



**St George the Great Martyr
Orthodox Church - Weekly Bulletin**

Sunday, March 03 2019

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SUNDAY, MARCH 3 TONE 7 Sunday of Meatfare/Sunday of the Last Judgment

Tone 7 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Kontakion (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble,/ and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,// and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps 146/147:5)

Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers this week:

Safe Travels: Jim and Linda

For good health and healing: Souraya, Alice, Basil, Christina, Eddie, Juan, Ruth, Nicholas, Dragosh, Sonia, Doreen, Peter, Denise, Traci and the Child to be born of her. Matushka Joan, Michaela, Jordan, Nelly-Mary, Debrutu, Ann, Jason, Jerry.

Memory Eternal: Newly Departed Priest Athanasius.

Matthew 25:31-46 (*Gospel*)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you 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 took Me in; 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, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting 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 take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

On this day we commemorate the inescapable second coming of Christ, ordained by the most divine Fathers to be observed after the second parable of the Prodigal, so that no one who has learned of the love of God for mankind from it will live in laziness saying, "God loves mankind, and when I am separated from Him by sin, all is prepared for my restoration."

This fearsome day of judgment has been designated for commemoration at this point in time, that through fear of death and the expectation of future torment, those who live in laziness may be encouraged to the virtues, not trusting only in the love of God, but also realizing that He is the righteous Judge who will judge all men according to their deeds. In other words those souls who have passed over are obliged to undergo judgment.

The commemoration is appointed for this day of Meatfare, that in awe of this event we should limit our intake of earthly food, not giving ourselves over to gluttony, and be encouraged to love our neighbor. In other words, since we were banished from Eden, cursed and condemned through eating of the fruit, so the present event has been ordained at this time, as next Sunday we will be banished through Adam, until Christ comes again to raise us up to Paradise.

It is called the second coming, since Christ appeared to us at His first coming in the flesh and delivered the human race, and He will come again to judge whether that which He commanded us has been observed.

And when will this second coming occur? No one knows; for although He mentioned several preceding signs, the Lord concealed it from His Apostles. Before His coming the antichrist will appear. He will live his life after the manner of Christ, performing miracles like those which Christ performed, and raising the dead. Yet all that he does will be an illusion.

After this suddenly like lightning from heaven the Lord will come, going before His holy Cross, and a river of boiling fire will go before Him, cleansing the earth of its defilement. The antichrist will be seized immediately along with his servants and will be committed to eternal fire.

And when the angels sound the trumpets, all the nations of mankind will gather from all places and from all the ends of the earth in Jerusalem, for it is the center of the earth. And there the thrones will be set for judgment. Then all souls will be reunited with their bodies and clothed in incorruptible beauty, transformed into one likeness.

And with one word the Lord will separate the righteous from the sinners. Those who have done good will receive eternal life, and the sinners will be once more sent to eternal and everlasting torment.

Let it be noted that Christ will not ask who fasted, or who was naked, or who performed miracles, for although these things are good, mercy and compassion are far better. He will question both the righteous and the sinners on six commandment-like virtues, of which everyone is capable: "For I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me. I was sick, and ye visited me. I was in prison, and ye came to me. Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me." Then all will confess the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of God the Father.

Now the torments, according to the Holy Gospel are weeping and the gnashing of teeth, where their worm dies not and the fire is not quenched, and he shall be cast into outer darkness. For all the Church of God will joyfully delight in attaining the Kingdom of Heaven, being close to God in His holy place, and receiving everlasting glory and exaltation. But those who are separated from God through wasting the life of their souls in laziness and temporal nourishment will receive torment and darkness, and be eternally deprived of the divine radiance.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, make us worthy of Thy voice, which we long to hear, number us among those at Thy right hand, and have mercy on us. Amen.

Calendar of Events – Starting today: March 03

Sunday	03/03	9:10am - Hours; 9:30am - Divine Liturgy Church School St George Myrrhbearer women meeting
Monday	03/04	
Tuesday	03/05	
Wednesday	03/06	2:00-5:00pm Office Hours
Thursday	03/07	
Friday	03/08	
Saturday	03/09	6:00pm - Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday	03/10	9:10am - Hours; 9:30am - Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Sunday Vespers following

Weekly announcements

- ◆ 2:00-5:00pm Office Hours this Wednesday.
- ◆ This Monday, March 4th, the Church begins to abstain from all meat and meat products until Pascha. Next Monday, March 11th is the beginning of Great Lent when we begin to also abstain from all dairy products.
- ◆ Next Sunday, we will celebrate the Rite of Forgiveness immediately after Divine Liturgy when all of us begin to prepare for our Lenten journey by forgiving and asking for forgiveness from our brothers and sisters. It is one of the most important Sundays of the year, BE THERE!!
- ◆ We say goodbye today to our dear friends and devoted parish members Jim and Linda Nickersen who are moving to Arizona over the next few weeks. Jim has been a valued member of the Parish Council and has led our choir for many years, where Linda has also served faithfully as our “anchor alto.” We will miss them dearly but ask God’s blessing on them and their family as they make their transition.
- ◆ On Sunday, March 31st, we will be swearing in our 2019 Parish Council. Congratulations to all our members, especially to Janice Coumparoules who will be joining us this year.
- ◆ Next week begins our Lenten Journey. There will be services every evening of the first week except for Thursday.