

MARCH 7, 2021

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)

Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)

# THE LADDER

JUDGMENT SUNDAY



### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755  
Palm Desert, CA.92261  
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.

### PRAYERS & ACTIONS

Both today's Gospel and Epistle passages point to the reality that each person is the temple of the Holy Spirit, through Whom Christ is revealed. Our attitudes, ambitions, perceptions, thoughts, actions and words all have an effect on Christ our God Himself, because, as we do/or do not do to others, we do/or do not do to Christ. We are asked to see God in the person next to us, because the way we treat that person at a given moment is exactly the way we treat our Lord in that moment.

Hence, the notion of showing disrespect

to another person is tantamount to showing disrespect to God, thereby undoing our prayers. In essence, our prayers are tied to our actions and words, because they reveal what we really have in our souls as we pray.

While today's Gospel passage reminds us of giving practical help and care to others, knowing that, in doing so, we are giving to Christ Himself, the Epistle passage speaks specifically about the fact that we are to seek both *proper discernment* and *proper attentiveness* toward others. For indeed, it is not only that we should give to those in need,

*Continued on Page 2*

### "JUDGMENT SUNDAY"

Together with the proclamation of all faithful Orthodox Christians, the Holy Saints of our Church have appointed that on this Sunday we are to commemorate Christ's Second Advent, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who will judge each of us according to our deeds.

Through bringing to mind the fearful Day of Judgment, we are to awaken ourselves from fantasies involving worldly cares and seek the Christ-centered spiritual way of life, whereby we work to attain truly Christian virtues through prayer. With the power of prayer, we will be able to show love and compassion for our fellow human beings.

It is clear this Sunday is set aside for us to remember that we all worldly festivities will come to an end, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

+FR. THEODORE



Οι σημερινές περικοπές του Ευαγγελίου και της Επιστολής του Απ. Παύλου προς τους Κορινθίους δείχνουν την πραγματικότητα ότι ο κάθε άνθρωπος είναι ο ναός του Αγίου Πνεύματος, μέσω του οποίου αποκαλύπτεται ο Χριστός. Οι στάσεις, οι σκέψεις, οι πράξεις και τα λόγια μας έχουν σημαντική επίδραση προς τον Χριστό, γιατί, όπως κάνουμε/ή δεν κάνουμε σε άλλους, κάνουμε/ή δεν κάνουμε στον Χριστό. Ζητείται από εμάς να θεωρήσουμε τον πλησίον μας ως εικόνα του Θεού. Επομένως, ο τρόπος με τον οποίον συμπεριφερόμεθα προς τον πλησίον μας κατά μία οποιαδήποτε στιγμή είναι ακριβώς ο τρόπος με τον οποίον συμπεριφερόμεθα στον Χριστόν κατά την ίδια στιγμή.

Ως εκ τούτου, το να φερόμεθα με ασέβεια προς τον συνάθρωπό μας ισοδυναμεί με το να δείχνουμε ασέβεια στον Θεό, καταργώντας έτσι τις προσευχές μας. Στην ουσία, οι προσευχές μας συνδέονται με τις πράξεις και τα λόγια μας, επειδή οι πράξεις και τα λόγια μας αποκαλύπτουν ό,τι έχουμε στις ψυχές μας καθώς προσευχόμεθα.

Ενώ η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή μας υπενθυμίζει ότι όταν προσφέρουμε πρακτική βοήθεια σε άλλους, υπηρετούμε και τον Ιδιο τον Χριστό, η Αποστολική περικοπή μας λέει συγκεκριμένα ότι πρέπει να επιδιώκουμε τόσο τη σωστή διάκριση όσο και την κατάλληλη συμπεριφορά απέναντι στον πλησίον μας. Πράγματι, δεν πρέπει μόνο να προσφέρουμε καλές πράξεις σε όσους έχουν ανάγκη, αλλά έχουμε επίσης την ευθύνη να μην σκανδαλίζουμε άλλους. Αντί αυτού, ας εμπνεύσουμε άλλους ώστε να δοξάσουν στον Χριστόν.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

but we are charged with the responsibility for not *scandalizing* others. Instead, we are asked to *inspire* others so that they give glory to Christ our God.

With the virtues of *proper discernment* and *proper attentiveness* we can discern whether or not we are entertaining prideful motives and we can better understand with compassion the true needs of others. Are we really trying to inspire others to give glory to God, or are we trying to lure others into admiring us? Are we listening closely to understand the exact things that others need, or are we trying to sell them something that serves our self-esteem? Do we see that the other person is an image of God, or do we consider him or her as “just a number?”

We must understand that often, in the spirit of Christ-like love, we are called upon to give more than simply a one-time service. As we draw closer to the Season of Great Lent, we prepare to begin our fasting discipline. However, with today’s Gospel and Epistle messages, we are reminded that what is important is not what we consume within us, but rather what emanates forth from us. The purpose of fasting is to find discipline within ourselves so that we can focus on God’s Will and have the ability to give to others even if it means that we must also share in their own “trials of Job.” On this point, we need to pray for Christ to grant us the faith and patience of Job if we are to care fully for those in long-term injury rehabilitation or even hospice care.

Fasting is the opposite of gluttony. It is also the medicine for the passion of greed. If approached with prayer and the spirit of Christ-like love, fasting teaches us to avoid the error of worshipping our Lord with our mouths, while sinning with our minds.

Let us honor the people in our lives as we honor Christ our God. In doing so our worship services take on deep meanings and our prayers are more fervent, making the Orthodox Faith a light unto the world.

+FR. THEODORE

#### **BIBLE STUDY –Tuesday March 9, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Please note: This Bible Study class will take place in-person outside on the patio outside our parish hall and will not be presented in a “zoom format.”**

**The passage that we will be studying is:**

**S**

**NOTE: When unable to attend Church Services in person due to state regulations regarding the Coronavirus or personal illness, follow the Divine Liturgy through live-streaming provided by various Archdiocese parishes at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.**



*"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen"*

**EPISTLE—1 Cor. 8:8-13; 9:1-2**

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.

**GOSPEL—St. 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."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Today..... Philoptochos sponsored Coffee Hour (via "Zoom" format) - 1:00 p.m.  
Metropolis-Wide Sunday School Program (via "Zoom") - 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 9th.....Bible Study (in-person/social distancing) - 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 10th...AHEPA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (via "Zoom")
- Saturday, March 12th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS -Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

***SAINT GEORGE COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!***

Join us for "Coffee Hour" today at **1:00 p.m.**

Go to your computer "search box" (at the top left side of the screen) and type:

**<https://www.zoom.us/join>**. Enter the meeting ID number: **864 9984 9746**.

Then type in the Passcode number: **45970**