

MAY 14, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

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Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

**– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D.**

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. *All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.*

LIVING IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

The purpose of worship is for us to be united in soul and body to Christ Arisen from the dead. Through this union, we also know the truth in these respects: 1) that God loves us and does not want *"the death of a sinner, but that one should turn back and live,"* (as the prayer of Holy Confession states), and, 2) that through our love for God, we understand that, aside from the fact that God loves us, we still shun God by committing sins.

Indeed, the prayers of the Divine Liturgy emphasize the love of God for us, but they also note our tendency to go against God. "Our spirit", through the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, unites with the Holy Spirit, Who sanctifies those who participate in the Holy Sacrament – a message given by the exclamation of the celebrant: *"Holy Gifts for the Holy People of God."*

For example, during the Great Entrance, the prayer reminds us, *"No one is worthy..."* Yet, after the Creed, the

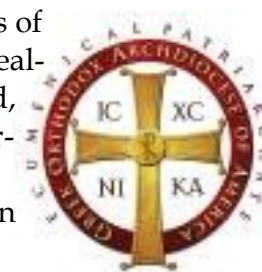
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THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, the Samaritans worshipped the idols also, accepting only the Penta-teuch of Moses, and rejecting the other books of Holy Scripture. The Jews rejected them as heathen and had no communion with them at all. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to the city called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

The Samaritan woman is one of the first people outside the borders of Israel to follow Christ. As she herself observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.



Ο σκοπος της λατρειας ειναι να ενωθουμεν ψυχικως και σωματικως με τον Ανασταντα εκ νεκρων Χριστον. Δια της ενωσης αυτης, γνωριζουμεν και την αληθειαν:

1) οτι ο Θεος μας αγαπα και δεν θελει <τον θανατον του αμαρταλου, ως το επιστρεψαι και ζην αυτον>, (οπως λεγει η ευχη της Εξομολογησεως), και, 2) οτι δια μεσου της αγαπης μας για τον Θεον, καταλαβαινουμεν οτι, παρα που μας αγαπα ο Θεος, ακομη Τον αποφευγουμεν δια μεσου της αμαρτιας.

Οι ευχες της Θ. Λειτουργιας, μαλιστα, αναφερουν την ταση μας να παμε εναντιον του Θεου, αλλα, τονιζουν την αγαπην του Θεου για εμας. <Το πνευμα> μας, δια μεσου των προσευχων της Θ. Λειτουργιας, ενωνεται με το Αγιο Πνευμα, το Οποιο αγιαζει αυτους που συμμετεχουν στο Αγιο Μυστηριο – αφου εκφωνει ο ιερευς: <Τα Αγια τοις Αγιοις...>

Π.χ, κατα την Μεγ. Εισοδο, η ευχη μας υπενθυμιζει, οτι <ουδεις αξιος>. Αλλα, η ευχη πριν τον αγιασμον των Τιμιων Δωρων ομιλει περι της αγαπης του Θεου: <τον κοσμον σου ουτως ηγαπησας (Θεε), ωστε τον Υιον σου τον Μονογενη δουναι, ινα..(εχουμεν) ζωην αιωνιον.> Καθως μεταλαμβανει ο καθενας, γνωριζομεν την αληθινην μας σχεσιν με τον Θεον – συγχωρησιν και ζωην αιωνιον, καθως ο ιερευς εκφωνει χαμηλο-φωνως, <Μεταλαμβανει ο η δουλός/λη του Θεου... Τιμιον και Πααγιον Σωμα και Αιμα του Κυριου ημων Ιησου Χριστου εις αφεσιν αμαρτιων και εις ζωην αιωνιον.>

Ας προσεξουμεν τις ευχες των Θ. Μυστηριων, ωστε να καταλαβουμεν αυτο που ειπε ο Κυριος στην Σαμαρειτιδαν: <Πνευμα ο Θεος και τους προσκυνουντας Αυτον εν πνευματι και αληθεια δει προσκυνειν.> (Ιωαν. 4:24).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Prayer before the Consecration of the Gifts emphasizes God's love: "(O God) You so loved the world that You gave Your Only-Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have life everlasting." As one partakes of Holy Communion, we are reminded of our relationship with God, which is that of *forgiveness* (and repentance on our part) and *Life Eternal*. The priest proclaims in a low voice, "The servant of God partakes of the Precious and All-Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting." In the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, we understand more clearly that which the Lord said to the Samaritan Woman: "God is Spirit and those who worship Him are to worship in Spirit and truth." (St. John 4:24).

This connection of our human spirit with God's Holy Spirit is expressed in one of the most frequent liturgical prayers of Orthodox Christians, "O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is present in all places and Who fills all things; the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of Life, come and dwell in us and cleanse us of every sin and, of Your goodness, save our souls." God is the Giver of all Life – the Creator – present at all places and at all times. The Only-Begotten Son of God (the Second Person of the Holy Trinity) renews life through His forgiveness on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead. The Holy Spirit (the Third Person of the Holy Trinity) is always inspiring us to know the Person of Christ and His life-saving death, Resurrection and Judgment – all of which are works of His great love and mercy.

God's Judgment is indeed an act of mercy. As God is the Spirit of Truth, we are summoned to pray with a spirit of truth in our souls. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are inspired to pray. In our sincere spirit is the voice of conscience, which was placed in us as part of the Image and Likeness of God. It is this voice that guides us throughout our lives for all things good. It is a quality of mercy calling us to God.

God's Judgment is within us every day. It is, indeed, the voice of our conscience, that divine part of us. When we do God's Will, we feel the warmth of God's presence in our lives; when we commit sin, we feel the sting of guilt, which is an awareness of our separation from God. This on-going Judgment will become Final at the Second Advent of Christ. The more we seek Christ, the more we see our faults; yet, in this way, we grow closer to Christ our Risen God. On this, I like the words of Vassilios Papavassiliou in Ancient Faith's Kindle Edition (Kindle Locations 301-309), "The more sensitive to God's presence we become, the more aware we become of our own sins. And our response is not a paralyzing despair, but a renewed hope and desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit."

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Jim Alex, Tillie Lockshire (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1—Shout to God all the earth. Sing now to His Name; give glory to His praise.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 2—Say to God, "How fearful are Your works; in the greatness of Your power Your enemies will lie to You.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 3—Let all the earth worship you and sing to You; let them sing to Your Name.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson"

ANTIPHON II: *"Soson imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1—May God be gracious to us and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2—That we may know His way on earth, Your salvation among all Gentiles.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3—Let the peoples give thanks to You O God; let all the peoples praise You. May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon. Amin

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III— *The Hymns of the Entrance with the Holy Gospel. Verse: This is the Day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein: Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life.)*

SUNDAY RESURRECTION HYMN: *To fedron tis anastaseos kerygma...[Tone 4] (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)*

HYMN FOR MID-PENTECOST: *Mesousis tis eh-ortees dhipson mou tin psycheen...(O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of true religion. For to all You the Savior cried aloud, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ our God, the fountain of life, glory to You.)*

HYMN FOR ST. GEORGE: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis...(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you. O great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

KONTAKION HYMN: *Ee ke en tafo...(Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.)*

READINGS: Epistle-Acts 11: 19-26; 29-30 / Gospel- St. John 4: 5-42

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following: O Angelos evoh-a ti keharitomeni...(The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has resurrected from the grave on the third day. Be glad and exultant, divine gate of the light, for your Son, Jesus, being set within the tomb, rose and is shining more brightly than the sun, and He has fully illumined all the faithful, O Lady full of the grace of God.) / Communion Hymn: "Soma Christou".



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

PHILOPTOCHOS – Happy Mother’s Day to all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers and Pet Moms. Come join us for coffee after services and get a slice of our Mother’s Day Cake to celebrate. Enjoy the day with your family. We are looking for volunteers for the Coffee Hour on May 28 (Memorial Day weekend) and the Sundays in June. We have changed the way we do coffee hour now with Philoptochos buying the snacks and the sponsor making the donation. We are simplifying the process and we recognized that food costs continue to go up. You may still bring snacks for your Sunday. See **Linda Kallis** or **Athena Snarskis** (our new Coffee Hour Coordinator).

STREET LIFE PROJECT – This Thursday, May 18th, some parishioners will join Fr. Ted in meeting with **Christian Jelmberg of the Street Life Project at Sunrise Park in Palm Springs at 6:00 p.m.** to offer support for the **homeless** of the Coachella Valley. Those who want to join are asked to meet at the church by **4:15 p.m.** We would like to bring any donations from our parishioners for the homeless when we visit.

AHEPA SUNDAY – Next Sunday, May 21, 2017. The awarding of College Scholarships following the Divine Liturgy, followed by a luncheon: Adults, \$15/ Children, \$10. See the flier in the parish hall. **Special thanks to AHEPA Chapter 528 for providing the flowers today in celebration of Mother’s Day.**

“CARD OF REMEMBRANCE” FOR PRESVYTERA CATHERINE’S FAMILY – Those who want to sign an “Icon Card” to be sent to the family of Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides’ family, offering prayers for her soul and for her eternal memory, may do so this Sunday. The card is to be mailed to the family by **Monday, May 15th.**

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesday, May 16th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m. / Men’s Bible Study –6:30 p.m. (St. John 9: 1-38)
 Thursday, May 18th.....Street Life Project – Sunrise Park, Palm Springs (meet at church @ 4:15 p.m.)
 Saturday, May 20th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.


LAST SUNDAY THE DESCRIPTION OF SEVEN MOST BASIC SINS (FROM WHICH OTHER SINS ARISE) WAS GIVEN, ALONG WITH THEIR COUNTER-PART VIRTUES (FROM WHICH OTHER VIRTUES SPROUT).

<p>SINS: Pride: Worship of self Greed: Accumulation for self without regard to God or others. Lust: Using of others for self satisfaction (impurity) Anger: Resentment for events or behaviors that do not serve one’s self interests. Envy: Lack of thanksgiving for blessings & the desire to have blessings of others for one’s self. Gluttony: “never enough” glory, food, or “feeling good.” (the root of addictions) Sloth: Self-centered irresponsibility to God & others.</p>	<p>VIRTUES: Humility- Worship of God Charity- Sacrificing of self for God and others. Chastity- Respect for God & others. (pure thoughts) Faith – Faith in God that all things are for the good in love for the Lord (root of forgiveness). Thanksgiving – Contentment with blessings given by God. Self-Control- Constraint out of respect for God’s gifts & the Commandments. Diligence – Serious care in serving God and others.</p>
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The Ladder for the month of May 2017 is donated by Tillie Lockshire

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.

AHEPA **SUNDAY**



SPECIAL RECOGNITION
FR. THEODORE PANTELS

HONORING HIS STEADFAST DEVOTION TO THE CHURCH
AND SUPPORT OF AHEPA AND CHAPTER 528

WHEN
May 21st, 2017

WHAT

Annual Scholarships and recognitions award ceremony after services, in the church.
Luncheon following in fellowship hall.

WHERE

St George
Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert CA 92260

Wynn Storton
Chapter 528 President
contact@AHEPA528.org
www.AHEPA528.org

LUNCHEON

TICKETS

\$15 General

\$10 Children

CATERED BY

George Argyros
Towne Center Cafe

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING

Fr Theophilos
Memorial
Scholarship fund

If you would like to donate to
the 528 fund please make check
payable to

AHEPA 528
Fr. Theophilos Scholarship in
memo box please
Mail to:
AHEPA Chapter 528
Scholarship Fund
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Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

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