

St. George Orthodox Church, Hesperia, California

Diocese of the West, Orthodox Church in America
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Rector
Fr. Alexander
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Sunday, April 21st, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent St. Mary of Egypt

Troparion **Tone 5** *(Resurrectional)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for he willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead//by his glorious resurrection.

Troparion **Tone 8** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.// thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Troparion to Saint George: You were bound for... Glory to the Father

Kontakion **Tone 5** *(Resurrectional)*

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O lover of man, // and we cry to thee: O Lord, save us.

Kontakion **Tone 3** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. // Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Kontakion of Saint George: God raised you Now and ever ...

Kontakion **Tone 6**

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the creator; despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition, and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon **Tone 5**

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. *(Ps. 11:7)*

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

Prokeimenon **Tone 4** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

Epistle (321-ctr) Hebrews 9:11-14

Tone 5

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V. I will sing of thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

V. For thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

Tone 1

V. I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps. 39:1)

Gospel (40) Mark 10:32-45

(Instead of "It is truly meet" we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb he made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace, glory to thee.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Announcements

Sunday, April 21st, 2024

*Orientation to Orthodoxy at 12 noon, in the Sunday School corner of the Fellowship Hall.

*Epitaphios Flowers: If you would like to donate for the epitaphios flowers, please see Faten Shihab.

A Lenten Thought

THE JUDAS SYNDROME

Fr. Alexander

Judas had been chosen to be an apostle, to learn the mysteries of the kingdom of God and to proclaim them to the world, but he allowed other matters to catch his attention. On one occasion, it was the love of money; why waste precious perfume and not sell it for a good price, to help the poor? The passage adds that he controlled the funds and pilfered. The poor were only a cover-up for his greed.

Indeed, all the disciples expected Christ to act as a son of David and establish a kingdom. One can imagine the disappointment in Judas when the master unfolded an anticlimax – that the Son of Man would be arrested, beaten, and put to death by human beings. Thirty pieces of silver sounded like a good consolation. He would at least have something in hand.

Judas had seen miracles, but they meant nothing to him. How can a master who performs wonders allow men to crucify him? At the feeding of the five thousand, Judas too had taken a basket and filled it with left-overs from two pieces of fish and five small buns. On the same occasion, he witnessed Christ walking on water, calming the wind, casting out a legion of demons, etc. The very evidence that made his master stand out as special in the world made no impact on his soul.

Doubt grows in soils that are not fertile. Judas' doubts and selfish motives led him to suicide. When we choose to stay away from church, what new habits do we establish? When we entertain doubts about a brother or sister and make inquiries into his or her past to satisfy our suspicion, what impact do we bring on our soul? When we allow our tongue to speak about others in non-complimentary ways, whose grave do we dig? May the Lord our God be our Guide, this Lent, and protect us.