



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.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, July 26, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Righteous Martyr of Christ, Paraskevi of Rome (+180); the Holy Priest-Martyrs Hermolaos, Hermippos, and Hermokratos (+304); St. Prisca, the Righteous Martyr; Moses the Hungarian; and Jacob Netsvetov the Enlightener of Alaska. *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. 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 of Righteous Martyr Paraskevi – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *at the end* of Great Vespers, and *before and after* the Small Entrance: Having prepared your zeal to be fitting to your calling, you, whose name is preparation, chose as your abode, the faith that is namesake to your deed, O trophy-bearing Paraskevi. By this, you pour forth healing remedies, and on behalf of our souls, intercede for us.

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 (John 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 3:23-4:5)

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by

faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

4My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; ²but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. ³So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:14-22)

¹⁴When He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them

to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.²² Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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:

Amidst our daily life, I encourage us to “praise” God for being a part of the majesty of His Kingdom, and glorify Him for His countless blessings that we often take for granted and perhaps which we are even unaware. Indeed, our LORD loves it when we praise Him.

In Psalm 22:3 (KJV), we read: “*But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*” In this verse, we see a picture of “God inhabiting the *praises* of His people”. The Hebrew meaning of “inhabitest” is a depiction of the Lord *sitting down and dwelling*. This notion is even clearer in the contemporary *New King James translation* for this same verse: “*But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.*” Think about that – our Lord fully embraces and willingly unites with our voices of praise – an awesome privilege for us His servants . . . beyond compare more valuable than having an audience with any famous world leader or popular Hollywood star of today.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the word “praise” occurs nearly 300 times in Holy Scripture. Interestingly, a vast majority of those references are in the *Old Testament Book of Psalms*, including:

“I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:2 NRSV)

“I will tell of Your Name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.” (Psalm 22:22 NRSV)

“You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him; stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!” (Psalm 22:23 NRSV)

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.” (Psalm 33:1 NRSV)

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.” (Psalm 40:3 NRSV)

“Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the Name of the LORD.” (Psalm 113:1 NRSV)

Today’s news reports, daily communications, and conversations with our friends and family often seem to emphasize catastrophic and evil events that paint the world as a hopeless place to live. *Think about your own experience . . . Are the waters too deep for you? Are you lonely? Discouraged? Do you find yourself even doubting whether or not God hears your prayers or cares about your troubles?* Every time you try to “look on the bright side,” is a dark future all you see? Maybe it is time to *praise* God and ask Him to *come and dwell in your life*. How about taking this step right here, right now, and yes, committing to it forever?

My friends, when it begins to rain in your life, *praise* God. When you feel like giving up, *praise* Him. I assure you that He is always in the midst of it all; indeed, God is always with us! In any storm that occurs in our life, **God is still God**, no matter where we find ourselves or how much we may fear, doubt, or worry. By praising God in the midst of our struggles, we will encounter the presence of the One Who fully embraces and unites with us through our voices of praise to Him.

Someone once observed: “*The ornaments of your house will be the guests who frequent it.*” I promise you that when God “*inhabits your praise*” (Psalm 22:3 KJV), He will turn your life around. Amen!

And on this 567th 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, July 26 (8th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:30 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Trisagion

10:15 am General Parish Assembly

12:30 pm Let’s EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, GA

Monday, July 27 (St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer):

5:00 pm Great Vespers

5:45 pm Divine Liturgy, followed by Community Dinner (non-fasting) & Book Study (bring your copies of *Being Bread*)

Thursday, July 30:

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, August 2 (9th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:30 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Fast – Dormition of the Theotokos – August 1st – 14th

Monday, August 3rd:

6:00 pm Paraklesis Service (we will pray for the health and welfare of all)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

