



FEBRUARY 2, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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- 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.

THE LADDER

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"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- Hebrews 7:7 - 17

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL- St. Luke 2:22 - 40

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And in the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple -->

GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

ple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of

Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**Liturgical Notes for Today**

At the Entrance of the Gospel: Instead of "Come let us worship and fall down..." the following is chanted: "The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His justice before the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, Who was held in the arms of the righteous Simeon as we sing to You, Alleluia." / Εγνώρισε Κύριος το σωτήριον αυτού...

1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) "By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the sorrow of the Myrrh-bearing Women and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy." / Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ Σοῦ τὸν θάνατον...

2) "Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in Your arms the Deliverance of our souls, who grants us Resurrection." / Χαίρε και χαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε... [Hymn in honor of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple]

3) **Kontakion:** "Your birth sanctified the Virgin's womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon. You have now come and saved us O Christ our God. In troubled times, as the only loving One, give peace to Your commonwealth and strength to those in civil authority, whom You love." / Ο Μήτηραν παρθενικὴν αγιάσας τὸ τόκῳ σου...

4) Instead of the hymn "Axion Estin," the following is chanted: "O Theotokos, the hope of all Christians, shelter, defend, and protect all those who trust in You..." / Θεοτόκε ἡ ἐπιλις πάντων τῶν Χριστιανῶν...

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

– Monday, February 3rd.....Festival preparations continue throughout this week, beginning at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow at our parish hall. Volunteers needed. (Check with our parish office throughout the week for scheduling information.)

– Tuesday, February 4th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

– Wednesday, February 5th.....Online Orthodox Christian Catechism – 6:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREEK FESTIVAL** – 1) **Preparations for our Greek Festival** scheduled for February 15-16, 2025 will continue throughout this week. Festival flyers are now available for distribution. 2) Copies of the "Festival Volunteer Form" are in our parish hall. We need volunteers! 3) See the **Clover Register Training Flyer** that is posted in our parish hall. This system will be used for all Festival transactions.

**PHILOPTOCHOS**– 1) Greek pastry baking resumes on **Monday, February 3rd**. Volunteers are needed **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday** this week. 2) Don't forget to **WEAR RED** on **Sunday, February 9th** in support of Women's Heart Health. A photo of all wearing participants in red will be taken at the end of the service. 3) **SAVE THE DATE** for the **Philoptochos Membership Event** scheduled on **Saturday, March 1st, 2025**. Invitations have been mailed. We encourage prospective members and all current members to attend. This includes both Orthodox women and men! The minimum annual "donation" for our chapter membership is \$50.00.

**STEWARDSHIP** – Save the Date: Stewardship Sunday is: Next Sunday, February 9th.

**ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE** – New items are arriving! We take credit card, cash, or checks payable to **St. George Church**. In the memo, write: *bookstore*.