The Third Friday of the Great Fast
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"Lo, the day of the Lord comes cruel, with wrath and burning anger; to lay waste the land and destroy the sinners within it!"
Isaiah 13:9

One might say that the greatfast season is a model of the whole Christian life. It is an example of what we Byzantine Catholic Christians should be doing all throughout our life on earth. Through the power of Jesus Christ, we are to become transfigured into a reflection of God Himself. Our life should be a constant movement toward God. We can place ourselves in His presence daily through reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures; by examining the everyday deeds of our lives; and by being motivated in all of our actions by Jesus and His love for the human race. Throughout the Holy Bible, we can observe that refusal to do these things results in chaos.

On the other hand, when the power of God heals or when we are touched by the forgiveness of Christ, then we can discern, as the Holy Scriptures point out in so many instances, how a person will become renewed and will turn back to God. The observance of the Great Fast is meant to help us leave the chaotic condition of sin so that we can become sensible, genuinely sincere individuals. Not to be God-like means not to be human.

In today’s prophecy paremias, we can observe the judgement of God. The Holy Prophet Isaiah reminds us that the “day of the Lord” will come. As we reassess our relationship with the Lord, we must consciously make the effort to dispel all forms of personal evil.

Jesus assures us that the judgement of God is perfect because His love, compassion, and understanding for each soul is perfect. However, we also know that the time of judgement will come, and each of us will have to give an account for the “talents” the Lord has given us. As part of our greatfast practice, let us control our tongue, not criticizing or belittling others. Instead of judging our neighbor, let us judge daily our own actions and thoughts. Let’s examine our own hearts. In this way, we will show God that we fear His judgement, and we can beg Him to be merciful to us on the day of our own judgement.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:  Isaiah 13:2-13
Genesis 8:4-21
Proverbs 10:31 - 11:12