

OCTOBER 9, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

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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.

NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

Christ raised three people from the dead during His earthly ministry: Lazarus (who was in the tomb for four days); the daughter of Jairus; and the son of the widow (about whom we heard during the reading of today's Gospel passage). It is note-worthy, however, that, over time, each one died again. Yet, their resurrection from the dead, in total, serves as a prelude to the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, after which He ascended to Heaven. In addition, the three miracles by which

Christ resurrected them from death served to glorify God.

There is no greater nor significant moment in our lives than that in which God is glorified before our eyes. Indeed, every day we see the Lord's miracles, since we awaken from sleep every morning—something that we take for granted. Every day is a "day of God" - yet another opportunity to give glory to God.

"Behold now is the day of salvation!" (2 Corinthians 6:2). However, it seems *continued on page 2*

HOLY DAYS DEDICATED TO CHRIST AND THE VIRGIN MARY – As we are still at the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, we ask one and all to circle the following dates on their calendars. These are the Great Feast Days of the Orthodox Christian Ecclesiastical Year: September 1 – August 31.

1. The Nativity of the Virgin Mary (September 8)
2. The Elevation of the Life-giving Cross (September 14)
3. The Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple (November 21)
4. Christmas (December 25).....[Advent: November 15-December 25]
5. Epiphany (January 6)
6. The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (February 2)
7. The Annunciation (March 25)
8. Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter – April 9, 2017)*
9. Easter (Pascha) (April 16, 2017)*.....[Great Lent: February 27-April 16]
10. The Ascension (40 days after Easter – May 25, 2017)*
11. Pentecost (50 days after Easter-June 4, 2017)*...[Apostles' Fast: June 12-June 30]
12. The Transfiguration (August 6)
13. Repose of the Virgin Mary (August 15).[Fasting: August 1-15]

The Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on Sundays throughout Great Lent (beginning on Sun., March 5, 2017 and also on Feast Days of our Lord (or the day before): December 24th; January 1st; January 5th. *dates depend on that of Easter every year.



Ο Χριστός ανεστήσε τρεις κατα την διάρκειαν της επιγείου αποστολής Του: τον Λαζαρον (τον <Τετραήμερον>); την θυγατεραν του Ιαειρου – και τον υιον της χηρας απο Ναιν (οπως ακουσαμεν κατα το αναγνωσμα της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης). Σημαντικο, ομως, οτι ολοι αυτοι απεβιωσαν ξανα μετα απο ενα χρονικο διαστημα. Η αναστασις των, συνολικως, ειναι <προειδοποιησιν> της Αναστασεως εκ νεκρων του Χριστου. Επισης, τα τρια θαυματα του Χριστου κατα τα οποια ανεστησε ο Χριστος τους πεθαμενους εγιναν προς δοξαν του Θεου.

Δεν υπαρχει αλλη μεγαλυτερη και πιο σημαντικη στιγμην απο αυτην στην οποιαν δοξαζεται ο Θεος μπροστα στα ματια μας. Μαλιστα, καθε ημερα βλεπουμεν θαυματα του Κυριου, αφου σηκωνομεθα απο τον υπνον καθε πρωι – κατι το οποιο το περνουμεν ως δεδομενο γεγονος. Καθε ημερα ειναι <η ημερα του Θεου> – ακομα μια ευκαιρια να δοξαζομεν τον Θεον.

<Ιδου νυν ημερα σωτηριας!> (2 Κορ. 6:2). Ως φαινεται, ομως, ο κοσμος <ζει> συμφωνα με την αντιλυσιν οτι η καθε ημερα της ζωης μας ειναι απλως ενα <φαινομενον της φυσεως> και οχι οτι ειναι ενα μεγαλο δωρον απο τον Θεον. Μια τετοια αντιλυσιν επηρεαζει την αποψιν μας περι της ημερας του Κυριου – η οποια ειναι η Κυριακη, κατα την οποιαν εορταζουμεν την Αναστασιν του Σωτηρος μας Χριστου. Ας προσεξουμεν να μην θεωρουμεν ως δευτερουσα η ευθυνει μας να δοξαζωμεν τον Θεον (δια μεσου της συμμετοχης μας στην τελετην της Θ. Λειτουργιας) κοντα στις αλλες καθημερινες ευθυνες των σπιτιων και των επιχειρησεων μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

as though, as a society, we live with the attitude that each day is simply a “phenomenon of nature” and not a great gift from God. Such a mentality effects our view regarding the Day of the Lord, which is Sunday, on which we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ our Savior from the dead. For this reason, let us not have the notion that our responsibility to glorify God (by virtue of our participation in the Divine Liturgy) is in any way secondary to our responsibilities to home and business.

In fact, the importance of each day in our lives is noted through the petition said during the Divine Liturgy, *“That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask the Lord.”* This is how we glorify God in response to His gift of Life. Living a sinless way of life is the basis for making each day holy, perfect and peaceful. This is in harmony with the Lord’s Prayer in which we pray, *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* The “daily bread” is Christ Himself, both in terms of partaking of His Holy Body and Blood through the Sacrament of Holy Communion and in terms of doing His work for the salvation of others.

The Divine Liturgy is a “snapshot” of all of human history. Christ came into the world once; He died on the Cross and resurrected from the dead once. Hence, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated by one priest at one altar only once a day. As the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, we participate in the life of Christ: His Nativity is commemorated when the Holy Gifts are prepared; His ministry is commemorated with the Entrance with the Gospel, the Scripture readings and the Sermon; His Passion is commemorated with the Great Entrance, when the Gifts are taken to the Altar; His Crucifixion and Resurrection are commemorated with the Sanctification by the Holy Spirit at which time, the bread and wine become the very Body and Blood of Christ our God. Holy Communion is our union with God in Paradise – on earth now and as it is to be in Heaven forever. As is the Divine Liturgy a “snapshot” of our entire lives with Christ in this world, each day in our lives is a vital opportunity for making this “snapshot” a constant reality. Indeed, in this context, each day is the day of salvation.

Dedicating each day to God’s glory is, at the same time, the basis for our attitude toward life in general. Pessimism or optimism; forgiveness or contempt; hope or despair are largely the results of whether or not our days are dedicated to God’s glory. Decisions and deeds arising from our attitude toward life in general are critical in setting in motion events in our lives that are either rewarding or miserable. It’s worth a lot to be careful with our souls each day.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Jean Chronis, Erika Aguilar (Ana and Wynn Storton’s daughter) (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

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

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His Holy Name.

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

Verse 2—: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

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

Verse 3— :The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

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— Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 - Blessed is He whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

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

Verse 3 - The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

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— *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein. Let heaven and earth praise Him the seas and everything that moves in them.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton [Tone 7]... (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn: *Prostasia ton Christianon... (A Protection of Christians unshamable; mediation with the Creator immovable. We sinners beg You: do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since You are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to You with faith: Hurry to intercession; and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos, Who defends at all times those who honor You.)*

READINGS: Epistle - 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 / Gospel - St. Luke 7: 11-16

Megalinarion: Axion Estin (page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Allelouia.)*

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Matushka Gloria Lehman

Reader: Constantina Karalis

PHILOPTOCHOS – Coffee Hour hostesses or hosts are needed for **November 27, and all Sundays in December**. See **Linda Petalas**. Remember, our General Meeting will be tomorrow, **Monday, October 10 at 11:30 a.m.** There will a light lunch and we asking for a \$5.00 donation. Anyone interested in making coffee for a month for Coffee Hour? see **Tillie Lockshire**.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN – Today is the end of the Baby Bottle Campaign, please join us in the Parish Hall after the Divine Liturgy. We pray that you can find it in your heart of hearts to participate in this worthy cause to give life to one child. All it takes is one generous tax deductible donation from you please help us! Plant the seed and you will have harvest. Givers Gain! Additionally, you may bring baby clothing, and diapers which are needed at the Birth Choice Center located in La Quinta, California, see information booklets on the tables. May God bless you, **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, Outreach Chairperson

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Please visit the Bulletin Board on the wall of the Parish Hall, and sign up for Altar flowers January through May 2017. It could be for any momentous occasion or celebration; birthdays, anniversaries, memorials or any other special day! See **Louise Dobbs Barringer** for more information.

GREEK FESTIVALS – Today: St. Sophia Cathedral - Los Angeles, California- until 10:00 p.m.
Next Sunday – St. Nicholas Church – Temecula – until 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR – We welcome back our parish choir today, as we begin our New Church Year. Please continue to sing with us. We are in need of new members. If you like to sing, please join us! Choir practice is every other Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Our next practice is on Thursday, October 20th. Contact our choir director, Annette Laskaris, for more information.

COLORING BOOK GROUP – Those interested in participating in the Coloring Book Group scheduled for this **Friday, October 14th at 12:00 noon** are asked to **RSVP today**. See the enclosed flier for more information.

PET BLESSING EVENT – Our annual St. George Pet Blessing Event will take place on **Saturday, October 22, 2016** here in our parish courtyard. See the enclosed flier for details and information.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 10th.....Philoptochos General Members Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 11th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 12th.....AHEPA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 14th.....Coloring Book Group – 12:00 noon

Saturday, October 15th.....Vespers - 5:00 p.m.

*The October 2016 Ladder
is sponsored by
Rhonda & Nicholas Latkovic
in memory of
Patricia Fleming (Rhonda Latkovic's mother)*

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.