

The Two Divine Liturgies: The One on Earth and the One in Heaven^(*)

WHEN the Divine Liturgy is being celebrated on earth, in the Church, **another Liturgy is being celebrated in Heaven.**

God showed this to a monk at a certain monastery. He had the obedience of cleaning the narthex of the monastery's *Katholikon*, while another young monk swept the area from the Beautiful Gate to the portal of the Church.

At that time, a Liturgy was taking place. The monk was praying, then, for himself, as best he could, in the simplicity of his heart.

Suddenly, he turned his gaze upwards and **saw the Heavens opened and a Holy Table.... Before this Holy Table knelt three Hierarchs....**

Alongside them stood a choir of indescribable beauty. The Divine Liturgy was taking place, in its entirety! Holy Hierarchs were celebrating it. Hierarchs such as Saints **Basil, Gregory, and John**, such as **Athanasios and Cyril**, the universal Teachers!

The monk stood there for over half an hour watching. He was as if turned to stone!

When the Liturgy was over and the brothers were leaving the Church, they saw the monk still standing there, motionless.

His broom had fallen from his hand. He was like a pillar of salt! Drenched in tears... literally drenched!

They took him carefully by the hand and, without asking him anything, led him to his cell. He remained there, in a trance, for several hours. The spiritual Confessor then arrived and quieted him. When he had recovered, he took him to the Abbot. And there, before the Abbot, the monk told all that he had seen....



^(*) Source: *Άγιος Κυπριανός*, No. 303 (July-August 2001), p. 64.

From a translation into Modern Greek by Meletios of Nikopolis in *Staretz Sampson* (Preveza: 1988), p. 75.