

NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5, 2025



Awed by the beauty of your
virginity, and the exceeding
radiance of your purity;

Gabriel stood amazed and cried
out unto you, O Theotokos,

What praise may I offer that is
worthy of your beauty?

By what name shall I call you?

I am lost and bewildered, but I
shall cry to you as commanded:

Rejoice, O full of grace.

Theotokos of the Akathist



HONORING
CHURCH MUSICIANS
ACROSS THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



NATIONAL FORUM OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS

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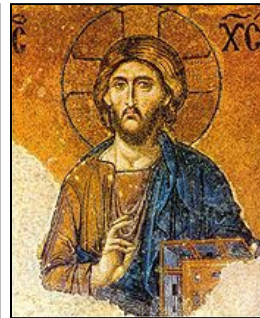
SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlmetropolis.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: 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 6, 2024

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Charitina the Martyr; Methodia the Rigueous of Kimolos; Eudokimos the Unknown of Mt. Athos; & Peter, Alexis, Jonah, Hermogenes & Tikhon, Metropolitans of Moscow. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

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 (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

3. 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.

4. 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 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 (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was

blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 6:31-36)

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

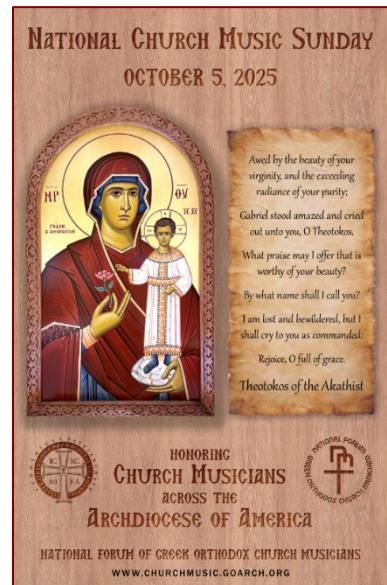
“Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” *(Romans 12:17-18)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

An Expression of Gratitude for Our Church Musicians

Sunday, October 5th is National Church Music Sunday. We will pause to honor the choirs and chantors of our Greek Orthodox parishes—those faithful servants whose voices lift our hearts and souls toward heaven. Their ministry is not confined to the liturgy alone; it is shaped in quiet hours of preparation, rehearsals, and prayerful study.

Though often unseen, their dedication transforms our worship into a living hymn of praise. Through their voices, the beauty



of Orthodox hymnology becomes not just heard, but felt—stirring the soul, inspiring reverence, and drawing us closer to Christ.

We invite all parishioners to join us on Sunday, October 5th as we honor these devoted musicians who make singing praises to the Lord both inspiring and heartfelt.

On a personal note, I recall how my parents insisted I learn piano and organ as a child. At the time, I didn't fully understand their insistence—but those music lessons became invaluable. They helped me internalize the hymns and melodies of our Church and ultimately prepared me to serve as a Greek Orthodox Priest. Music was not just an art—it was a spiritual foundation.

To all parents who encourage their children to learn music: thank you. Your efforts plant seeds that will blossom into service for the Church. Whether in the choir, at the chantor's

stand, or in the sanctuary, these musical gifts enrich our worship and strengthen our faith community.

To our church musicians: thank you for your tireless devotion, your love of sacred music, and your commitment to making every service a heartfelt offering to the Lord. Your work is a blessing to us all.

A Final Note of Inspiration – Let us remember St. Romanos the Melodist, the patron saint of church musicians. Once mocked for his lack of musical talent, Romanos received a divine gift through a vision of the Theotokos, who gave him a scroll to eat. Upon awakening, he sang his first hymn—"On the Nativity"—with profound beauty and grace. From that moment, he composed hundreds of hymns that still echo through our liturgical life today.

On this the 1072nd 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! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

Join Us Often with Your Family

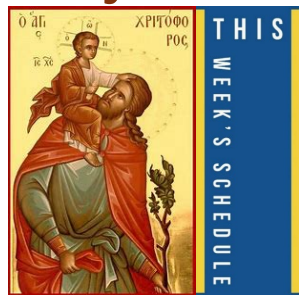
Sunday, October 5 – 2nd Sunday of St. Luke & National Church Music Sunday

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service, Artoklasia, & October Commemorations [We thank Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi for offering the five loaves for this month.]

11:00 Religious Education Classes

[Our Adult Religious Education will begin discussing Chapter 2, pages 62-80 of our textbook.]



Sunday, October 12th – Sunday of the 2nd Ecumenical Council

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes

12:00 Joint Finance Committee & Parish Council Meeting

Be Merciful, Just as Your Father is Merciful

(This spiritual reflection is in follow-up to Fr. George's sermon this morning.)

As we prepare to leave this sacred space and return to our daily lives, let us not leave behind the Holy Word of God we have received in today's Gospel & Epistle lessons. Instead, let us carry it within us, allowing it to shape our thoughts, our relationships, and our witness in the world.

1. Where in my life am I still loving conditionally?

Are there people I only treat kindly when they treat me well? What would it look like to love them as Christ loves me—freely and without expectation?

2. Who is the “enemy” I am called to love today?

Is there someone I avoid, resent, or judge? How might I begin to pray for them, speak kindly to them, or offer mercy in a way that reflects the heart of God?

3. What does it mean for me to be a temple of the living God?

In what ways am I honoring or dishonoring that sacred identity? What habits, thoughts, or attitudes need cleansing so that God's presence may shine more clearly through me?

4. How can I cultivate holiness in the fear of God—not out of guilt, but out of gratitude?

What spiritual practices, relationships, or acts of service might help me grow in holiness this week?
