



The Messenger

Sunday, March 5, 2023
Κυριακή, 5 Μάρτιος

Sunday of Orthodoxy
Κυριακή τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας

Weekly Worship Guide

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation • Atlanta, GA

Conon the Gardener, Parthenios the New Martyr who contested in Didymoteichos, Mark the Ascetic, Righteous Father Mark of Athens, John the Bulgarian, Mark the Faster, George the New-Martyr of Rapsani, Eulogios the Martyr, Eulabios the Martyr, Conon the Isaurian, Archelaos the Martyr of Egypt

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy



The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, those who refused and destroyed icons. The Church was divided by Iconoclasm for over one hundred years.

Iconoclast emperors persecuted right-believing, icon-honoring Christians from Leo the Isaurian (reigned 695-717 AD) to Theophilus, the spouse of St. Theodora (February 11), (829 - 842 AD). St. Theodora reigned after her husband's death and re-established public honor of icons on the grounds that they are not honored as a sign of worship of the material image itself, nor do Christians honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

St. Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people on the first Sunday of Great Lent in 843 AD. This event is commemorated annually as the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy since then as it is because of St. Theodora and her companions' efforts that images remain as critical pieces of Christian liturgy and theology today, honoring and glorifying the saints depicted in them and worshiping God above all.

(Compiled from www.oca.org)

Order of Hymns Following The Small Entrance

Αναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον. Ἦχος πλ. α'.

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

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Εορτῆς Ἦχος β'.

Τὴν ἄχραντον Εἰκόνα σου, προσκυνοῦμεν ἀγαθέ, αἰτούμενοι συγχώρησιν τῶν πταισμάτων ἡμῶν, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός· βουλήσει γὰρ ἠυδόκησας σαρκί, ἀνελεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, ἵνα ῥύσῃ οὓς ἐπλασας, ἐκ τῆς δουλείας τοῦ ἐχθροῦ· ὅθεν εὐχαρίστως βοῶμέν σοι· Χαρᾶς ἐπλήρωσας τὰ πάντα ὁ Σωτὴρ ἡμῶν, παραγενόμενος εἰς τὸ σῶσαι τὸν κόσμον.

Απολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀλεξίου. Ἦχος δ'.

Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε.

Ἐκ ῥίζης ἐβλάστησας, περιφανοὺς καὶ κλεινῆς, ἐκ πόλεως ἠνθησας, βασιλικῆς καὶ λαμπρᾶς, Ἀλέξει πάνσοφε, πάντων δ' ὑπερφρονήσας, ὡς φθαρτῶν καὶ ῥεόντων, ἔσπευσας συναφθῆναι, τῷ Χριστῷ καὶ Δεσπότη. Αὐτὸν οὖν ἐκδυσώπει αἰεὶ, ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

Απολυτίκιον 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· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, Ἴνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 1.

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 for the Feast. Mode 2.

We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offences, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.

Apolytikion for Saint Alexios. Mode 4.

Come quickly.

Though you did bud forth from a renowned and notable root, * and though you did blossom from a city famed for her great imperial dignity, * yet did you scorn all things as corruptible and fleeting, * striving to be joined to Christ Your Master forever. * Entreat Him, O Alexios most wise, fervently for our souls.

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 pl. 4.

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Epistle (St. Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews (11:24-26, 32-40))

Reader: Nicholas Esper

PROKEIMENON: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

VERSE: For you are just in all you have done.

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel (John 1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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

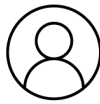
Welcome, everyone!

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.

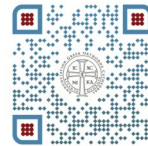
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