



JUNE 23, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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- Fr. Theodore Pantels, M.Div. Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, M.D. ,M.Div.

Holy Communion Or-der

- 1. Please remain standing while following the direc-tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-move lipstick be-fore receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name) , and naturally re-ceive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Com-munion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-tians must be spirit-ually prepared to receive the Sacra-ment of Holy Com-munion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER
PENTECOST SUNDAY



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

EPISTLE: Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

GOSPEL: St. John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one

thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Liturgical Notes

1. The Hymn of Pentecost is sung at the conclusion of the Doxology: *"Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You."* / Ἐυλογητός εἰ Χριστέ ο Θεός...
2. Instead of the Hymn, *"Save us, O Son of God Who arose from the dead..."*, the following is chanted: *"Save us, O Good Paraklete, we sing to You, Alleluia"* (The Holy Spirit), as we sing to You, Alleluia." / Σώσον ἡμᾶς, Παρακλητέ Αγαθὲ, ψάλλοντάς σοι ἀλληλοῦια.
3. Instead of chanting, *"Come let us worship and bow down before Christ..."* the following is chanted: *"Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O Good Paraklete as we sing to You, Alleluia..."* / Ὑψώθητι, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ δυνάμει Σου...
4. The Hymns at the Small Entrance are:
 - a) The Hymn of Pentecost (above) and,
 - b) the Kontakion Hymn as follows: *"When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men at Babel, He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit."* / Ὅτε καταβάς τας γλώσσας συνέχεε...
- 5) Instead of the Hymn, *"Agios O Theos..."* the following is sung: *"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia."* / Ὅσοι εἰς Χριστόν ἐβαπτισθητε...
- 6) Instead of *"Axion Estin,"* *"When you conceived, you experienced no deflowerment. You lent your flesh to the Logos, through whom all things were made. Therefore we magnify you, Virgin Theotokos, Mother who knew no man, space and holder of your Maker, who is uncontainable and infinite."* / Μη τῆς φθοράς...
7. Communion Hymn: *"Your good Spirit will lead...to the land of uprightness..."* / Το Πνεῦμα Σου το Αγαθόν...
8. After Holy Communion: The Hymn of Pentecost is sung.
9. The Dismissal Prayer begins as follows: *"May Christ our true God, Who emptied Himself, leaving the bosom of the Father to assume our mortal nature and deify it, then ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of our God and Father; Who sent the Holy Spirit, co-eternal divine and of equal power and glory, upon His Holy Disciples and Apostles, thus illuminating them and, through them the whole universe, through the prayers of His all-Holy and blameless Holy Mother..."*

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, June 24th.....FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 25th.....Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 26th ...Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. (Send an email to pdsaingeorge@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link to join)

Saturday, June 29th.....STS. PETER & PAUL

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS - This year the **St. Sophia Summer Camp** near San Bernardino is accepting camper applications for their "wait list," since camp sessions are filled to capacity. As of this current week, **St. Nicholas Summer Camp** near Fresno has only 18 openings for the July 14-July 20 session. However, both summer camps are **accepting applicants to be placed on a waiting list**. For more information and to apply for the Greek Orthodox

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, *Continued*

Youth Summer Camps, visit the website for St. Sophia Summer Camp: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org> or the website for St. Nicholas Summer Camp: <https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp-2024>.

STEWARDSHIP – With the celebration of Pentecost and the end of the first half of 2024 looming before us, we remind one and all to continue to support our St. George parish throughout the summer. It's a good time to bring one's Stewardship contribution up to date for this year, keeping in mind the words from a prayer adopted from the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great:

"O Lord our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You showed us the way to salvation and have granted us the revelation of the heavenly mysteries. Accept our Stewardship Offering as an acceptable sacrifice and in return send down upon us the grace of your Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O Lord, and accept our Stewardship Commitment as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the offerings of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly sacrifices of Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. Accept also now, in your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, making us worthy of the reward of the faithful and wise stewards on the fearful day of Your just judgment."

Today is **Pentecost Sunday**. After Holy Baptism, the gift of the Holy Spirit is imparted to us through the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation. *"How is the Holy Spirit given to us? The people who heard Peter speak at Pentecost asked him how they might receive salvation. He answered, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).' We repent (turn from our sins and toward Christ); we are baptized; we are given 'the gift of the Holy Spirit,' chrismation. That practice has never changed."* (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1471).