



MARCH 16, 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

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



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 1:10 – 14; 2:1 – 3

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.” But to what angel has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

GOSPEL—St. Mark 2:1 – 12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the

door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ — he said to the paralytic — “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

“Note that one purpose of Christ’s coming into the world is to forgive sins (v.10), freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes correctly note, God alone can forgive sins (v. 7). Thus, the easier task (v.9) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals [the paralytic] in order to draw people to God, whom they glorified.” (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1332)

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) : *“O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.”* / Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον...

2) *“O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of monastics, defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.”* / Ορθοδοξίας ὁ φωστήρ... [Hymn for St. Gregory Palamas]

3) *“Since You are a deliverer of captives and a protector of the poor; a physician for the sick; a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.”* / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...[Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** *“To You, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, Your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In Your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to You: ‘Hail, Unwedded Bride.’”* / Τη Υπερμάχῳ...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

– Tuesday, March 18th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

– Wednesday, March 19th...Presanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.

– Thursday, March 20th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism-6:30 p.m. (online) Email Fr. Ted at tpantels@stgeorgepd.org to receive a Zoom link.

– Friday, March 21st.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m./Salutations (3rd Stanza) - 6:00 p.m.

– Next Sunday, March 23rd..... Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross (strict fasting day)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For us to fulfill our mission in our beloved parish, we need your help throughout the Lenten season. Donations are welcome to cover expenses for flowers, candles, eggs, etc. in preparation for Holy Week services. Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex. Checks can be made out to “St. George Greek Orthodox Church.” Note “Easter Donation” in the memo section. We invite everyone to visit our parish website at: <https://stgeorgepd.org> in the weeks to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Family Sunday School class will be held next Sunday, March 23rd.

PHILOPTOCHOS – Please save the following dates: 1) **Philoptochos General Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2025.** Both meetings will be held at the St. George church hall beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a light lunch and meeting to follow. 2) **Kids ‘n’ Cancer Agape Luncheon: Sunday, April 27, 2025** starting at **2:00 p.m. in Newport Beach, California.** Cost: \$100 per person. We have limited transportation seating available. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic.** 3) **Philoptochos Board Member Elections: Monday, May 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.** We will have a “Cinco de Mayo” lunch in the church hall for all Philoptochos members in attendance at this important election meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Plan to attend our **St. George Spring General Assembly Meeting**, scheduled for **next Sunday, March 23rd** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

“PAINT & SIP” - Join the **“Paint & Sip”** in our parish hall on **Sunday, March 30, 2025** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy (Iconography of the Theotokos). More information to follow.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – **SAVE THE DATE!** Our Parish Council is organizing a **Palm Sunday Luncheon** to be held after Palm Sunday Church services on **Sunday, April 13, 2025.**

GOLF TOURNAMENT – April 26, 2025. **Register at:** <https://stgeorgepd.org/golf-tournament>.