

CHRIST'S WORDS PAINT A MAJESTIC SCENE

What profound lessons are contained in the words of Christ on this Meat Fare Sunday before the Great Fast! What a majestic scene is painted as Jesus depicts Judgment Day when He comes in glory and before Him are gathered all nations! There the words of the Lord are proclaimed: "Come, you blessed of My Father," spoken to one group; and then, "Depart from Me," spoken to another group.

It is important to note that Jesus identifies Himself with the hungry, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, the outcasts of society. Whatever is done for them, the Lord insists, is done to Him. And conversely, whatever people fail to do for these unfortunate and needy ones, they fail to do to Christ. What an indictment this is on society today, with the many hungry, homeless, the sick of body and spirit, the refugee in strange places, who seek help and care.

There is an old story told about St. John Chrysostom, the great Patriarch of Constantinople. Some people once came to him asking to see the rich gold altar of the magnificent Church of Holy Wisdom. He is said to have taken them to the street, pointed out the hungry, the homeless, the needy of the city and said: "Behold, the altar on which you may bring sacrifice and offering to God!"

Another important aspect of the Gospel narrative is the identity of those in need. Nationality plays no part. Creed and color are not mentioned. What matters is need. What matters is the response of people to that need.

As we draw near to the Great Fast, we have our Lord's instruction for us. This is a time of renewal, of repentance, of commitment to Christ and Church and of rededication to the teachings of our Lord.

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When Thou, O God, wilt come to earth with glory, and all things tremble, and the river of fire floweth before the Judgment Seat, and the books are opened and the hidden things made public, then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and deem me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.

Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 7

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls 'salvation.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT IN TONE ONE

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

LENTEN TROPARIA

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

If I think upon the multitude of my evil deeds, wretch that I am, I tremble for the terrible Day of Judgment. But, trusting the compassion of Thy mercy, I shout to Thee like David, Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.

We Celebrate Today

On March 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyr Kodratos of Corinth and his five companions; and Anastasia the patrician of Alexandria.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses

When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,

Come now! Mayest, Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today's Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God's ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so, lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that

when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Gail Lee, George Nasif Jr. Butch Nasif, Joy Logue, Sue Thomas, Dolores Nosser, Riley Davis, Hugh Cummings, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Nabil Habbaki, Joe Durst, Lynn Abraham, Kh. Janet Henderson, Pam Smith, Elic & Enaam Mata, Joumana Karam, Fr. Maximaos Saikaly.

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour 2024 If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please call Mrs. Mary Rantisi 601-529-7203. **Holy Bread & Coffee Hour** are offered today by Bobby Lutton.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Mar. Cathi Verhine (7), Carla Leese (8), Will Mackay (23), Paula Shaw (25), Tea & Scott Blackburn (26), Peggy Thomas (27), Jeff West, Chris Maxwell (28), Kaylee Wright (29), Madeline Hull (31).

+Parish Council Meeting On Tuesday March 19 @ 7 pm.

+Agape Meal. Potluck, every Wednesday after the Presanctified Liturgy Starting March 20th.

+Family Night Will Start. The monthly family night will start on April 25 at the house of Gary and Dani Kay Thomas, 6 to 8 pm. **Potluck, fellowship and spiritual food**, don't miss it.

+Home blessing if you would like your house to be blessed speak with the priest please.

+Next week is Forgiveness Sunday. Great Vespers of Forgiveness will be served on Sunday Mar. 17th @ 6pm.

+Great Holy Lent (fast) will start on Monday Mar. 18th. Every night service at 6:00 pm.

Except Sunday. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday **Great Compline**. Wednesday **Presanctified**

Liturgy Followed by Agape meal (Potluck). Friday **Akathist Service**.

The Church Fathers Teach

You should, return, brethren, to ourselves, rejecting once and for all with disgust the serpent's counsel and our deflection to what is base. For we cannot be reconciled with God and assimilated to Him unless we first return or, rather, enter into ourselves, in so far as this lies within our power. For the miracle consists in tearing ourselves away from the distraction and vain concerns of the world and in this way relentlessly seizing hold of the kingdom of heaven within us.

(Nikiphoros the Monk)

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

DIVINE LITURGY MARCH 10, 2024

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."