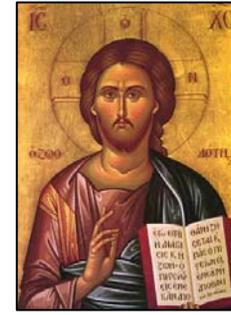




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 11, 2014

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 Methodius (+885) & Cyril (+869), Equal-to-the-Apostles, Illuminators of the Slavs; Renewal of Constantinople (+330); Hieromartyr Mocius (+295); Theopemptos the Martyr & his Companions; and Dioscoros the New Martyr. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our 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. 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, trampling down upon 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

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 (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.

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

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:

In thanksgiving for the Feast of St. Christopher this past Friday (*the Name Day of our Parish*) and in thanksgiving for our



mothers that we are honoring today on Mother’s Day, various parishioners joined together in offering the **Blessing of the Five Loaves of Bread, Wheat, Olive Oil, and Wine.**



I thank each of them who responded so quickly after my request for volunteers on Thursday after our church services: Helen Psihountas – the Artos (breads), Pat MacDougall (wheat), Presbytera Marinda (olive oil), and Georgia Lungaro (wine). *[This is in addition to the Prosfora offered today by Dedee Panayis and Faye Georgeo, and the Wine offered by Eva Sarantis and John and Jeanie Ellinas, both used during the Divine Liturgy for the Holy Eucharist.]*

I wish to offer a reflection related to our Risen Lord’s miracle of multiplying the bread as noted in the Gospel of St. John that follows:

¹²When they were satisfied, Jesus told His disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So 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.

As we celebrate another Parish Name Day in honor of St. Christopher, our Patron Saint, and as we honor our mothers on Mother’s Day, I pray that we may experience through them all the precious 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!



Thanks to all of our parishioners who attended our Festal celebration on Thursday evening, May 8, 2014.

And on this the five hundred and ninth 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, May 11 (Sunday of the Paralytic/Mother's Day):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service - Mary Ellinas (3 Years), Emanuel Ellinas (9 years), Theodoros Sarantis (6 years)/Artoklasia - Blessing of the Five Loaves for the Name Day of our Parish this past Friday and for Mother's Day

11:00 a.m. Philoptochos Mother's Day/Parish Name Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 15: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday – Sun., May 16-18 (7th Annual DRC Volunteer Weekend):

[Fr. George will email all confirmed participants on his listing by 5/14 the schedule and special instructions. Email Fr. George any questions or updates no later than Monday, May 12th.]

Sunday, May 18 (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman) – AT DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER:

7:45 a.m. – Orthros, 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, 10:30 a.m. – Brunch (ALL AT DRC)

3:00 p.m. Fabulous Finale to DRC Weekend – Faye Georgeo's House

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

We Welcome You to Our Mother's Day & Parish Name Day Luncheon Today!