

JULY 16, 2017

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.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

We learn from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus and from the words of our Lord as we heard during today's reading from the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew that good deeds for God's glory come from the correct and true doctrine regarding the Person of Christ and His work for our salvation. That is, our doctrine is the mold from which our actions take form. Our doctrines—the things we believe—make up our entire frame of mind. As one Orthodox theologian wrote: "Incom-

plete or mistaken beliefs lead to immoral behavior." (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1649).

It is for this reason that the Saints of the Church, whom we honor today, gave their whole lives to the theological battle against the false teachings of heretics. In the Person of Christ, the entire Law of the Old Testament is personified and fulfilled.

Our beliefs which are based on true
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LOOK IN THE MIRROR—When we look in the mirror, who do we see? Of course, we see a reflection of our physical being. However, behind that physical frame is a world of hopes, dreams, fears, events, attitudes, worries, joys and people that all add up to creating an agenda of deeds that come from within our hearts.

Have we become bitter people, ready to see the worst in people? Or, have we become people of gratitude, ready to embrace others and help them, because we want to bring out the best from them?

Are we content with status quo, fearing change that will obviously change our comfortable routines? Or, are we ready to grow into new understandings of how things in the world work and how we can inspire others by positive behavior that sparks enthusiasm for new, different, yet good deeds to be done for God's glory?

Are we people who sit on the sidelines criticizing the way the world has become, noting the failures of others? Or, are we the people to whom others can turn to solve problems; improve conditions and bring about peace among others and into the world around us? Are we peacemakers or agitators?

Holy Confession, repentance and saintliness all begin with a look in the mirror.



Γνωρίζουμεν απο την Επιστολην του Αγ. Παυλου προς τον Τιτον και απο τα λογια του Κυριου καθως ακουσαμεν την σημερινην περικοπην εκ του κατα Ματθαιον Ευαγγελιου οτι τα ευαρεστα εργα προς δοξαν του Θεου προερχονται απο σωστο δογμα περι του Προσωπου του Χριστου και το Θειον εργον Του προς σωτηριαν του ανθρωπου. Δηλαδη, το δογμα μας σχεδιαζει τα εργα μας, διοτι το δογμα σχηματιζει το ολοκληρο φρονημα μας. Οπως εγραψε ενας Ορθοδοξος θεολογος: <Οι ελλιπεις η λανθασμενες πεποιθησεις οδηγουν σε ανηθικες συμπεριφορες.> (*Orthodox Study Bible, σελ. 1649*).

Για αυτον τον λογον οι Πατερες της Εκκλησιας, τους οποιους μνημονευουμεν σημερα, εδωσαν ολοκληρη την ζωην τους στην θεολογικην παλη εναντια σε αιρετικους. Στο Προσωπο του Χριστου, ολοκληρος ο Νομος της Π. Διαθηκης ειναι προσωποποιημενος και εκπληρωμενος.

Οι πεποιθησεις οι οποιες βασιζονται στο αληθινο δογμα περι του Χριστου (το οποιο περιλαμβανει και την διδασκαλιαν περι της Αγιας Τριαδος) ενωνουν τον ανθρωπον με τον Σωτηρα μας Χριστου, ετσι ωστε να κληρονομησει του Χριστου <το φρονημα.> Δηλαδη, παιρνουμεν επανω μας τις θειες αρετες του Χριστου, οπως την ταπεινοφροσυνην, την υπομονην, την αγαπην, την σοφιαν, κ.τ.λ. –αρετες απο τις οποιες ξεπηδουν ολα τα γνησια καλα εργα προς δοξαν Θεου και προς σωτηριαν του κοσμου.

Ζωντας την Θ. Λειτουργιαν ειναι να ζουμεν σε ενωση με τον Χριστον. Οι αρετες του Χριστου ειναι τωρα δικες μας αρετες – τα <κερια> μας ως <το φως του κοσμου.> +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

doctrine regarding the Person of Christ unite us with Christ the Savior. (Our beliefs include the teaching of the Saints pertaining to the Holy Trinity.) In this unity with Christ we adopt His “frame of mind.” In other words, we take upon ourselves the divine virtues of Christ, such as humility, patience, love, wisdom, etc. – virtues from which spring all of the genuine good deeds which glorify God and work for the salvation of the world.

Throughout history there have been countless “good deeds” performed by many. While they may be helpful and “good” in the sense that they afford benefit to others, they are truly *good* when they are done to please God and to inspire others to seek Life with Christ. By “Life with Christ,” we mean life in this present world which continues as Life in the Eternal Kingdom of God. For example, a teacher has offered good lessons pertaining to the mechanics of a machine. This is of benefit for those who use it and for others for whom the use of the machine is intended. As far as that goes, the teacher taught a “good” lesson. But, a teacher teaches a *good* lesson when he or she not only teaches about the workings of the machine, but also inspires those who use it and those who benefit from its use to do good works so that people can learn about Christ.

There are three prayers at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy which deserve our attention for this Sunday. The one is with the Second Antiphon “*Lord, You have given us grace to offer these common prayers with one heart, promising to grant the requests of two or three gathered in Your name. Fulfill now the petition of Your servants for our benefit: (which is) to give us in this world knowledge of Your Truth and grant us eternal life in the world to come.*” This prayer fits the mold of the Holy Saints perfectly. That is what they prayed for and that is what happened – the knowledge of Truth so as to gain Eternal Life. At the Third Antiphon, we pray: “*Master and Lord our God, You have established in heaven orders of angels and archangels to minister to Your glory. Grant that the holy angels enter with us so that, together, we may serve and glorify Your goodness.*” As angels bring the message of God’s Will to people, we are *to do* the same. The prayer before the Gospel says, “*...Instill in us reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue those things that are pleasing to You...*” - i.e., the correct doctrine of the Bible inspires us to do things pleasing to God.

Living the Divine Liturgy is to live in union with Christ. Good works are done through His virtues, which, in turn become our virtues - symbolically represented by the candles that we light in our church temples and which, in sum, are beheld as “the light of the world.”

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis’ mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Jean Chronis-Kuhn (*Many 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—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 Ie 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 Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin. *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III—This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Hymn : *Ton synanarchon Logon [Tone 5]... (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

Hymn for the Holy Saints —*Ypeper-tha-dhoxasmenos ei Christe o Theos... (Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.)*

Hymn for St. George : *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn: *Prostasia ton Christianon... (O 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 defend now and ever those who honor you.)*

READINGS: *Epistle:-Titus 3:8-15 / Gospel- St. Matthew 5: 14-19*

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: *"Enite ton Kyron ek ton ouranon. Enite Afton en tis ipsisteis, Alleluia. "(Praise the Lord from the heaven. Praise Him in the highest. Alleluia)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Debbie and Mike Vawter

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **those who lost their lives in defense of Cyprus during the Turkish invasion in 1974.** May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant to them Eternal Life and may He bless the people of Cyprus. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – We are looking for Coffee Hour Sponsors or Hosts/Hostesses for the Coffee Hours in September and October. If interested, see **Athena Snarskis** and check the calendar on the bulletin board. When you sign up and you want to remember someone, be sure to let Athena know. July is when we donate to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for their Bottled Water Project for the homeless. If you are interested in donating to this project, write your check to Philoptochos and write “Bottle Water Project” on the memo line.

STEWARDSHIP – As we come to the end of July, we take this opportunity to remind those who have not yet completed their **Stewardship Card for 2017** and contributed toward their 2017 parish obligation to do so at this time. Also, those who have fallen behind in their annual Stewardship contributions are asked to bring their Stewardship pledge for this year up to date.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, July 18th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Men’s Bible Study- Friday at 11:30 a.m. (please call Fr. Ted to confirm your participation at this Bible Study)
(Romans 15: 1-7)
- Wednesday, July 19th.....Vespers – 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 20th.....ST. ELIJAH THE TISHBITE
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, July 22.....Vespers-5:00 p.m.

“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, ‘tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.’ And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.”

– St. Matthew 17: 10-12

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.