



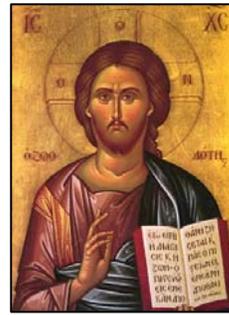
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 Wednesday, May 20, 2015

EVE OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

ON THE 21ST OF MAY, THE THURSDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK FROM PASCHA, WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the glorious, holy, God-crowned Great Kings Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles; Pachomios the Righteous New Martyr (+1730); Basil, Bishop of Ryazan; Hospicios of Gaul; Helen of Dechani; Cassian the Greek of Uglich; and Agapitus of Vologda. O Christ our God, Who ascended in glory, have mercy on us. Amen.

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

We invite you to enter your name and 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./3./5./10. Hymn of the Ascension of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.168-169):

Sung 1) at the end of Great Vespers, 2) before the Small Entrance, 3) after the Small Entrance, and 4) after the distribution of Holy Communion: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, having gladdened Your disciples by Your promise of the Holy Spirit. And Your blessing confirmed their belief that You are indeed God's Son, the Redeemer of the world.

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

On the occasion of today's 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 rose from our midst, to the heavens in glory, 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: God has risen with a loud cry, the Lord, at the sound of the trumpet. Save us, O Son of God, Who rose from our midst, to the heavens in glory, as we sing to You: Alleluia!"

6. Hymn of Saints Constantine & Helen – (not in Hymnal):

Sung after the Small Entrance: Your Apostle among the Rulers, St. Constantine, who once beheld in the sky the image of Your Cross, and who like Paul received his calling not from man, once entrusted the Ruling City into Your hand. We entreat You to restore it in peace forever, at the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord Who loves humanity.

7. Kontakion for the Ascension of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.278-279):

Sung after the Small Entrance: When You had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled Your plan of redemption, You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

while remaining in our midst. For You assured us who love You that no one can prevail against us since You Yourself are with us.

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

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": You, transcending mind and reason, the Mother of God, who gave birth to the timeless One in time inexpressibly, we the faithful with one accord now magnify.

9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.321):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": God ascends amid shouts of joy; the Lord goes up to the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia. (Psalm 46[47])

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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

Epistle Reading (Acts 26:1, 12-20)

Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself: "With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads (sharp pointed sticks used to prod oxen or donkeys).' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles — to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to

those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance.

Gospel Reading (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what My Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

On this our twelfth celebration of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Saints Constantine & Helen 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!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 20 (Eve of Holy Ascension and Ss. Constantine & Helen):

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening) followed by Community Dinner/Special Program on Preparing Prosfora by Presbytera Marinda

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Happy Name Day to our Constantine's & Helen's today!