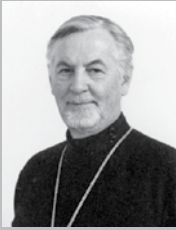


² “But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13)

the ideal that it brings into the world, by the requirement that it places on man. And this requirement is to hunger and thirst after righteousness in all its fullness. “New heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells,” (cf. 2 Peter 3:13) ²—this is the promise of Christ, and this makes every Christian a responsible bearer and servant of the truth. “Blessed

are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matt. 5:1–5). Thus the true image of man, his true design slowly opens up in the Beatitudes. ✽



The Rt. Rev. Alexander Schmemmann was an Orthodox theologian who played a central role in founding the Orthodox Church in America. He was a graduate of St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris. He was Dean of St. Vladimir’s Seminary from 1962 to 1983, and also taught at Columbia University, New York University, and Union Theological Seminary.

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POETRY DESK

Autumn Evening: God’s House

Jane E. Brown

he thought it was just another
of his cast-off nail trimmings
got away

it turned out to be
the moon



*Illustrations by
Anastasia Semash*

POETRY DESK

tarnation

Jane E. Brown



futility and too much of it
tarnation all creation jerry-rigged
one dog sick, the other flea-bit
in the pouredown rain
with a broken-arm umbrella

man comes late
something always goes wrong
woman slides open
the door to the rain-spatter night
to hear the owl
fluting low in the mist

ever a dog-hard time
but there be mercy
drizzling down cool
for the sick addicted
poor patched-up sad

and mercy it burns
in the renegade heart
steady and blue
for all this refugee creation

"What is a merciful heart? It is a heart that burns with love for all creation." — St. Isaac the Syrian



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