

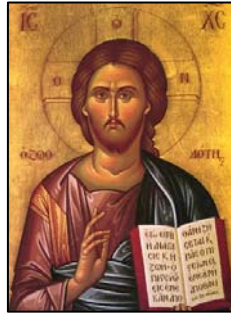


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 10, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE *FOURTH* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WE MEDITATE ON ONE OF THE VERY GREAT MIRACLES OF OUR LORD, THAT OF THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC BY THE POOL AT BETHSAIDA. JESUS' POWER TO HEAL IS LINKED WITH THE RESURRECTION, WHERE IT PROCLAIMS THAT HE WHO OVERCAME DEATH IN HIS OWN BODY HAS POWER OVER ALL HUMAN FLESH. OUR LORD CAN HEAL THE PARALYTIC BECAUSE HE HIMSELF CAN RISE FROM THE DEAD. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Simon the Zealot, of the Twelve Apostles; Holy Martyrs Alfeus, Philadelphos, and Cyprian; Righteous Father Hesychios the Confessor; Righteous Father Lawrence of Egypt; and Isodora of Egypt. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./9. Special Hymn for the Feast of Pascha (our Lord's passover from death to life):

Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead. By death, He has trampled Death; and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"

4. Resurrectional Hymn - Third Tone (Today) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):

Sung after the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of

Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

6. Kontakion of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

Sung after the Small Entrance: Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

7. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

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| The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom |
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their

eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading (Acts 9:32-42)

Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!" And immediately he got up. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Gospel Reading (John 5:1-15)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids — blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to

carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk’?” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for You are my praise.” (Jer. 17:14)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

(Languages of our Parishioners)

Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Bulgarian: Hhristos Vaskrese! Naistina Vaskrese!

English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

French: Le Christ est Resurrecté!

En Verite, il est Resurrecté!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Romanian (Vlkah): Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Spanish: Cristo esta resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado!

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



The relationship between mothers and their first-born child is absolutely unique. Think about this: on the day a first child is born, *two* birthdays are established and should be celebrated.

First, it is, of course, the birthday for the new child.

But, it is also the birthday of another new person: a mother.

The moment a child is born, which in medical terms is called “parturition,” a mother is born also.

Mother’s Day is indeed a birthday celebration. A mother is born at childbirth.

The baby Jesus “gave birth” to the Theotokos – Mary, the Mother of God, just as she gave birth to baby Jesus. Two new, miraculous creations emerged out of one event. Indeed, with every birth, two new lives are born – a baby, who is wholly without worries, and a mother, who will never again be without worry.

There is nothing else like feeling the wonder of new life coming from within. Ask any new mother, who has been transformed into a wholly new being by the arrival of one tiny new being.

This morning, we celebrate an important, albeit often unnoticed birthday: the birthday of a new creation that issues from the flowing waters of new life – the birthday of mothers at childbirth. GLORY TO GOD!

Rejoice, Bride of God, who carried in your womb the healer of the human race. Rejoice, O mystical rod that blossomed the flower that will never wilt. Rejoice, O Lady, through whom we are filled with joy and inherited eternal life. Most holy Theotokos, intercede to God for us. Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers!

On this the two hundred and seventieth Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 10 (Sunday of the Paralytic/Mother's Day):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Philoptochos Mother's Day Luncheon

Wednesday, May 13 – Marriage Enrichment Seminar – Loving Your Wife, Respecting Your Husband:

6:00 pm Come join our married couples and dress casually as Paula Marchman emphasizes successful traits and behaviors for our married families. Each couple is encouraged to bring a fasting food to share with one another for dinner. We will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and conclude the program no later than 8:30 p.m.

Friday - Sunday, May 15-17 (Diakonia Retreat Center Volunteer Weekend):

Please telephone Fr. George, 770/381-1842 to share the names of your family members who will join us to offer simple yet needed volunteer work at our Metropolis Retreat Center. Families are encouraged to bring their children as we share fellowship and church services this weekend, including Sunday church services. There will be no services in Peachtree City on Sunday, May 17th, since Fr. George, the Parish Council, and our parishioners will all be in Salem, SC. We anticipate more than 50 of us there!

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!