



The Messenger

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Κυριακή, 17 Σεπτέμβριος

Sunday after Holy Cross
Κυριακή μετά την Ύψωσιν

Weekly Worship Guide

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation • Atlanta, GA

Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love, Herakleides & Myron, Bishops of Cyprus
Afterfeast of the Holy Cross

Today's Memorials

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

40 Day Memorial for Eleni Kolokathi Papanikolopoulou
2 Year Memorial for Michael Miller

Poulcheria the Empress



The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

(www.oca.org)

Order of Hymns Following The Small Entrance

Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος πλ. β'.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Σταυροῦ. Ἦχος α'.

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἁγίας. Ἦχος πλ. α'.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον.

Ὡς ἐλαία κατάκαρπος ἀνεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς αὐλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου Σοφία Μάρτυς σεμνή, καὶ προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἡδύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι' ἀγώνων ἱερῶν, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα, καὶ τὴν θεόφρονα Πίστιν· μεθ' ὧν δυσώπει ὑπὲρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

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· Χαίρει Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

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.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος δ'.

Ὁ ὑψωθείς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ ἐκουσίως, τῇ ἐπωνύμῳ σου καινῇ πολιτείᾳ τοὺς οἰκτιρομῶν σου δώρησαι, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός· εὐφρανὸν ἐν τῇ δυνάμει σου τοὺς πιστοὺς βασιλεῖς ἡμῶν, νίκας χορηγῶν αὐτοῖς κατὰ τῶν πολεμίων· τὴν συμμαχίαν ἔχοιεν τὴν σὴν, ὄπλον εἰρήνης, ἀήττητον τροπαιον.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 2.

The Angelic powers appeared at your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became like dead men, and Mary stood at your grave seeking, seeking your most pure body. But you made hades a captive; you were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to you.

Apolytikion of the Cross. Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

Apolytikion of the Saint. Mode pl. 1.

Let us worship the Word.

As the Psalm says, you grew as a fruitful olive tree * in the courts of the Lord, O Sophia, righteous Saint; * and you offered unto Christ, by contests of martyrdom, * the blessed offspring of your womb, as if sweet and pleasing fruit, * Faith, Hope and Love, your three daughters. * Now we entreat you to pray Him, * on behalf of us who honor you.

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 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.

Kontakion. Mode 4.

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible

Readings

Sunday after Holy Cross
Κυριακή μετά την Ύψωση

Epistle (St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20)

Reader: Anastasia Lamas

PROKEIMENON: O Lord, save our people and bless your inheritance.

VERSE: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel (Mark 8:34-38; 9:1)

The Lord said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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

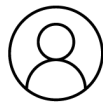
Welcome, everyone!

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.

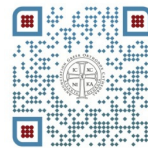
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