



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 Sunday, April 19, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE 2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WHICH WE REFER TO AS ANTIPASCHA – THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS, WE COMMEMORATE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DOUBT OF THOMAS CHANGING INTO A PROFESSION OF FAITH. HIS AUDACITY IS STRESSED TOGETHER WITH THE INFINITE KINDNESS OF CHRIST WHO GAVE HIM THE MOST STRIKING PROOFS. THE SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS OF JOHN IS COMMEMORATED TOGETHER WITH THE PHYSICAL CLOSENESS OF THOMAS. ON THIS DAY WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Martyr Paphnutius and George the Confessor. *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.

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./4. Hymn for Sunday of St. Thomas – (Hymnal-pp.154-157):

Sung after the Great Doxology and after the Small Entrance: While the tomb was sealed, You shone forth from it as light, O our life, Christ our God. And though the doors were closed, You appeared in the midst of Your disciples. O Resurrection of all, through them restore in us a new spirit in Your great mercy.

2./8. 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, 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 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!"

5. 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.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.308-309):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": "You are the shining light and the Mother of God, of incomparable

glory and higher in dignity than all creatures; with songs of praise we magnify you.”

7. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.320):

On the occasion of today’s feast, the following hymn is sung instead of “Aineite” or “Praise the Lord...”: “Exalt in the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.” (Ps. 147[147B])

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
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Epistle Reading (Acts 5:12-20)

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.”

Gospel Reading (John 20:19-31)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe." A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Last Sunday, at the Agape Vespers Service, we all enjoyed hearing the Gospel proclaimed in ten (10) languages. For your review and consideration today, Fr. George would like to offer our Paschal greeting – "Christ Is Risen" & "Truly, He is Risen" in the languages that our faithful use. When you consider how difficult it is to learn two or three languages, it is reassuring to know that through God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, all of us are brought together in one, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church – one body in His and each other's love. Awesome!

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!

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:

St. Gregory the Great who lived in the sixth century wrote: *“If a dead man is raised to life, all men spring up in astonishment. Yet every day One that had no being is born, and no man wonders, though it is plain to all, without doubt, that it is a greater thing for that to be created which was without being than for that which had being to be restored. Because the dry rod of Aaron budded, all men were in astonishment; every day a tree is produced from the dry earth ... and no man wonders ... Five thousand men were filled with five loaves; every day the grains of seed that are sown are multiplied in a fullness of ears, and no man wonders. All wondered to see water once turned into wine. Every day the earth's moisture, being drawn into the root of the vine, is turned by the grape into wine, and no man wonders. Full of wonder then are all the things which men never think to wonder at, because they are by habit become dull to the consideration of them.”*



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And on this 553rd 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 19 (Sunday of St. Thomas):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

11:45 a.m. Parish Council Fellowship Luncheon (for last year's & this year's Parish Council Members/Spouses at the Skouteris' home)

Thursday, April 23:

Feast of St. George the Great Martyr & Trophy-Bearer (*Fr. George celebrating Divine Liturgy in High Point, NC - no services in PTC*)

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, April 26: (Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

11:45 a.m. Let's Eat™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214. It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all...!

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