

St. Elias the Prophet Church

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Services Schedule

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM Saturdays: Vespers - 5:00 PM Weekdays and Saturdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

WEEKLY BULLETIN March 19, 2017

Saints and Feasts



March 19

Sunday of the Holy Cross

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.



March 19

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria

Saint Chrysanthus, who was from Alexandria, had been instructed in the Faith of Christ by a certain bishop. His father, who was a senator by rank and a pagan, had him shut up in prison for many days; then, seeing the unchanging disposition of his mind, he commanded that a certain young woman named Daria be brought from Athens. She was a very beautiful and learned maiden, and also an idolater, and Chrysanthus' father wedded him to her so that he might be drawn away from the Faith of Christ because of his love for her. Instead of this however, Chrysanthus drew Daria unto piety, and both of them boldly proclaimed Christ and received the crown of martyrdom in 283, during the reign of Numerian, when they were buried

alive in a pit of mire.



March 19

Demetrios the New Martyr



March 20

Photini the Samaritan Woman

Saint Photini lived in 1 st century Palestine and was the woman that Christ met at the well in Samaria as recorded in the Gospel according to John (4:4-26). After her encounter with Christ, she and her whole family were baptized by the Apostles and became evangelists of the early Church. Photini and her children eventually were summoned before the emperor Nero and instructed to renounce their faith in Christ. They reused to do so, accepting rather to suffer various tortures. After many efforts to force her to surrender to idolatry, the emperor ordered that she be thrown down a well. Photini gave up her life in the year 66.

March 25



Annunciation of the Theotokos

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that

all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

Services and Information

Welcome to all visitors! Please join us for fellowship immediately following the Liturgy in the Social Hall. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians. However, all present are welcome to partake of the antidoron (or blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the service. Those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please see Fr. Dimitri Pappas after the service.

Visit the church web site: http://steliasnm.org/>.

Services Schedule (unless otherwise noted)

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Saturdays: Vespers - 5:00 PM

Weekdays and Saturdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Volunteer Prosforon bakers: please have the Prosforon to Fr. Dimitri by 9:00 a.m.

March & April 2017

Coffee hours from the Sunday of Orthodoxy through Palm Sunday must be Lenten (wine and oil allowed on weekends). On Palm Sunday, fish is also allowed.

19 Mar. (Veneration of the Holy Cross) 2 prosfora & coffee hour Iggy Patsalis

22 Mar. (4th Wednesday of Lent, pre-sanctified liturgy) 6:00 p.m.

24 Mar. (Friday, Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos) 6:00 p.m., prosphoron, Fr. Dimitri Pappas.

25 Mar. (Saturday, Annunciation of the Theotokos) Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m., prosforon Fr. Dimitri, no coffee hour.

26 Mar. (Sunday of St. John Climacus) 2 prosfora Nymphe Kefal, coffee hour Michael Shea

29 Mar. (5th Wednesday of Lent, pre-sanctified liturgy) 6:00 p.m.

31 Mar. (Friday, Akathist Hymn) 6:00 p.m., prosphoron, Fr. Dimitri Pappas.

2 Apr. (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt) prosforon & coffee hour Nymphe Kefal

8 Apr. (Lazarus Saturday) prosforon April Dellas, no coffee hour

9 Apr. (Palm Sunday) prosforon & coffee hour April Dellas

The complete schedule for Holy Week services will appear in bulletins starting in April.

13 Apr. (Holy Thursday) prosforon Mac Ennis, no coffee hour

15 Apr. (Holy Saturday) 2 prosfora April Dellas, no coffee hour

15–16 Apr. (Holy Saturday night — Pascha) 11:00 p.m. Orthros, 12:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Prosphoron, April Dellas. Anastasi meal after service, sign-up sheet in coffee room.

16 Apr. (Great and Holy Pascha) 12:00 p.m., Agape Service. Agape meal after service, sign-up sheet in coffee room.

23 Apr. (Thomas Sunday) prosforon & coffee hour Mac Ennis

30 Apr. (Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women) prosforon April Dellas, coffee hour Kerry Tramontanas

GOC Links

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver http://www.denver.goarch.org.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America http://www.goarch.org

Orthodox Calendar http://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar.

Orthodox Observer http://www.goarch.org/news/observer.

Parish News and Events Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be Sunday, 2 Apr., after the Divine Liturgy.

Our Annual Easter Greek Savory Pie Sale Is Going on Now!

Order savory Greek pies for the Easter season. We sell them frozen, and they'll keep for months. You can have them on hand during the summer when you want an easily prepared, scrumptious, meatless meal, or a perfect accompaniment to meat, fish, or poultry. Three kinds are available: Spinach Pies (spanakopita) 12-piece pie @ \$25 ea., Cheese Pies (tiropita) 12-piece pie @ \$25 ea., and our famous, Greco/New Mexican, Green Chile Cheese Pies (12-piece pie) \$25 ea.

Pick up forms from the table in the narthex, or Click here to open a copy of our order form from our web site. Print out the form, fill it in, and mail the completed form, with your check, to Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Church, 46 Calle Electra, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

Deadline for orders is 25 March, 2017.

Questions? Call Niki 890-2939; or April 466-1340.

Donations are needed for our Greek Festival silent auction

Items are needed for the silent auction at our 2017 Santa Fe Greek Festival. Any item is appreciated—gift certificates, art, pottery, home accessories, vacations, appliances, wine tastings, etc. Please think not only of items you might have, but items friends might donate. Ask restaurants and shops you frequent for items or gift certificates. The church is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. Click here to get a copy of the donation form from our web site. Contact Tonya Boone at tboone@ekkoranch.com for more information.

Volunteers are needed to host coffee hours and to bake prosfora

Please get in touch with April Dellas to volunteer to bake prosforon and to host a simple coffee hour: some cookies, a pastry, pie, or coffee cake, some bagels—two or three items of your choice. Contact April at (505) 466-1340 (home), (575) 684-0125 (mobile), or ridingsecret@aol.com.

Make Donations to the Church on Our Web Site by Credit Card

Use the "Donate Now" button on the church's web site to make tax-deductible donations to the church by credit card: make one-time or recurring donations. To make a one-time donation, be sure to *uncheck* the box next to "Make this a monthly recurring donation," otherwise your credit card will be billed monthly until you cancel it. Your donation, less 4.5%, goes to our church. Your entire donation is a tax-deductible donation to JustGive.org, and your donation(s) will show up on your credit card statement as a charge by JustGive.org. Be aware that it may take up to 6 weeks for your donation to be received by the church.

Recycling for St. Elias

The church receives a donation for recycling your used toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges. When you get new ones, please bring the used ones to the church, in their packing if possible. Every bit that we recycle means more funds for our parish. Please help with this free and painless way to raise money and protect the environment.

2017 Stewardship

We thank all of our members who have made a stewardship pledge to our church. Through your continued and loving support, the Parish Council and Fr. Dimitrios Pappas are able to serve as caretakers and deal with the needs and priorities that face our church. If you have not already done so, please complete your 2017 pledge card and return it to the church at your convenience. Thank you!

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Άγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἅδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῆ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ των νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion for Sun. of the Holy Cross in the First Mode

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

Σώσον Κύριε τόν λαόν σου καί ευλόγησον τήν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοίς Βασιλεύσι κατά βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καί τό σόν φυλάττων διά τού Σταυρού σου πολίτευμα.

Apolytikion for St. Elias in the First Mode

The incarnate Angel and the Prophets' summit and boast, the second fore-runner of the coming of Christ, Elias, the glorious, from above he has sent down his grace upon Elisha; he doth cast out sickness and also doth cleanse the lepers; and unto all that honor him, streams of cures he poureth forth.

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Ο ένσαρκος άγγελος, τών Προφητών η κρηπίς, ο δεύτερος Πρόδρομος τής παρουσίας Χριστού, Ηλίας ο ένδοξος, άνωθεν καταπέμψας, Ελισαίω τήν χάριν, νόσους αποδιώκει, καί λεπρούς καθαρίζει, διό καί τοίς τιμώσιν αυτόν βρύει ιάματα.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Τὴ ὑπερμάχω στρατηγῶ τὰ νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράφω σοὶ ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε, Άλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, ἐκ παντοίων μὲ κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, ἴνα κράζω σοί, Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

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Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone @ Narthex Press - Northridge, CA

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Sixth Orthros Gospel The Reading is from Luke 24:36-53

At that time, Jesus, having risen from the dead, stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sixth Orthros Gospel Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 24:36-53

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔστη ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. πτοηθέντες δὲ καὶ ἔμφοβοι γενόμενοι ἐδόκουν πνεῦμα θεωρεῖν. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς τί τεταραγμένοι ἐστέ, καὶ διατί διαλογισμοὶ ἀναβαίνουσιν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; ἴδετε τὰς χεῖράς μου καὶ τοὺς πόδας μου, ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐγώ εἰμι ·ψηλαφήσατέ με καὶ ἴδετε, ὅτι πνεῦμα σάρκα καὶ ἀστέα οὐκ ἔχει καθὼς ἐμὲ θεωρεῖτε ἔχοντα. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐπέδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τοὺς πόδας. ἔτι δὲ ἀπιστούντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς καὶ θαυμαζόντων εἰπεν αὐτοῖς ἔχετέ τι βρώσιμον ἐνθάδε; οὶ δὲ ἐπέδωκαν αὐτῷ ἰχθύος ὁπτοῦ μέρος καὶ ἀπὸ μελισσίου κηρίου, καὶ λαβὼν ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν ἔφαγεν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτοῖς οὐτοι οἱ λόγοι οὺς ἐλάλησα πρός ὑμᾶς ἔτι ὢν σὺν ὑμῖν, ὅτι δεῖ πληρωθῆναι πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ νόμῳ Μωϋσέως καὶ προφήταις καὶ ψαλμοῖς περὶ ἐμοῦ. τότε διήνοιξεν αὐτῶν τὸν νοῦν τοῦ συνιέναι τὰς γραφάς, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι οὕτω γέγραπται καὶ οὕτως ἔδει παθεῖν τὸν Χριστὸν καὶ ἀναστῆναι ἐκ νεκρῶν τῆ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ, καὶ κηρυχθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν καὶ ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, ἀρξάμενον ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ. ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐστε μάρτυρες τούτων. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρός μου ἐφ᾽ ὑμᾶς ὑμεῖς δὲ καθίσατε ἐν τῇ πόλει Ἱερουσαλήμ ἕως οὖ ἐνδύσησθε δύναμιν ἑξ ὕψους.

Έξήγαγε δὲ αὐτοὺς ἔξω ἔως εἰς Βηθανίαν, καὶ ἐπάρας τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ εὐλόγησεν αὐτούς. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εὐλογεῖν αὐτοὺς διέστη ἀπ΄ αὐτῶν καὶ ἀνεφέρετο εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. καὶ αὐτοὶ προσκυνήσαντες αὐτὸν ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης, καὶ ἦσαν διὰ παντὸς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ αἰνοῦντες καὶ εὐλογοῦντες τὸν Θεόν. ἀμήν.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Προκείμενον. Plagal Second Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1.

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σἐ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 4:14-16, 5:1-6.

Άδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανούς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἰὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὑ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθῆσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοιότητα, χωρὶς ἀμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὕρωμεν εἰς εὕκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεύς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἀμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περίκειται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὁφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἀμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμήν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἄαρών. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γενηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἰός μου εἶ σύ, ἑγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἐτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἰερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

Gospel Reading

Sunday of the Holy Cross The Reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Sunday of the Holy Cross Κατὰ Μᾶρκον 8:34-38, 9:1

Εἷπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὁπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἃν θέλη τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ΄ ἂν ἀπολέση τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἔνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὖτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὡφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήση τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῆ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὂς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῆ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῆ γενεᾶ ταύτη τῆ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἀμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἰὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθη ἐν τῆ δόξη τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἀγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσί τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἴτινες οὑ μὴ γεύσωνται θανάτου ἔως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

Wisdom of the Fathers

And see how He also makes His discourse unexceptionable: not saying at all, "whether you will, or no, you must suffer this," but how? "If any man will come after me."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p.339., 4th Century

"I force not, I compel not, but each one I make lord of his own choice; wherefore also I say, 'If any man will.' For to good things do I call you, not to things evil, or burdensome; not to punishment and vengeance, that I should have to compel.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p.339., 4th Century