



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 6, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE SUNDAY AFTER MID-PENTECOST, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS JESUS COMING TO THE WELL OF JACOB, FATHER OF ALL PATRIARCHS, AND ASKING FOR A DRINK OF WATER FROM THE HANDS OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN WHO REFUSED TO SERVE HIM, SAYING THAT JESUS HAD NO DEALINGS WITH SAMARITANS. BUT THE WISE CREATOR, SAY THE WORDS OF THE ORTHROS SERVICE TODAY, CHANGED HER HEART THROUGH THE SWEETNESS OF HIS WORD; AND HAVING RECEIVED IT SHE CRIED OUT AND PROCLAIMED TO ALL: "COME AND SEE THE KNOWER OF SECRETS, GOD HIMSELF WHO HAS APPEARED IN THE FLESH SO THAT MANKIND MAY BE SAVED BY HIM." WE ALSO COMMEMORATE TODAY all our Fathers among the saints who served as Archbishops and Patriarchs of Constantinople; Job the Prophet (~1750 B.C.); Our Holy Father Seraphim the Struggler of Mt. Domvu (1602); and Sophia of Kleisoura. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

Reflection About Today's Religious Theme:

Jesus came to the well of Jacob, Father of the Patriarchs, and asked for a drink of water from the hands of the Samaritan Woman who refused to serve Him, saying that Jesus had no dealings with Samaritans. But the Wise Creator, say the words from the Orthros Service today, changed her heart through the sweetness of His words, so that she sought to obtain from Him the Water of Everlasting Word; and having received it she cried out and proclaimed to all: "Come and see the Knower of Secrets, God Himself who has appeared in the flesh so that mankind may be saved by Him."

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./11. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha *(our Lord's passover from death to life):*

Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"

4. Resurrectional Hymn - Fourth Tone (Today) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

Sung after the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been

vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

5. Hymn for Mid-Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.166-167):

Sung after the Small Entrance: In the midst of this Paschal season, Savior, let my thirsty soul partake of the waters of true worship; for You call out inviting all: Let those who thirst come to me and drink. O Fountain of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.

6. Hymn for Archbishops & Patriarchs of Constantinople – (not in Hymnal):

Sung after the Small Entrance: O illustrious leaders and shepherds of Byzantium, you have been regarded throughout different ages as wise Hierarchs. Wherefore, the Church of Christ praises the manner of your life. Through her, as eminent luminaries, you give light to those who cry out, “Glory to her who aided you, glory to Him who crowned you, glory to Him who, through you, affirmed the Orthodox faith.”

7. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

8. Kontakion of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

Sung after the Small Entrance: Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

9. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the

tomb on the third day. Rejoice and exult, sacred gate of the Light, for Jesus Who went down into the grave has dawned again, O God-favored Lady, shining more brightly than the sun, and filling all the faithful with light.

10. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading (Hebrews 7:26 – 8:2)

²⁶*For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, He has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for those of the people; this He did once for all when He offered Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever. ⁸Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, One Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ²a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up.*

Gospel Reading (John 4:5-42)

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir I see that you are a prophet, Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you

did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritan came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.” (Rev. 22:17)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

³⁰*So they said to Him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe You? What work are You performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” (John 6:30-31)*

In Jesus’ ministry on earth, He offered spectacular evidence of Who He is. He gave His followers bread. He offered great healings. He taught them love, mercy, and forgiveness like today’s Holy Gospel revealed.

That was more than 2,000 years ago, yet today, incredibly, the story is the same for us . . . Jesus has done so many things to bless us – in our families, our homes, our vocations, our parish, and our inclusion in His Holy Body with unconditional love and patience. *What will it take to prove to us that our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, is God . . . that we should submit to His Will and follow Him every moment of each day? How many more miracles and signs will He have to offer before we truly believe that He is God and gives us eternal life?*

As we depart today, let us not discount the wonderful things that our Risen Lord has done for us. Today, and all this week, let us give thanks for His blessings in our lives. Each day, let us thank our Lord for His divine providence and ask that He enable us to see His efforts to shape and change us according to His Will.

“No, Lord, we do not need another miracle or mighty deed to believe. We can truly believe right now, right here, and without doubt that Jesus Christ gives us life today, . . . and forever and ever.” AMEN!

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On this *the 704th* Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

WORSHIP & COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 5th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday, May 6: (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)**
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday, May 9: (Patronal Feast Day Celebration):

- 5:30 p.m. Great Vespers (*note later starting time*)**
- 6:15 p.m. Evening Divine Liturgy (*note later starting time*)**
- 7:15 p.m. Community Fellowship Dinner (*fasting food, oil/wine permitted*)**

Thursday, May 10:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice**

Sunday, May 13: (Sunday of the Blind Man):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 11:00 a.m. Mother's Day Luncheon**

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement
are essential and appreciated!***



All parishioners and friends of our parish are invited to our

Patronal Feast Day celebration...

Wednesday, May 9, 2018
5:30 p.m. Great Vespers
6:15 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening)
7:15 p.m. Community Dinner

Volunteers are asked to offer *fasting foods* for our community dinner... please refrain from meat, fish, dairy, & eggs; wine and oil are allowed

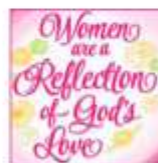
We hope you and your family will join us for this special occasion.



All women of our parish will be honored on **Mother's Day**, Sunday, May 13, 2018

Our men will offer a hearty luncheon in their honor after church services...

We hope you and your family will join us for this special occasion.



RSVP ONLY if you CANNOT come by emailing Kirk Panayik, kpanayik@yahoo.com or telephone, 347/203-9824

Come & See!

Have you had a chance to visit our new parish website?

Same web address... different look & content!

www.saintchristopherhoc.org