. η' στίχοι 5-15

---



Σήμερα σε όλους τους ναούς του Θεού, διαβάζουν οι ιερείς την παραβολή του Καλού Σπορέως. Ο γεωργός που δεν είναι άλλος από τον Κύριό μας Ιησού Χριστό, σπέρνει τον σπόρο του, που είναι ο λόγος του Θεού.

Ο Κύριος μάς λέγει ότι ο σπόρος έπεσε πρώτα σε ένα σκληρό έδαφος και δεν φύτρωσε τίποτε, διότι ήλθαν τελικά τα πουλιά του ουρανού και τον κατεπάτησαν. Η σκληρή γη που ο σπόρος δεν φύτρωσε είναι η σκληρή καρδιά μας, που δεν δέχεται τον Λόγο του Θεού. Τα δε πουλιά είναι οι δαίμονες που σκορπούν και καταπατούν τον λόγο του Θεού.

Η καρδιά του ανθρώπου που δεν δέχεται το Λόγο του Θεού, είναι σκληρή όπως το τσιμέντο. Το δε τσιμέντο είναι ο τρομερός εγωισμός του ανθρώπου, το σκληρό «εγώ» του, που αντιδρά στις υποδείξεις και στις εντολές του Θεού. Τι είναι ο Θεός που θα πει σε μένα πώς θα ζήσω, τι θα τρώω, τι θα πίνω, τι θα κάνω στην καθημερινή μου ζωή; Δική μου είναι η ζωή, εγώ θα τη ρυθμίζω, καθώς και τη ζωή των παιδιών μου και όλης της οικογενείας μου. Ποιος Θεός, ποιος Χριστός, ποιος Άγιος, ποιος Επίσκοπος, ποιος παπάς και ποιος καλόγερος θα πει σε μένα, το τι θα κάνω στη ζωή μου και θα μου δίδει εμένα εντολές;

Αυτή, αδελφοί μου, είναι η σκληρή γη, η σκληρή καρδιά του ανθρώπινου εγωισμού που κάνει τον άνθρωπο να μην υπακούει στη φωνή του Θεού και να ζει όπως εκείνος θέλει και όχι σύμφωνα με το θέλημα του Θεού. Έτσι ο άνθρωπος γίνεται αυτοκαταστροφικός. Υπάρχει τρόπος να σπάσει αυτό το σκληρό εγώ; Ναι υπάρχει. Σας συνιστώ να ενθυμηθείτε το θείο κήρυγμα της Υψώσεως του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Τότε θα καταλάβετε το γιατί ο Θεός παραχωρεί στους ανθρώπους να σηκώνουν στην ζωή τους κάποιο «σταυρό». Σπάει το εγώ μας και η σκληρή καρδιά, όταν σηκώνουμε με υπομονή ο καθένας τον σταυρό του.

Ο άνθρωπος έτσι ταπεινώνεται και γίνεται έδαφος μαλακό, χωρίς άλλες σκληρές πέτρες υποκάτω του χώματος, χωρίς ζιζάνια που πνίγουν την φωνή του Χριστού. Ο σπόρος του Χριστού μόνο τότε δίδει καρπούς πνευματικούς, όταν φύγει το σκληρό εγώ μας, όταν φύγουν οι κρυφοί εγωισμοί που υποβόσκουν κάτω από τον εξωτερικό ευσεβισμό που δείχνουμε στους άλλους. Όταν πολεμήσουμε τα ζιζάνια που είναι οι καθημερινές φροντίδες, οι ηδονές, ο πλούτος και οι μέριμνες της ζωής μας. Τότε μόνο ο σπόρος αυξάνεται και γίνεται δέντρο αγλαόκαρπον, με πολλούς καρπούς πνευματικούς. Όποιος έχει αυτιά για να ακούσει και να υπακούσει στο Λόγο του Θεού, ας το πράξει. Όποιος έχει νου, ας κατανοήσει τι λέγει σήμερα ο λόγος του Θεού. Αμήν.

<https://poimin.gr>

---

*Κυριακή 18η Οκτωβρίου*

Του Ἁγίου Αποστόλου και Εὐαγγελιστοῦ Λουκά  
Ὦρα 9·00 - 10·30 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

---

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>:**

**Feastday of St. Luke the Evangelist**

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.      Divine Liturgy

## 2020 Stewardship Campaign

**To make a One-Time Gift:**

**Online Giving:** Go to  
[www.stconstantinehelen.org](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

**In Person:** Stop into the Church Office and you may pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card;

**By mail:** Mail your check or credit information to the Church office (do not mail cash!)

**By phone:** Call (708) 974-3400 and provide the necessary information

**To set up Recurring Giving:**

**Online Giving:** Set up recurring contributions online on our website. Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving.

## The Parable of the Sower

The Seed is the Word of God



The Path



The Rocky Soil



The Weedy Soil



The Good Soil

What type of Soil are You?  
Is God Growing in Your Heart?

## † MEMORIALS †

7 Years    Konstantinos Drougas  
10 Years   Michael Darlas  
40 Years   Lenora Vithoulkas  
56 Years   Andrew Vithoulkas

† May their memory be eternal †

## † FUNERALS †

The following funerals  
were held this week

**Sarantis Andrikopoulos – October 7th**  
**Stavroula Cosmos – October 8th**

† May their memory be eternal †

“The knowledge of the secrets  
of the kingdom of God has been  
given to you, but to others I speak  
in parables, so that, though seeing,  
they may not see;  
though hearing,  
they may not understand.  
This is the meaning of the parable:  
The seed is the word of God.”

-Luke 8:10-11

see you...



...Next Sunday