

Service in the Church

What is it?

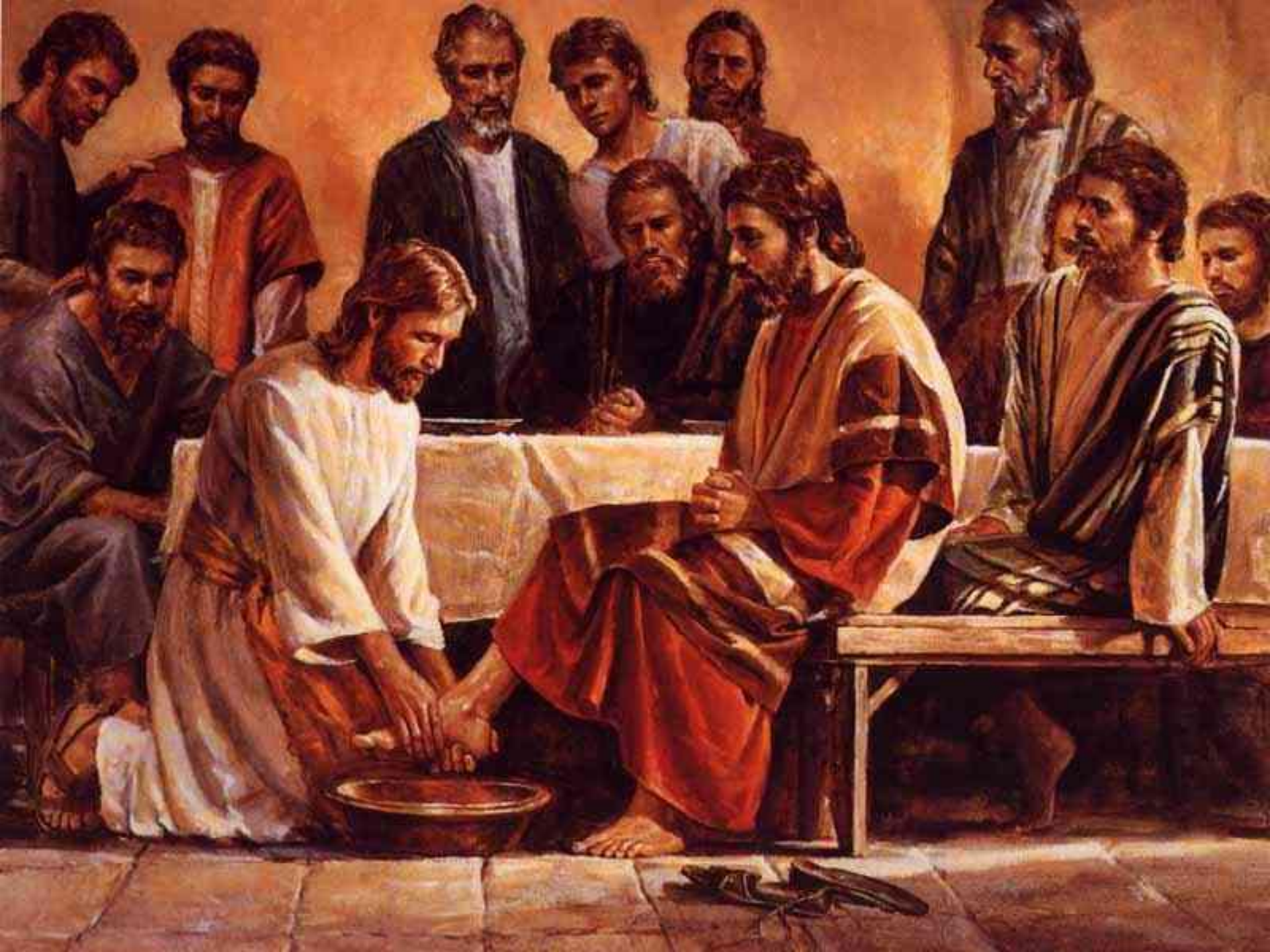
Produced by St. Mina's Coptic Orthodox Church, Holmdel NJ

Introduction:

- Misconceptions about the Service:
 - 1. Power (I can influence others and have authority over them)
 - 2. Prestige (When I walk into the room everyone will turn their head and notice me)
 - 3. Profession (9-5 job... I come to do my duty and then leave, nothing to do with my personal life)
 - 4. Social (the more people I know, the more I can network with others)
 - 5. Teaching (a knowledgeable person who transfers his knowledge to others)

So then what is the Service?

- **Service is the Work of the Lord Himself**
- **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”** Mk 10:45



What is the Work of Our Lord?

- 1. Love
- 2. Sacrifice (Giving)
- 3. Salvation (Eternal Life)
- 4. Ambassadors for God (Isaiah 6)
- 5. Repentance (Forgiveness of Sin)
- 6. Spiritual Food

1. Love

- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”** John 3:16

Love

- **It is the Foundation of the True Spiritual Service**
- **Reason why the Lord sent His Only-Begotten Son**
- **He who knows how to Love, knows how to serve**
- **The Servant is a Bridge**



2. Sacrifice

- **“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; ...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities... by His stripes we are healed.”**

Isaiah 53:4-5

- **Service is Sacrifice**
- **Sacrifice of time**
- **Sacrifice of one's comfort**
- **Sacrifice of one's self**

St. John the Baptist

- “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
John 3:30



St. Paul the Apostle

- “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep...”

2 Cor 11:24-25



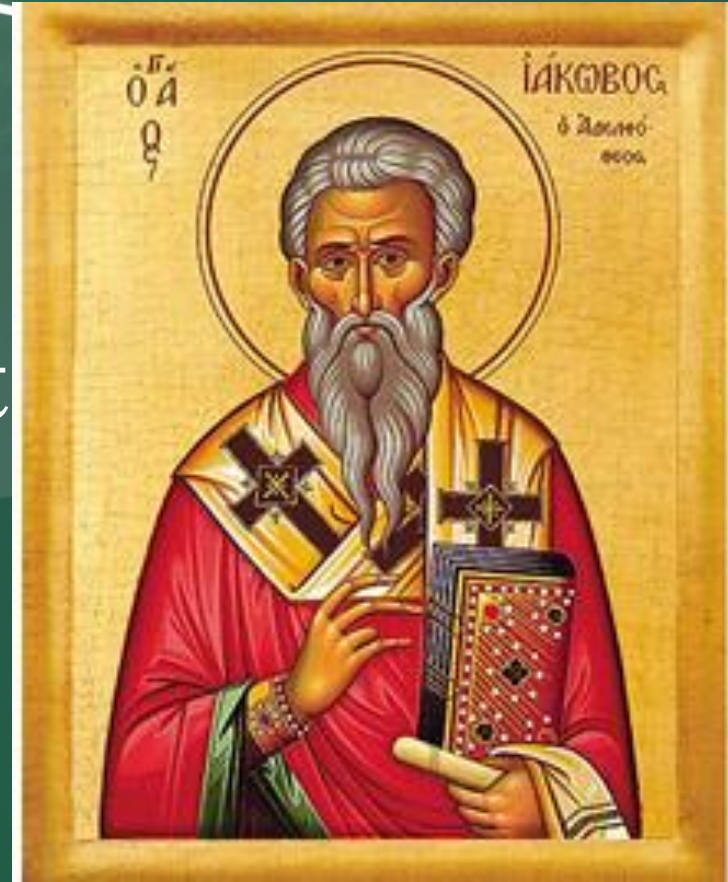
3. Salvation

- “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” Jn 3:17
- The Servant takes what is God’s and gives it to others – HH Pope Shenouda III



- “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20



4. Ambassadors

- “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?” Lk 2:49
- Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...” 2 Cor 5:20
- Represent Christ to Others
- Continue His work
- Save one more for Christ



Isaiah the Prophet

- “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I! Send me. And He said, go...” **Isaiah 6:8-9**



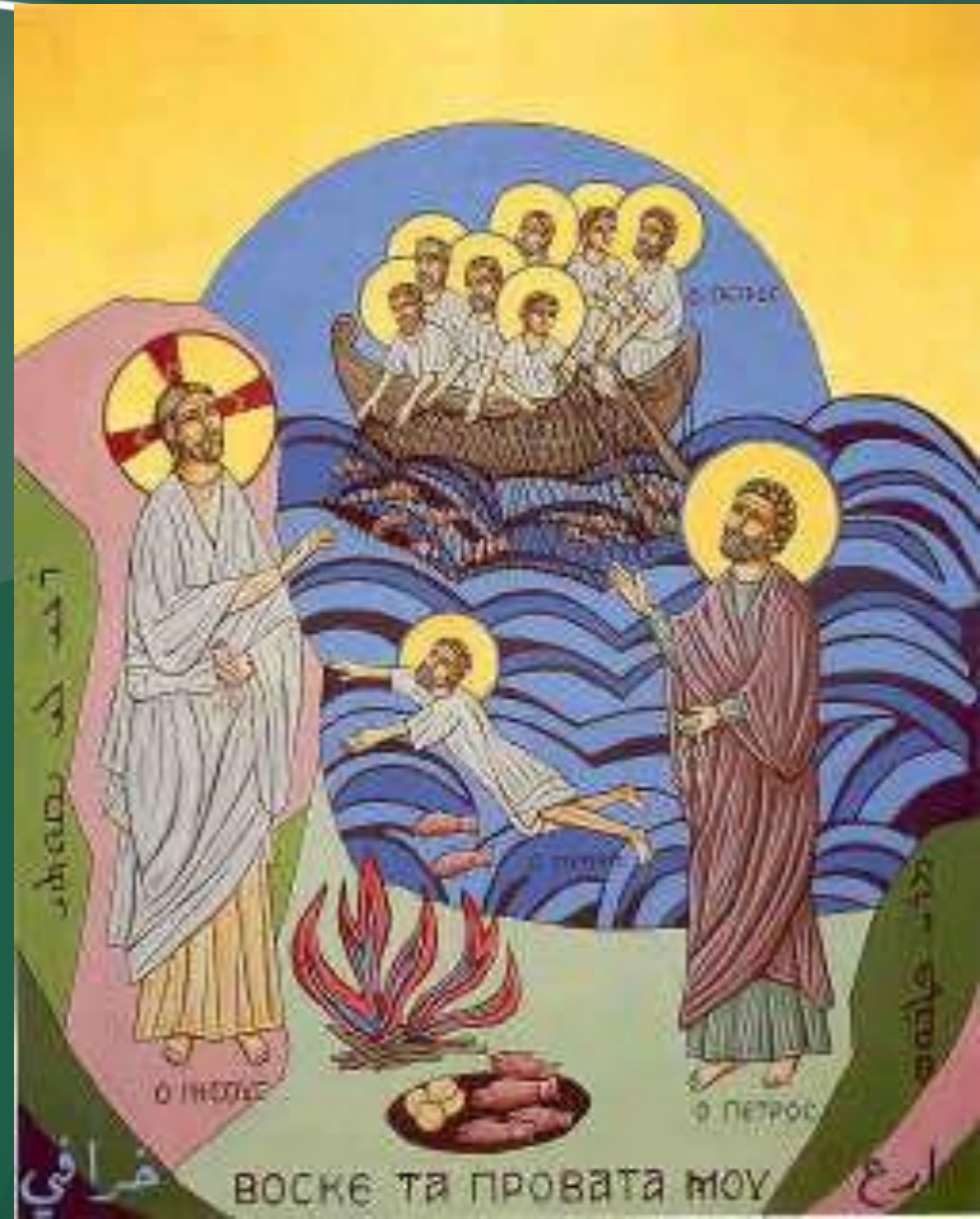
5. Repentance

- **“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Mt 4:17**
- **Service is the preaching of Repentance**
- **Return to God**
- **Key to Reconciliation with God**
- **Key to the Kingdom of Heaven and Eternal life**
- **Repentance leads to Hope and Healing**

- “And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, This Man receives sinners and eats with them. So He spoke this parable to them, saying: What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, `Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15:2-7

6. Spiritual Food

- Service is providing others with Spiritual Food.
- What is this spiritual food?
- It is the teachings that our Lord has given to us.
- The Lake of Tiberius



- “Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. They said to him, We are going with you also. They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus...

...Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, It is the Lord! Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat... Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread...

- “Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.... So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

- ~~He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Tend My sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.”~~ John 21:3-17

Let's review

- 1. Love
- 2. Sacrifice (Giving)
- 3. Salvation (Eternal Life)
- 4. Ambassadors for God (Isaiah 6)
- 5. Repentance (Forgiveness of Sin)
- 6. Spiritual Food

Types of Services

- 1. Sunday School
- 2. Sick / Elderly
- 3. Poor
- 4. Prisoners
- 5. Cleaning / Maintenance of Church
- 6. Hymns
- 7. Translation

- Questions?
- Quiz next week
- Vocabulary Word

Vocabulary Word

- Catechumen
- “A person who is receiving training and instruction in Christian doctrine and spirituality to prepare for Holy Baptism”