



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 16, 2018

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

ON THIS DAY, THE THURSDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK FROM PASCHA, WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE TODAY The Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junia; Holy Godbearing Nectarius, the Builder of the Holy Monastery of Varlaam of Meteora; Athanasios, Archbishop of Christianopolis; Theodotos the Martyr of Ancyra & the 7 Virgin-martyrs; The New Martyrs of Batak, Bulgaria; Nicholas the Younger who was martyred in Metsovo, Epirus. 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./9. Hymn of the Ascension of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.168-169):

Sung 1) at the end of Great Vespers, 3) before the Small Entrance, 5) after the Small Entrance, and 8) 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. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 1:1-12)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. After His suffering He presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," He said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when You will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When He had said this, as they were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While He was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, Who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

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 fifteenth celebration of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord 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 16 (Eve of Feast of Holy Ascension):

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening) followed by Dinner (non-fasting)

Thursday, May 17:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, May 20: (Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:45 a.m. Last Day of Religious Education Classes before Summer

11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting

12:00 p.m. Philoptochos Baby Shower

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!