



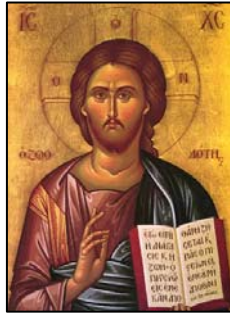
## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 18, 2010

**ON THIS DAY, THE *THIRD* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WE COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN (THEOTOKOS, MARY MAGDALENE, MARY, WIFE OF CLEOPAS, JOANNA, WIFE OF CHOUZA, SALOME, MOTHER OF THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE, MARY AND MARTHA, SISTERS OF LAZARUS, AND SUSANNA), AS WELL AS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, THE HIDDEN DISCIPLE, AND NICODEMUS, THE DISCIPLE WHO WENT TO THE LORD AT NIGHT. ON THIS DAY WE ALSO COMMEMORATE our Righteous Father, John the Righteous, the Disciple of St. Gregory of Decapolis (+820); Holy Martyr Savva the Commander; Righteous Father Cosma, Bishop of Chalcedon; Righteous Mother Athanasia; Holy New-Martyr John of Epiros (1526); and Euthymios the Enlightener of Karelia. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.***

### Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers!

*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.*

**DURING THE 40 DAYS FOLLOWING OUR LORD'S PASCHA/PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE, ORTHODOX FAITHFUL ARE ENCOURAGED TO GREET ONE ANOTHER UPON FIRST ENCOUNTER AS FOLLOWS:**

**Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!**

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1./2./11. 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 the Feast of Pascha, 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 - Second Tone (Today) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by Your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.*

### **5. Hymn for Sunday of Myrrh Bearers – (Hymnal-pp.158-161):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance: The noble Joseph took Your most pure Body down from the tree. He wrapped it in clean linen, anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But on the third day, You rose, O Lord, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.*

**6. Another Hymn for Myrrh Bearers Sunday – (Hymnal-pp.162-165):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance:* The Angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the myrrh-bearing women: Myrrh would be fitting to anoint the dead, but Christ has shown Himself to be free from corruption. Therefore, proclaim that the Lord is risen, bestowing on all the world His great mercy.

**7. 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.

**8. Kontakion for 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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 5:14-19)**

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.*

### **Epistle Reading (Acts 6:1-7)**

*Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

### **Gospel Reading (Mark 15:43-16:8)**

*Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph brought a linen cloth, and taking*

*down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.*

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

*"Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice."  
(1 Chr. 16:10)*

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*Fr. George offers the following reflection from Archbishop Anastasios as we respond to our Risen Lord's gift to us following Great & Holy Pascha:*

With Christ's Resurrection everything was made new again; everything was restored. From that point on, the question posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration. In the code language of Christianity, this call to participate is known by the term "repentance," which . . . calls on us to make the effort to change by becoming new, through the process initiated by the events of Easter.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

From *Facing the World: Orthodox Christian Essays on Global Concern*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press

**SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

On behalf of our parish, I thank His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and Fr. George Savas, Executive Director of the Diakonia Center and his staff, for enabling our parish

to serve this weekend at our precious Diakonia Retreat Center. I thank the many benefactors *who have, are, and will support* this precious institution that is visited by thousands of our faithful each year. I commend our St. Christopher parishioners for giving of their time and talents to improve the property and its facilities at no charge this weekend. I thank our parish for supporting the ministries and programs offered throughout the year at the Diakonia Retreat Center.

In grateful thanksgiving for these and all our blessings from God, I offer the following hymn for the "protection of the precious environment" in this holy, beautiful, and inspiring place as well as throughout God's world that we have been charged to oversee:

*"Almighty Lord, Who created all things in wisdom and by Your almighty arm govern and maintain them, grant stability, that all creation may well endure and remain unharmed from all adverse acts. For You, O Master, have commanded that the works of Your hands remain steadfast until the end of time; for You spoke and it came into being, and they await mercy to avert all evil, and salvation for the human race, which glorifies Your most praised Name." Amen!*

## **Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!**

(Languages of our Parishioners)

Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistino Voskrese!

English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

French: Le Christ est Resurrecté! En Verite, il est Resurrecté!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Romanian: Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

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

And on this the three hundred and fifteenth 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 SCHEDULE**

Sunday, April 18 (Sunday of the Myrrhbearers – at Diakonia Retreat Center):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Brunch/Departure for home

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