



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
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St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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

Liturgical Guide for Tuesday, January 5, 2016

ON THIS DAY, WE REMEMBER IN ANTICIPATION THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST (ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST). *To Him be glory and dominion forever and always. 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 TODAY:

1./3./5./10. Hymn of the Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.208-211):

This hymn is sung *after* the Great Doxology, *before and after* the Small Entrance, and instead of *Ithomen to fos*, “*We have seen the true light*” after the distribution of Holy Communion): “At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the Father’s voice bore You witness, by calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truth of the Father’s Word. O Christ our God, You have appeared to us and enlightened the world. Glory to You.”

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.28):

*On the occasion of Theophany feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular *Soson imas*, “Save us, O Son of God”:* “Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist, as we sing to You, Alleluia.”

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: “Blessed in He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist, as we sing to You, Alleluia.

6. Kontakion of the Holy Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-p.-248-249):

This hymn is sung *after* the Small Entrance: “You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your light shines forth on us, who sing Your praise with full knowledge: You have come to us, O Lord; You are made manifest, O inaccessible Light.

7. Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-p. 292-293):

On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)"

8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed..." My soul, magnify her who has delivered us from the curse. O Most Pure Bride, blessed Mother, the wonder of your birth-giving surpasses all thinking. We have all received full salvation through her. Bearing a Hymn of Praise as our gift, worthily and resonantly we proclaim her our Benefactor.

9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p. 327):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "The grace of God has appeared, for the salvation of all people. (Titus 2:11) (3) 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 (Mark 1:9-11)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as He was coming up out of the water, he saw the Heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on Him. And a voice came from Heaven, "You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased."

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 3:13-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased."

On this our thirteenth Feast of Holy Theophany at our St. Christopher parish, 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!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Tuesday, January 5 (Eve/Vigil for the Feast of the Holy Theophany - Day of Strict Fast (until after evening services)):

- 4:00 pm Service of the Great Hours of Holy Theophany**
- 5:15 pm Orthros Service for Feast of Holy Theophany**
- 6:15 pm Divine Liturgy (Evening)/Blessing of Water
& Community Dinner (please bring non-fasting food)**

(Tuesday, January 5th is a Day of Strict Fast. Tuesday evening, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Theophany at the beginning of the liturgical day of the 6th. Thus, after church services, we can break the fast this evening.)

**Wednesday, January 6 (Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior
& Eve of Feast of St. John the Baptist):**

- 5:00 pm Orthros Service for Feast of St. John the Baptist**
- 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Evening) & Community Dinner (non-fasting)**
- 7:30 pm Outreach & Evangelism Meeting**

Thursday, January 7:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice – please join us!**

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated