

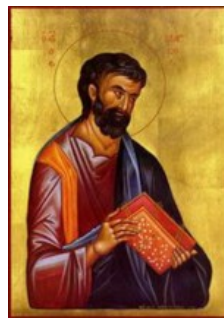
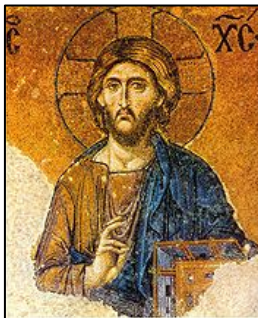


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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, April 25, 2010

**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 St. Mark the Holy Apostle & Evangelist; New-Martyr Nike; Righteous Father Makedonios, Patriarch of Constantinople (+511); New-Martyr George; Righteous Aninanos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishop of Alexandria (1<sup>st</sup> cent.); Holy Eight Priest-Martyrs and Anachorites; New Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, Gregory, Michael and the other Gregory at Macre of Alexandroupoulos; and the remembrance of the consecration of the revered Shrine of the Holy, All-Praised, Foremost of the Apostles, Peter, which is within the Holy Great Church. *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./10. 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 for St. Mark the Holy Apostle & Evangelist – (not in Hymnal):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance: O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.*

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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**

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

**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 (1 Peter 5:6-14)**

*<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen. <sup>12</sup>Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. <sup>13</sup>Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. <sup>14</sup>Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

### **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: Hristos 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:**

<sup>12</sup>*When they were satisfied, Jesus told His disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”* <sup>13</sup>*So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. (John 6:12-13)*

In considering these Scriptural verses from Jesus’ feeding of the multitudes, I would offer that in life, while we love some leftovers, others we prefer to do without. In this specific Bible passage, I appreciate the fact that there are twelve baskets of leftovers – one for each of the Disciples of our Lord.

While it was customary in Jesus’ time as it is today, to clean up after a meal, I do not believe that our Lord’s concern was the mess left over. Instead, I believe our Lord wanted to emphasize to His Disciples that they would be faced with impossible challenges and situations that they could not begin to handle.

Jesus’ miracle would remind them that their power was from Him and not from themselves. While His followers had picked up the scraps with their own hands and collected the leftover food, what remained was truly the tangible grace of their Lord left for them to see and to touch. It would serve as a powerful reminder that their meager resources, together with prayer, would more than meet the needs of those whom our Lord would place in their paths once He had ascended into Heaven.

In our world today, I pray that we may experience the leftovers of our Lord Jesus Christ’s mighty work, and with our faith, use them to move mountains, heal diseases, and perform works that without God’s power and presence in our lives, we could not begin to understand nor imagine. Indeed, let us always

consider it a privilege to “pick up the leftovers” and offer them in glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!

And on this *the three hundred and sixteenth* 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, April 25 (Sunday of the Paralytic/Mother’s Day):*

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Religious Education Classes

11:30 am GOYA Outing – Steak & Shake Restaurant/Putt Putt Golf

*Saturday, May 1:*

12:00 pm Philoptochos Society Ladies Tea - *Join our*

*Philoptochos members as we offer our annual community tea. For further information, telephone Faye Georgeo, 770/861-4954.*

*Sunday, May 2 (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman):*

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Religious Education Classes

11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***