



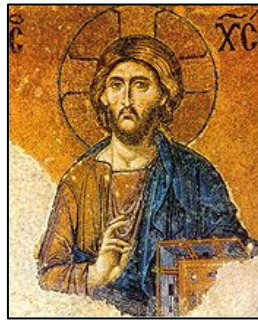
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, September 27, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Holy Martyr Kallistratos and his Companion 49 Martyrs (+304); Holy Martyr Epicharis; Holy Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon, and Markos, of the 70 Apostles (1st cent.); Holy New-Martyr Akylina the Virgin (+1764); Righteous Father Ignatios; Holy Martyrs Philemon the Bishop and Fortounianos; Holy Martyr Gaiana; 15 Holy Martyrs thrown into a burning ship and drowned at sea; and Holy Martyr Gregory the Enlightened, Bishop of Armenia (+355). *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. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. Hymn for Holy Martyr Kallistratos – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. For their struggle, O Lord, Your Martyrs received the crown of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might they defeated the tyrants. They also crushed the arrogance of demons. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):

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.

5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal

to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

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 During Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 6:1-10)

6As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For He says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 5:1-11)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, He saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if You say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with Him were amazed at the catch of fish

that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Him.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name’s sake.”
(Psalm 79:9)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

During this past week, we witnessed the horrific damage done by the deluge of rain in our Atlanta metropolitan area. In that context, I would like to share a reflection broadcast by the legendary syndicated radio commentator, Paul Harvey that uses the metaphor of a single “raindrop” as a great illustration for us to reflect about the importance of every individual’s choice to do good or evil. It reveals the importance of just one person’s obedience. Perhaps we can share and discuss its message with our families.

I am just a raindrop.

I was born in the sky and settled into a hillside,
There to dance in the sun and sparkle and nourish green
and growing things.

But there are other raindrops on the hillside,
and they invite me to join them for a downhill romp,
and we become a chain of raindrops.

Thus, able to travel faster and what do you know,
soon others join us until we become a stream.

Now remember, I’m still just a drop of rain.

And yet the other drops say,

I’m important to them and they are important to me,
and together we hasten downward toward the beautiful
forest.

The grass bends in our path,
the soil beneath us begins to crumble,
until my companions and I are carving out a pathway,
farther and deeper,
until we are tearing little gullies in the earth,
and then big gullies.
I'm just a little drop of rain;
It's my friends who have the power.
I'm just along for the ride.

Ahead a towering tree stands majestically at the edge of the
forest.
And soon my friends and I are playfully ripping the soil from
the roots,
and its roots from the rocks,
and low and behold, the great tree comes crashing down in
front of me.

For a long moment, the tree lies motionless:
Facedown, defeated, dying.

But then my friends and I are under, and lifting, and moving
the great tree,
carrying it before us as a huge battering ram.
Nothing can stop us now.
I wonder if I can stop myself now, or, if I even want to.
Into the forest, we plunge, my friends and I,
and our battering ram tree.

Other trees grouped together stand their ground,
from us they can see there is strength in numbers.
And our numbers are greater.

Our battering ram is sideways now.

We raindrops get behind;
we push with all of our might.
My friends and I are learning the strength and the
weaknesses of stress.
Erode the soil, denude the roots, and you leave them with
nothing to hold to.
So, soon, we are a raging torrent.
And they and we and the turncoat tree are thundering
toward the sea.
And I am frightened.
I'm just a little raindrop,
but I'm soiled now.

How did I become a part of this?
I never wanted to conquer, nor to destroy.
I only needed to be needed.
I only needed to be one of the crowd.

Down there ahead, at the end of the valley,
Dear God, that's a town!
I will not be a part of this any longer.
Now my friends have gone too far;
far too far.
I'm stopping right here, right now.
But I can't; I can't stop.

I am no longer me.
I am something different than I ever meant to be.
It took a thousand million gallons of water, they say,
to drown that town that day.

So don't blame me.
I'm only one little drop of rain.

Thank You

We thank all our parishioners who assisted this week and yesterday at the International Festival and Dragon Boat Races. We appreciate your support and participation.

On this the two hundred and eighty-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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 27 (1st Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:30 a.m. Orthros Service (*note earlier starting time*)
- 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:15 a.m. GOYA Meeting

Thursday, October 1:

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Saturday, October 3:

- 7:00 a.m. Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Sunday, October 4 (2nd Sunday of St. Luke/National Church Musicians Sunday):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!