

Hellenic Poetic Wisdom

ΕΛΠΙΔΑ ΣΤΟ ΘΕΟ

Κι ἂν δὲ μοῦ μένει ἐντὸς τοῦ κόσμου
ποῦ ν' ἀκουμπήσω, νὰ σταθῶ,
ἐκεῖ ψηλὰ εἶν' ὁ Θεός μου·
πῶς ἤμπορῶ ν' ἀπελπισθῶ ;

Εἶν' ὁ Θεός, ποῦ μ' ἔχει πλάσει
τὸ χέρι του τὸ σπλαχνικό.
Δὲν ἤμπορεῖ νὰ μὲ ξεχάσει
καὶ νὰ μ' ἀφήσει νηστικό . . .

Φαῖδρά στὰ δάση ὀλοφυρίζουν
τοῦ οὐρανοῦ τὰ πετεινά,
ποτὲ δὲ σπέρνουν, δὲ θερίζουν,
κι ὅμως κανένα δὲν πεινᾷ.

Μὲς στὰ λιβάδια ἀνθοὶ καὶ κρίνοι
δὲν ἔμαθαν ὑφαντική
κι ὅμως ὁ Πλάστης μας τὰ ντύνει
μὲ μιὰ στολή βασιλική.

Κι ἐμένα τώρα ἐντὸς τοῦ κόσμου,
μικρὸ παιδί καὶ ταπεινό,
θὰ μὲ φωτίσει ὁ Πλαστοργός μου,
ποῦ κατοικεῖ στὸν οὐρανό.

Γ. BIZYHNOS

Hellenic Poetic Wisdom

Hope in God

And if within this world there
remains
No place for me to lean upon or
stand,
Since my God is there on high,
How can I despair?

It is God who has fashioned me
With His compassionate hand.
He cannot forget me
Nor leave me hungry.

Brightly in the forests sing
The birds of heaven;
They neither sow nor reap,
Yet not one of them goes hungry.

And there in the meadows are
flowers;
They never learned the weaver's art;
Yet our Creator clothes them
In garments fit for a king.

And me as well, here in this world,
A little child, humble and small,
My Creator will enlighten and guide,
For He dwells in heaven.

— G. Vizyinos



Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 30, 2026



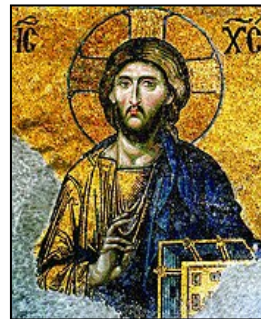
SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 30, 2026

ON THIS DAY, THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, we commemorate the Leave-Taking of the Feast of the Forerunner; Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Phantinos the Righteous of Calabria; 16 Monk-martyrs of Thebes; 6 Martyrs of Melitene; The Synaxis of the Holy Hierarchs of Serbia; The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia; and Fiacre the Hermit of Meaux. *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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

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 for the Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.228-231):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus free from the stain of sin, we, your people, honor your birth, crying out to you: A woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our life.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<i>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.</i>	– St. John Chrysostom
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every

fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 21:33-42)

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebr. 13:16)
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PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

The poem on the cover of today's Liturgical Guide echoes Christ's teaching in the Gospel of Matthew 6:25-34, where Jesus points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as signs of God's providential care. The central message is one of trust in God: *if God cares for birds and flowers, He will certainly care for His children.*

Hope in God: Lessons from the Birds and Flowers



In his poem, the poet, Georgios Vizyinos, asks a question that every Christian faces at some point in life:

*"Since my God is there on high,
how can I despair?"*

What a timely question. We live in a world filled with uncertainty. We worry about our health, our children, our finances, our future, and even our faithfulness to God. Yet Christ speaks directly to our anxious hearts in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Look at the birds of the air... Consider the lilies of the field" (Matthew 6:26, 28).

It is remarkable that when Jesus wanted to teach us about faith, He did not point first to kings, prophets, or scholars. He pointed to birds and flowers.

The Birds Above Us

The birds wake each morning without barns, bank accounts, or guarantees for tomorrow. They do not gather around discussing what may happen next week. They simply fly, sing, and seek what God provides.

The birds are not careless. They work diligently. They search for food and build nests. But they do not live in fear.

Christ's question pierces our hearts:

"Are you not of more value than they?"

If our Heavenly Father feeds the sparrow, will He not also care for His children?

How many times has God already provided for us in ways we never expected? How many doors has He opened after others closed? How many times has He sent encouragement, help, strength, or comfort at precisely the right moment?

The birds remind us that anxiety is not the same thing as responsibility. We are called to work, but we are not called to worry. We are called to labor, but not to despair.

The Flowers Around Us

Christ then points to the flowers of the field.

The poet writes:

*"They never learned the weaver's art; yet our Creator clothes them
in garments fit for a king."*

The flower performs no great achievement. It simply receives the sunlight, the rain, and the nourishing soil. Yet God clothes it with extraordinary beauty. The flower teaches us something profound: our worth comes not from what we achieve but from whose we are.

In a culture that measures value by accomplishment, wealth, influence, and success, the flower reminds us that God's love is a gift, not a reward. The flower does not strive to become beautiful. It unfolds according to God's design.

So too must we learn to trust God's design for our lives.

The Child of God

The most moving part of the poem comes at the end:

*"And me as well, here in this world, a little child, humble and small,
my Creator will enlighten and guide."*

Notice that the poet does not see himself as a powerful person. He sees himself as a child.

This is the heart of the Gospel. A child trusts. A child runs into the arms of a loving parent. A child believes that he will be cared for.

The saints possessed this same spiritual childhood. Not childishness, but childlike trust. Saint Porphyrios often taught that our relationship with God should be simple, loving, and trusting. We are not to approach God as frightened servants, but as beloved children.

A Living Sermon

Every bird that sings in the morning is a sermon.

Every flower blooming by the roadside is a sermon.

Every sunrise proclaims that God has not abandoned His creation.

The world around us continually whispers what Scripture loudly proclaims:

God provides. God remembers. God cares.

When burdens weigh heavily upon our hearts, let us remember the birds.

When we feel forgotten or insignificant, let us remember the flowers.

And when fear threatens to overwhelm us, let us remember that we are children of the Heavenly Father.

For if He feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, He will surely not abandon those whom He has redeemed and calls His own. Therefore, let us leave this holy place today with the confidence of the poet:

"Since my God is there on high, how can I despair?" Amen.

One of the beautiful aspects of this poem is that it turns theology into a daily practice. The birds and flowers are not only illustrations; they are invitations.

1. Begin Each Morning with the Birds

Before checking your phone, calendar, or email, offer a simple prayer:

"Lord, You fed the birds today. Feed my soul and guide my steps."

When you hear birds singing, let them remind you that God has already begun caring for the day before you have done anything. The bird's song becomes a call to trust rather than worry.

2. Let Flowers Teach You Your Worth

When you see a flower, remember that its beauty is received, not achieved.

Ask yourself:

"Am I trying to earn God's love today, or am I living from God's love?"

Many of us measure ourselves by accomplishments. The flower reminds us that our value comes from being created and loved by God.

3. Exchange Anxiety for Prayer

Whenever worries arise, consciously place them into God's hands.

A simple prayer might be:

"Lord Jesus Christ, I trust in Your providence."

Every worry can become a cue for prayer. Instead of carrying the burden alone, turn it into a conversation with God.

4. Practice Childlike Trust

The poet describes himself as

"a little child, humble and small."

Each day ask:

"What would a child do if a loving father were present?"

A child asks for help. A child runs toward, not away from, a loving parent.

Spiritually, this means bringing both joys and concerns directly to God.

5. Notice Daily Signs of Providence

Keep a small journal and record one example each day of God's care:

- An unexpected phone call.
- A word of encouragement.
- A prayer answered.
- Strength during a difficult moment.
- A beautiful sunrise or sunset.

Over time, these become a personal testimony of God's faithfulness.

6. Share God's Care with Others

The birds and flowers receive God's care. Christians are called to become instruments of that care.

Ask each morning:

"Lord, whom can I encourage today?"

A call, note, visit, or act of kindness may become God's answer to another person's prayer.

Simple Challenge

Today, watch for one bird and one flower.

Let the bird remind you that God provides.

Let the flower remind you that God cherishes.

Then ask yourself:

"If God cares so faithfully for these, why should I doubt His care for me?"

Carry that question in your heart throughout the day, and let it become a prayer of trust:

"He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will also care for me."

Our Heartfelt Thanks go out to ALL of YOU!

Dear Faithful of St. Christopher's,

As this year's GreekFest chairs, we are overflowing with gratitude and want to thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for your tireless dedication. We know that so many of you poured countless hours of your personal time and prayers into making sure every single detail was perfectly in place. Whether you chaired a committee, volunteered your time, prepped pita's, baked pitas and desserts, cooked, sold tickets or sponsorships, or supported us as a sponsor or donor – and whether you labored before, during or after or all three – please know that you played a vital role!

The incredible success of this years GreekFest belongs to all of us, beautifully illustrating what Saint Paul writes about unity and cooperation: *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* Romans 12:4-5

When we work as one, seeking to glorify God rather than ourselves and relying on His grace, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Your shared love, deep devotion and unwavering faith in St. Christopher parish have brought us to this historic moment. Through your years of dedicated service to our parish and the annual GreekFest, has finally led us to our ultimate goal: breaking ground on our permanent church home in Fayette County.

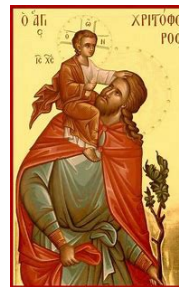
Furthermore, your collective efforts allowed us to extend our blessings outward, supporting our Building Fund, Tunnel to Towers, our local Philoptochos chapter, and the Alexios Retreat Center. Thank you for your unwavering spirit and for making our jobs as chairs a joyful, easy experience.

Faithfully,

Emilia Moraitis, Julie Skouteris, George Psihountas

 **Follow" & Like** our Facebook page. Check for updates and photos.

On this the 2017th 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!***



Sunday, August 30 - 13th Sunday of St. Matthew

8:00 **Orthros**

9:00 **Divine Liturgy**

10:15 **Golf Classic Update for Parishioners**

11:00 **Religious Education Classes** (for all ages)

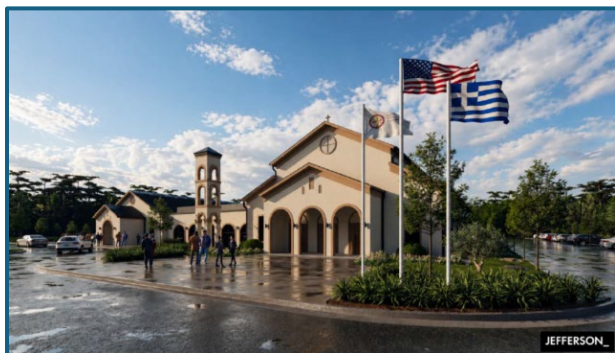
12:30 **Let's EAT!**

Sunday, September 6 – 14th Sunday of St. Matthew

8:00 **Orthros**

9:00 **Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves & September Commemorations** (*We thank Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi for offering the five loaves for the September "Parish Thanksgiving Sunday" event.*)

11:00 **Religious Education Classes** (for all ages)



If you are looking for a church home, I invite you to worship with us. We have a variety of ministries to serve children, youth and adults. I believe you will find our parish to be a warm, friendly place where you can grow in your faith and discover more of God's plan for your life. We look forward to having you worship with us! - +Fr. George Tsahakis