



MARCH 9, 2025

## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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### Mailing Address:

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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

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY/ 40 MARYTYRS OF SEBASTE

## 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 12:1 – 10

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin that easily distracts, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who instead of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to

the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

#### GOSPEL—St. John 1:43 – 51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

*"In an Old Testament prophecy, Jacob dreamed of a ladder connecting earth to heaven, upon which the angels of God were ascending and descending (See: Genesis 28:12-15). Jesus is this "ladder" who unites earth to heaven and therefore is the Son of Man."*  
(Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1424.)

### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) : *"The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, 'Death is vanquished. Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy.'"* / Το φαιδρόν της Αναστάσεως...

2) *"O Christ, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of Your own free will, You condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, 'When You came to save the world, You filled all things with joy, O our Savior.'"* / Την άχραντον εικόνα Σου προσκυνούμεν... [Hymn for Sunday of Orthodoxy]

3) *"Be entreated O Lord by the sufferings endured for You by the Saints and we pray You heal all our pain."* / Τας αληθόνας των Αγίων Σου..[Hymn for the 40 Martyrs of Sabaste]

4) *"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]

5) **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 Υπερμάχω...

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

– Tuesday, March 11th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m./Orthodox Christian Catechism-6:30 p.m. (online)

– Wednesday, March 12th...Presanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.

– Friday, March 14th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m./Salutations (2nd Stanza) - 6:00 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL: 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**. **More news and menu will follow!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – Family Sunday School class** will be held **today** in our parish classrooms. The lesson will center around the Holy Icons. Our next **Family Sunday School class** will be on **Sunday, March 23rd**.

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Please save the following dates:

1) **Philoptochos General Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2025**. The meeting will be held at the St. George church hall beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a light Lenten lunch of soup, with the 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**.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our **St. George Spring General Assembly Meeting**, scheduled for **Sunday, March 23rd** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

**ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT** – People are already expressing interest in participating in our annual **St. George Golf Tournament**, scheduled for **Saturday, April 26, 2025** at **Desert Willow Golf Resort** in Palm Desert. Don't be left out! Register from now! Visit our website at: <https://stgeorgepd.org/golf-tournament>.