



**Sunday, October 11, 2020**



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

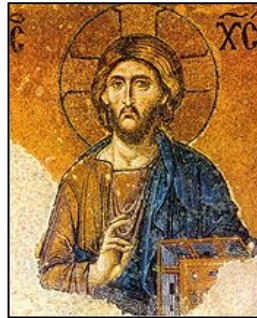
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)

*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

### **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

**Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor***

### **Liturgical Guide for Sunday, October 11, 2020**

**ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** the Holy and Blessed Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council who, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving monarchs Constantine and Irene, convened once again in Nicaea against those who impiously, in ignorance and inconsideration, labeled the Church of God idolatry, and removed the revered and holy icons (+787). We also commemorate Philip the Apostle of the 70, one of the 7 Deacons (1<sup>st</sup> cent.); Theophanes the Confessor, Bishop of Nicaea (+850); Holy Martyrs Zenais and Philonilla; & Nectarios, Arsakios, Sisinius and Philotheos Kokkinos, Patriarchs of Constantinople (+397); Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking; & Kenneth. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

## **Thank You for Your Understanding**

We welcome our parishioners who pre-registered and are attending services in person today and we also welcome those who are viewing our online video streaming at home. Let us comply with the guidelines we have provided everyone. We appreciate your kind understanding that our church is beginning phase one of the re-opening of our doors. Fr. George is deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

*Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.*

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

### **3. Hymn of the Holy Fathers – (Hymnal-pp.170-171):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ our God, for making our holy fathers radiant lights to all the world. Through them You led us to the true faith. Compassionate Savior, Glory to You.

### **4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

## **5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

## **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts.

– St. John Chrysostom

## **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:1-10)**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

## **Epistle Reading for Today (Titus 3:8-15)**

*Titus 3:8 The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to*

everyone. 9 But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, 11 since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned. 12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Make every effort to send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and see that they lack nothing. 14 And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy for Today (Luke 8:5-15)**

<sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup>Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup>Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As He said this, He called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” <sup>9</sup>Then His disciples asked Him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup>He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that ‘looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.’” <sup>11</sup>“Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>But as for that in the good soil, these



*are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.*

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (*Psalm 51:10*)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

I wish to share an insightful story about a man on a boat. He is not alone but acts as if he were. One night, without warning, he suddenly begins to cut a hole under his seat.

The other people on the boat shout and shriek at him: “What on earth are you doing? Have you gone mad? Do you want to sink us all? Are you trying to destroy us?”

Calmly, the man answers: “I don't understand what you want. What I'm doing is none of your business. I paid my way. I'm not cutting under your seat. Leave me alone!”

What the fanatic (and the egotist) will not accept, but what you and I cannot forget, is that all of us are in the “same boat.” Scriptural verses that inspire us to live in mutual harmony include: “*If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*” (Rom. 12:18) “*Therefore, my brothers, let us set an example to our kindred, for their lives depend upon us, and the sanctuary—both the temple and the altar—rests upon us.*” (Judith 8:24)



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On this the 827<sup>th</sup> Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

## **COMMUNITY SCHEDULE** *(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)*

**Sunday, October 11 (Second Sunday of St. Luke/National Church Music Sunday):**

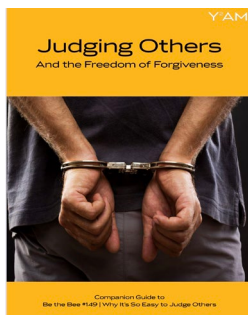
**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Trisagion Service/General Parish Assembly**

***Youth Religious Education Class Reminder:*** This afternoon, we encourage our parents to share the digital religious education lessons their teachers emailed. Next Sunday, students and parents in each class will join their teachers in a Virtual Religious Education Lesson as we did last Sunday.

*Thanks for helping us teach our Orthodox faith to our youth.*

**3:00 pm Sunday Adult Religious Education Discussion**



**Adult Religious Education Lesson for Sunday, October 11**  
This Sunday we will continue studying **Matthew 18:21-35: the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant**. Even if you have never joined us, we welcome you to [view the video](#) and then [complete its Companion Guide](#), "Judging Others & Freedom of Forgiveness".

**[Click here to join Zoom Conference Call](#)**

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement  
are essential and appreciated!***

## ***“Your Own from Your Own”***

Archimandrite Nikon Koutsidis wrote the following reflection reprinted from <https://pemptousia.com>. It reinforces today's Adult Religious Education lesson focusing on forgiving others. I hope you will read this reflection and join our class.

**+Fr. George Tsahakis**

One time when Jesus was going to Jerusalem, He wanted to stop at a Samaritan village. He sent messengers to prepare for His arrival, but the Samaritans were unwilling to accept Him, because He was on His way to Jerusalem. “When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, ‘*Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them as Elijah did?*’. But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ‘*You do not know of what spirit you are; the Son of Man has not come to destroy souls, but to save them*’” (Luke 9:54-56).

This is why it's necessary for us to know, on each occasion:

- \* what we are asking of Christ and how we are asking it;*
- \* what we are offering to Christ and how we are offering it.*

In the middle of the Divine Liturgy, just before he blesses the bread and wine to change them into the Body and Blood of Christ, the Priest proclaims:

***“We offer You Your Own from Your Own, in all things and for all things”.***

These words mean:

“The gifts (the bread and wine) are Yours, from among Your creations (the whole world). We offer them to You in accordance with what Your Son taught us (in all things) and for everything You have done for us (for all things).

So, it is not enough for us to offer our gifts to God as if we were fulfilling some obligation, or to ask for something.

We offer gifts to Christ:

- \* In order to express to Him our thanks/gratitude for everything He's done and suffered for us, particularly for the Cross, the Tomb and the Resurrection.
- \* And because He commanded and instructed us to do so.

The Lord says: First comes forgiveness and reconciliation with those who have something against us. Then comes the material or spiritual offering to Christ. Any prayer from a heart full of malice does not ascend to heaven.

Our participation in the Divine Liturgy requires effort: rectification of our passions and confession to a spiritual guide. Only then, if we are well-pleasing to Christ, can we ask anything of Him, with boldness and free speaking.