



# The Messenger

Sunday, February 25, 2024  
Κυριακή, 25 Φεβρουάριος

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee  
Κυριακή του Τελώνου και  
Φαρισαίου

## Weekly Worship Guide

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation • Atlanta, GA  
Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople, Reginos, Bishop of Skopelos, Holy Martyr Alexander of Thrace  
Markellos, Bishop of Apamea

### Chrismation

Hunter (Gregory) Coates

### Today's Memorials

Service can be found on p. 127  
of the Divine Liturgy Book

40 Day Memorial for Sophia Plastiras Bridoux  
3 Year Memorial for Sylvia (Argiro) Costopoulos

### Baby Blessing

Son of Harry & Lauren Antoniou

### Sunday School Presentations begin today!

**PreKA (2 yr olds)**

"The Sign of the Cross"

**PreKB (3 yr olds)**

"God Our Father" song

**PreKC (4 yr olds)**

"The Lord's Prayer" (in English)

**Kindergarten**

"The Lord's Prayer" (in Greek) & the "Trisagion"

**1st Grade**

"Our Favorite Bible Stories"

Today is Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Sunday. We are thankful for all of the teachers, and we appreciate the time they give to teach our children.

## The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee



The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of the journey to Pascha. To repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term metanoia means "change of mind." To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and with others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Gospel depicts him as a man that is pleased only with himself who thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has falsified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by the amount of money he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a "change of mind." He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), "poor in spirit." He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A "change of mind" and the transformation of our lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

Source: [goarch.org](http://goarch.org)

# Order of Hymns Following The Small Entrance

## Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος πλ. α΄.

*Ἀυτόμελον.*

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι,  
τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν,  
ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι  
ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ  
θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειῖραι τοὺς  
τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἁγίου. Ἦχος δ΄.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος,  
εγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ  
σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια, διὰ τοῦτο  
εκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ υψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ  
πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Ταράσιε, πρέσβευε  
Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

## Κοντάκιον τῶν Κεκοιμημένων. Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου  
καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς  
γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος καὶ τοῖς  
μεταστάσι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἦχος δ΄.

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ  
τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς  
τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ  
Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς  
σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαίρε  
Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

## Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος δ΄.

*Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον.*

Φαρισαίου φύγωμεν ὑψηγορίαν, καὶ Τελώνου  
μάθωμεν, τὸ ταπεινὸν ἐν στεναγμοῖς, πρὸς τὸν  
Σωτῆρα κραυγάζοντες· Ἰλαθι μόνε ἡμῖν  
εὐδιάλλακτε.

## Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 1.

*Automelon.*

To the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful,  
give praise and worship. For he willed to be lifted up  
on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise  
the dead by his glorious resurrection.

## Apolytikion of the Saint. Mode 4.

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness,  
and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this  
was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You  
were humble and therefore you acquired exalted  
gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. Father holy  
hierarch Tarasios, intercede with Christ our God, and  
entreat Him to save our souls.

## Kontakion for the Departed. Mode pl. 4.

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants,  
and forgive every sin they have committed in this life.  
For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to  
grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

## Apolytikion of the Church. Mode 4.

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the  
revelation of the mystery which was hidden from  
eternity. The Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son,  
and Gabriel announces the grace of this Good  
News. Let us also join with him, calling to the  
Theotokos: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace; the Lord  
is with you.

## Kontakion. Mode 4.

*You appeared today.*

Let us flee the Pharisee's \* exalted parlance; \* let us  
learn the Publican's \* humble demeanor, and with  
sighs \* unto the Savior cry out and say, \* To us be  
gracious, O only forgiving Lord.

# Readings

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee  
Κυριακή του Τελώνου και  
Φαρισαίου

**Epistle** (St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15)

Reader: Johnny Mondore

**PROKEIMENON:** You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

**VERSE:** Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

**Timothy**, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel** (Luke 18:10-14)

**The Lord said this parable**, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 51 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK

### Reminders for Receiving Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and/or chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion.

Thank you.

# Support our Cathedral

Welcome, everyone!

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors worshipping with us today in our Cathedral. You are invited to join us for our fellowship, following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in Carlos Hall next to the Church. Thank you for your visit! Please stop by our hospitality table and sign the register in the Narthex.

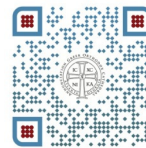
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## Thank you to our volunteers

### Acolytes

#### Group 2

Michael Costopoulos  
Benji Black  
Leo Black  
Colin Costopoulos  
Christopher Esper  
Nicholas Esper  
Alexander Halkos  
Johnny Mondore  
Damian Pottinger  
Dimitri Pumphrey

### Handmaidens

#### Group 2

Julianna Esper  
Eleni Hadjisimos  
Stella Hadjisimos  
Ama Mondore  
Carlie Schneider  
Sophia Vallianatos  
Anastasia Zaharis  
Maria Papadimitriou

### Parish Council

#### St. John Chrysostom

Irene Fotos  
Voula Giannakopoulos  
Victor Hamby  
Victor Ellis  
Chris Black  
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