

Holy Transfiguration

Greek Orthodox Church

The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)

February 23, 2020

St. Polycarp the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Smyrna

The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

The Liturgy begins on p 19 of the "Divine Liturgy Hymnal." The following are the changeable parts and special instructions for today.

The Antiphonal Psalm verses are for a normal Sunday (Psalms 102, 145, 117).

Only Begotten, new version: Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

p 37, the 3rd Antiphon: Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 3, p 107: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

Hymns after the Gospel Entrance

Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 3, p 107: (See above.)

Parish Apolytikion (music inside hymnal cover): You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your glory to the disciples as much as they could bear. Shine on us also, the sinners, shine Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of Life; glory to You!

Judgment Sunday Kontakion, p 261: When You come to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all creation will tremble and a river of fire will flow before Your throne of judgment. The books will be opened and the secrets of all will be revealed. On that day, O just Judge, deliver me from eternal flames and make me worthy to stand at Your right.

The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46. The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on his glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will say to those at His left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

p 45, instead of this version of the Cherubic Hymn, we sing p 295 with the following modified text: Let us who mystically represent the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn, sing the thrice holy-hymn to the life-giving Trinity, sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, to the life-giving Trinity, now lay aside every worldly care, every worldly care, every worldly care... that we may receive the King of all, receive the King of all... (invisibly escorted....). (Only 2 lines at the top of p 297 are changed.)

The Lord's Prayer – English first, Greek last – other languages between

Communion: Only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves should come forward to receive the Eucharist. Others may join us in partaking reverently of the blessed bread distributed at the close of the service, called "Antidoron."

Announcements

General Memorial at the end of today's Liturgy. All who wish to remember their departed loved ones should bring a list and place it on the table.

Welcome, visitors! If you would like to receive our news and updates, please fill out a Welcome Card.

Woven Teen Girls Group meeting today during Coffee Hour.

Study Group – Wednesday, 7 p.m. *Elder Ephraim of Katounakia*

Highlights of Lent:

Sunday, March 1 (Forgiveness Sunday) – Rite of Forgiveness at the end of Liturgy

Sunday, March 8 (Sunday of Orthodoxy) – Icon Procession at the end of Liturgy. Bring a favorite icon.

Lenten Sunday Catechism Class, in the nave following Coffee Hour (approx. 12:30-2:00 p.m.)

Wednesday Evenings of Lent – Liturgy at 6:30 p.m. (mostly Pre-Sanctified, except on Annunciation)

Special Lenten Collection – for Holy Week flowers and our kitchen renovation

Philoptochos Board Meeting – Sunday, March 1 during Coffee Hour

Monastic Symposium, March 13-17, at the Diakonia Retreat Center. Info on bulletin board or online.

Contact information

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Our goal is to live an Orthodox life, not just to speak or write Orthodox. (...) To think like an Orthodox is easy, but to live an Orthodox life requires effort.

Elder Paisios of the Holy Mount Athos