



■ † Second Saturday of Souls

**“Prayer for the reposed
is strong through its communality”***

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.



Nobody is lazy in commemorating his own reposed parents, but it is also necessary to commemorate all Orthodox Christians—not only on this day, but at all times, in every prayer.

We ourselves will also be there among the reposed, and will have need of this prayer like a poor person needs a piece of bread and a glass of water.

Keep in mind that prayer for the reposed is **strong through its communality**, in that it comes from the entire Church. **The Church breathes prayer.**

In nature, when a pregnant mother breathes, the strength she receives from this breath passes on to her child. So also in a Grace-filled way the Church breathes a prayer that is shared by all, and the power of the prayer passes on to the reposed, who are held in the bosom of the Church, which is made up of the living and the dead, the militant and the triumphant.

Do not be slothful, but zealously commemorate all of our departed fathers and brothers whenever you pray.

It will be your alms for them.



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