

MAY 29, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Mailing Address:

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,

M.D.

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE VOICE OF THE CHURCH

From today's Gospel passage we learn key truths, which deal with our eternal salvation and our personal relationship with Christ our God.

1. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is the rebirth of the human being – "the fountain from which springs eternal life." (St. John 4:10)
2. The Sacrament of Holy Confession is not for condemnation. Christ forgave the Samaritan Woman, since she acknowledged her sinful way of life,

and, as a way of repentance, she glorified Christ – "Come and see a man who told me all that I have done." (St. John 4: 29)

3. Christ revealed the truth that He is the One, True God – "I Who speak to you am He." (St. John 4: 26)
4. We worship God "in Spirit and in Truth." God is "everywhere present" and acceptable worship to the Lord is that worship made "in Spirit" (that is: with faith that

THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH – ACTS 11: 19-30

Barnabas and Saul, as they were inspired by God and through their own love for God, committed themselves to teaching the Gospel of Christ. As a result, the Christian community in and around Antioch grew to become a church that did not depend simply on Barnabas or Saul in order to function and grow. This allowed the faithful to send both of these men off on a relief mission to Jerusalem, which would have taken at least a couple of months. Later, when the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Saul for the first missionary journey, the church could send off these two key leaders and keep right on rolling. "This was because this church knew the principle of the body, that God has gifted every member and each one is expected to exercise his or her gift in ministry...if every person who has trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord feels the obligation of serving Him and of telling others the good news about Him, the gospel will spread and the church will be built up. Every Christian should sense his or her responsibility to serve Christ and bear witness of Him."*

Today's reading from the Book of Acts provides the basis for our Church's outreach and philanthropic ministries today.

*—<https://bible.org>



Απο την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην μαθαινουμεν σημαντικες αληθειες οι οποιες σχετιζονται με την αιωνιον σωτηριαν μας και την προσωπικην σχεσιν μας με τον Θεον μας Χριστον:

1. Το Μυστηριο του Αγιου Βαπτισματος ειναι η αναγεννησις του ανθρωπου – <πηγη υδατος αλλομενου εις ζωην αιωνιον>. (Ιωαν. 4: 10).
2. Το Μυστηριο της Αγιας Εξομολογησεως δεν ειναι για καταδικη. Ο Χριστος εσυγχωρησε την Σαμαρειτιδα, αφου αναγνωρησε τον αμαρτωλον τροπον της ζωης της και, ως μετανοιαν εδοξασε τον Χριστον. <Ιδετε ανθρωπον ος ειπε μοι παντα οσα εποιησα.> (Ιωαν. 4:29)
3. Ο Χριστος εφανερωσε την αληθειαν οτι ειναι ο Αληθινος Θεος – <Εγω Ειμι ο λαλων σοι>. (Ιωαν. 4: 26).
4. Λατρευουμεν τον Θεον <εν πνευματι και αληθεια>. (Ιωαν. 4: 24). Ο Θεος ειναι <πανταχου παρων>, και η δεκτη λατρευει προς τον Κυριον ειναι λατρευει <εν Πνευματι> (δηλ., με πιστη οτι ο Θεος ειναι Τρισυποστατος Θεος: Πατηρ, Υιος και Αγιο Πνευμα) και <αληθεια> (δηλ., με αγαπη για την αληθειαν οτι ο Χριστος ειναι ο Ανατας εκ νεκρων Θεος και Σωτηρ μας).
5. Η σωτηρια στην αιωνιον Βασιλειαν του Θεου προσφερεται σε ολην την ανθρωποτητα, οπως, π.χ., ακομη στους Σαμαρειτες. <ουδε συγχρωνται Ιουδαιοι Σαμαρειταις>. (Ιωαν. 4:9)
6. Εχομεν ολοι το ιερο καθηκον να διδασκουμεν το Ευαγγελιον σε ολους γυρω μας, οπως εκανε η Σαμαρειτιδα (Αγια Φωτινη). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

God is One God in Three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and, “in Truth” (that is: with love for the truth that Christ is God Risen from the dead and our Savior).

5. Salvation in the eternal Kingdom of God is given to all of humanity, *including our enemies*, – for example, even the Samaritans, for, “*Judeans never are seen together with Samaritans.*” (St. John 4: 9)
6. We all have the responsibility to teach the Gospel to other people around us as did the Samaritan Woman (St. Photini). (See: Acts 11)

There is a progression in the personality of the Samaritan Woman that shows how spiritual growth in an individual proceeds from *personal interest* to *interest for others*. In other words, she changed from being self-oriented (from wanting to fill her bucket with water), to being other-person-oriented (spreading the news of Christ to everyone in the village).

In addition, the Samaritan Woman personifies the life of the Church. Far from being a worldly organization, the Church is a living being, *collectively*. Individual believers come together to glorify God collectively as one entity: “*And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise Your most honored and majestic Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...*” (as is said during the Divine Liturgy). Hence, as the voice of the Samaritan Woman proclaimed Christ to the Samaritan community, the voice of the Church proclaims Christ to the world.

As we turn to today’s passage from the Book of Acts, we notice that the followers of Christ proclaimed Him to the world around them to the extent that their numbers multiplied greatly. Many of them congregated in Antioch where they were called “Christians” for the first time. We learn that Barnabas and Saul (a.k.a., St. Paul) gave credibility to them as members of Christ’s Church and, by doing so, we have before us the infant image of the Church in the world – believers are connected to one another in a bond of common faith in Christ, regardless of geographical distance, or even cultural differences. Their concern for others reached across lines of language and geography, as they sent contributions to the Judean community, “*each according to his ability*” (Acts 11: 29) - and they sent them “*to the elders*” (Acts 11:30) of that community by the “*hand of Barnabas and Saul.*” (Acts 11:30).

In this world in which “Johnny can’t tell right from wrong,” it is all the more important that we evaluate our consciences according to the voice of the Church, guided by the examples set by the Saints of our Church, while praying for the gift of discernment in doing God’s work in our daily lives.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Bob Maverick, Rhonda Latkovic, Nicholas Kyriakou (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1— Shout to God, all the earth. Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2—: Say to God, "How fearful are Your works; in the greatness of Your power Your enemies will lie to You."

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3— Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let them sing to Your name.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Chanter(s): *Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1— May God be gracious to us, and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles. Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, We arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III— *Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Seasonal Resurrection Hymn: *Christos Anesti...(Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death and unto those in the tombs, bestowing life.)*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *To fedron tis anastaseos kirygma [Tone 4]...(When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished forever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.)*

Festal Hymn: *Mesousis tis eortis...(O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of true religion. For to all You the Savior cried aloud, Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink. As the fountain of life, O Christ our God, glory to You.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... page 110 in the Divine Liturgy Books.*

Kontakion Hymn: *Ei ke en tafo katilthes...(Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.)*

READINGS: Epistle - Acts 11: 19-30 / Gospel - St. John 4: 5-42

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following hymn: *O Angelos evoh-a...(The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has resurrected from the grave on the third day. Be glad and exultant, divine gate of the light. For your Son, namely Jesus, having set within the tomb, rose and is shining more brightly than the sun, and He has fully illumined all the faithful, O Lady full of the grace of God.)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ushers: Tasia Richards
Greeter: Josie Desnoyers
Coffee Hour Hosts: Emily and George Tcharos**

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Today’s Altar Flower Bouquets have been generously donated for the glory of God by:

Spiro S. Astmos - In loving memory of my wife Christante and my Son Steven!

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Barringer - In memory of Kendall Henderson (56); may his memor be Eternal "Rest in Peace loving friend"!

To all Altar Flower contributors: we thank you for your loving support during the 2015 -2016 Calendar year, we are booked with donors up to 2017. In the coming weeks you will be acknowledged personally by name for your gifts! May God bless you. Louise Dobbs Barringer, Altar Flower Coordinator.

PHILOPTOCHOS – Please support Mochas for Missions by dropping your spare change into the marked cups on the hall tables. We need Coffee Hour Hostesses or Hosts for June 12, 19 and 26. Please see Linda Petalas. Have you renewed your Membership yet? Return your membership envelope to Annette Lewis or Linda Kallis. If you need an envelope, we would be happy to provide one for you.

CHOIR– The Choir will be “off” for the summer. The last Sunday for the choir, before the summer break, is: Sunday, May 29, 2016. We welcome congregational singing as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sundays during the summer months.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School “End-of-the-Year” ceremonies will be held following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, June 5, 2016. As always, our Sunday School “End-of-the-Year” ceremonies are educational and most enjoyable.**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 30th.....Memorial Day (office closed)

Tuesday, May 31st.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 2nd.....Church Tour: Washington Charter School – 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 4th..... Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

*The LADDER for May 2016
is sponsored by
Tillie Lockshire*

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.