

## Scripture Readings

### **EPISTLE Hebrews 9:11-14**

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**GOSPEL Mark 10:32-45** At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



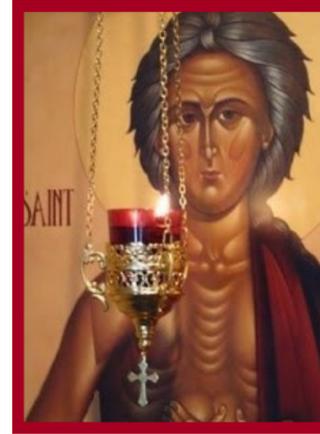
## Scripture Reflection



In today's Gospel passage, Jesus details the remainder of His earthly life, including condemnation and delivery to the Gentiles, being mocked, spat upon, whipped, killed, and rising from the dead. James and John no sooner hear of Jesus' impending death and resurrection than they ask to sit at the right and left sides of Jesus, "in your glory," after he has endured his tribulations. They want to ensure their own place in heaven, close to the throne. Jesus sees into their hearts and asks if they are truly prepared to endure all that He is soon to suffer: "Do you know what you are asking?" He tells them that they, indeed, will suffer what He suffers - but not to expect glory until they first restrain their ego desires and craving for position and prestige. They cannot be called

disciples unless they actually live as disciples. Jesus instructs them that the greatest will be a servant, and the first will be a slave to all, for "the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve..." This probably puzzled the disciples. They thought that they had spent so much time with Jesus that they would certainly share in his glory. Jesus re-directed their vision. The glory of the Kingdom, he implies, does not belong to those who have shared in his preaching and were there during his miracles. Rather, the glory of the Kingdom belongs to those who, like the Lord, suffered, reached out to the suffering, and felt the true and genuine cost of discipleship. It belongs to those who serve. We often take comfort as Christians, belonging to our Church. Belonging is not discipleship. As Jesus examined James and John, are we prepared to serve others, placing the needs of others before our own - even if it hurts? Do we seek only the high places and power connections, while forgetting those marginalized and pushed to the edge of society - or to the margins of our personal lives? Is there someone in our family who is the "black sheep?" Have we reached out to seek genuine healing? Have we embraced a sinner instead of self-righteously excluding him/her from the mercy of God? Have we done what Jesus did? This is the stuff of which glory is made, and Jesus didn't return to it one second before he paid the ultimate price. Will the same be said of us?

## St. Mary of Egypt: Our Model From Sin to Sainthood

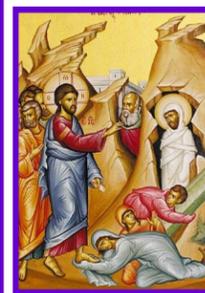


The saints of the Church come right out of the ranks of us sinners. St. Mary of Egypt was an individual who represented a cross section of the immoral and fallen world of her day, a woman whose powerful conversion experience, from a life of prodigality to one of holiness and purity, has been the focus of much admiration among Orthodox Christians. Mary was a professional prostitute, wholly addicted to her sin. On a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where she planned to ply her trade, Mary was repeatedly stopped from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre by an impregnable and invisible force. As one believer after another passed to enter the Church, Mary caught a glimpse of the Cross being carried in procession in the distance, as well as of an icon of her patron, the Holy Theotokos. She was overcome with contrition and wept uncontrollably for her sins. She returned the day after, this time able to physically enter and venerate the Precious Wood. At that moment, Mary decided to change her life by dedicating the remainder of it to God through repentance. She left the Holy City that same day, crossed the Jordan River, and entered the desert, where she lived in all piety, humility, and poverty for the next 47 years.

Mary engaged herself in strenuous fasts and prayed to God unceasingly, repenting over her former life and praising the God whose mercy and compassion back in Jerusalem made her aware of the depravity of her spiritual condition - and saved her. Two aspects of St. Mary's life are especially worth noting. First, Mary's complete immersion in her sins made her cognizant of the utter brokenness of her spiritual state. Second, God's full-force attempt to transform Mary's life made her abundantly aware of just how much God loved her and how much she desired to follow Christ and serve him. Mary made no time for personal assessment. Blinded by her transgressions, her past depravity pierced her heart with the pain of knowing how many souls she led to the gates of darkness and despair - including her own. Mary's immersion in sin was the final motivating force behind her conversion. It reinforced in her heart and mind the severity of her sinfulness and the need for immediate repentance and conversion. Many times, God reveals his power to us in a physical, materialistic way, in a way he knows will appeal to - and be understood by - a physically-minded world. Before Christ spoke to people's souls, He knew that He had to make known his power on a purely physical level. The mercy of God triumphed in Mary's life over the darkest and most secret of sins. So in our lives, the mercy of God can change our hearts, give us an abiding sense of his love, and bring us ever closer to him - not despite our sins, but precisely because of them. Let us identify and reject the sins in our lives, and reach for the hand of mercy that can save us.

### **DIVINE SERVICES THIS WEEK**

Wed., Apr. 5: Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM



Sat., April 8: Lazarus Saturday, Orthros 8:30AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30AM, followed by community breakfast and making of palm crosses. Join us for this prefiguration of the Lord's own resurrection from the dead.

### **For Their Blessed Repose**

Eva Papageorge (40 Days)  
Leonidas Harisiades (40 Days)  
James Mellis (40 Days)  
Freida Coussoule (2 Years)  
Constantinos Bazekis (2 Years)  
Maria Georgiou (6 Years)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may their memory be eternal!

### **40 Day Blessing**

For the child of God, Philemon Anthony, son of Antonios and Nadia Cavasilios. God grant him many years!

## For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; persecuted Christians of the Middle East, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Sally Katson, George, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Despina Bayz, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, George, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Lynne; Selena Pappas, George, Andrianna, Michalis, Kosma, Yianni, Alfred Q., Staff Sergeant Nicholas Comas.

## DIVINE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK AND HOLY PASCHA

### Saturday, April 8 – Saturday of Lazarus

Orthros.....8:30am  
Divine Liturgy .....9:30am  
(followed by community breakfast  
& making of palm Crosses)

### Sunday, April 9– Palm Sunday

Orthros.....8:45am  
Divine Liturgy {Main Sanctuary}.....9:30am  
Divine Liturgy {Grand Hall}.....10:30am  
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service.....6:30pm

### Monday, April 10– Holy Monday

Presanctified Liturgy.....9:30am  
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service .....6:30pm

### Tuesday, April 11– Holy Tuesday

Presanctified Liturgy .....9:30am  
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service .....6:30pm

### Wednesday, April 12– Holy Wednesday

Presanctified Liturgy.....9:30am  
1st Holy Unction Service.....3:00pm  
2nd Holy Unction Service .....6:30pm



### Thursday, April 13– Holy Thursday

1st Liturgy of St. Basil .....6:30am-8:00am  
2nd Liturgy of St. Basil .....9:30am-11:00am  
(followed by dying of the red eggs)  
Holy Passion & Twelve Gospels .....6:30pm

### Friday, April 14– Good Friday

Decorating of the Kouvouklion.....9:00am  
Royal Hours .....12noon  
Apokatheilosis Vespers .....3:00pm  
(The Unnailing of Jesus Christ from the Cross)  
Lamentations {Grand Hall} .....7:00pm  
Lamentations {Main Sanctuary}.....7:00pm

### Saturday, April 15– Holy Saturday

Liturgy of St. Basil .....9:30am  
The Canon of Pascha.....11:00pm  
Resurrection & Divine Liturgy.....Midnight

### Sunday, April 16– The Feast of Feasts

#### GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Agape Service.....11:00am  
(followed by Easter Egg Hunt)



## The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

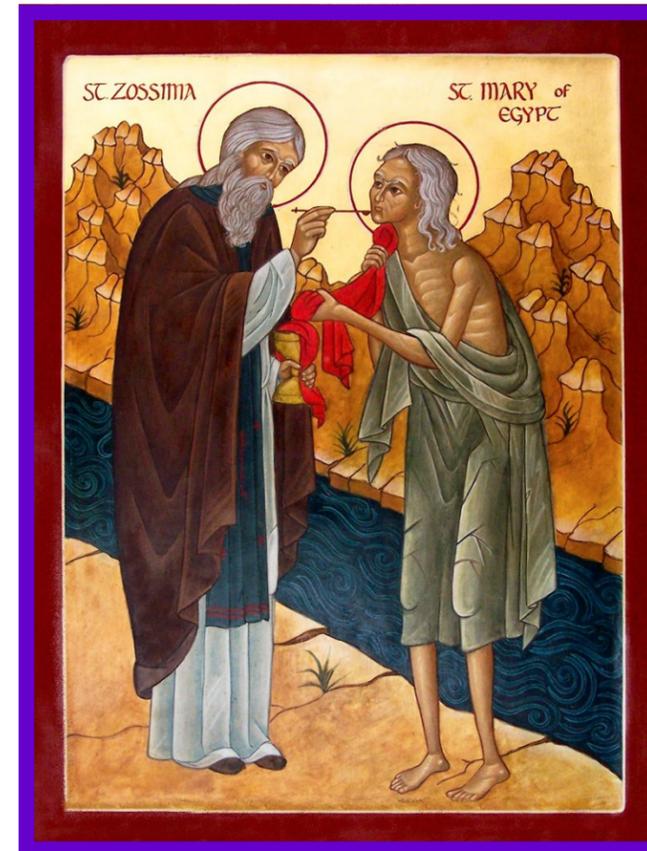
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### FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

## OUR HOLY MOTHER ST. MARY OF EGYPT

APRIL 2, 2017

“The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Mary, your soul rejoices with the angels.” (Apolytikion of St. Mary of Egypt)

### PARISH ACTIVITIES

HOPE & JOY: Apr. 9 Annual Palm Sunday Fundraiser. We are offering Easter baskets starting at \$15 and Lambathes starting at \$20. Pre-order now at <https://stgeorge.org/ministries/hope-and-joy> - for information, please contact Stella Kostolampros or Maria Campbell at [st.georgehopeandjoy@gmail.com](mailto:st.georgehopeandjoy@gmail.com)

LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT: Apr. 13, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM for ages 5-12 (Pre-K to 6th Grade). Register at [http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=144](http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=144) Students in grades 7-12 may register to assist and receive SSL hours. Register at [http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=146](http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=146) The Retreat is jointly sponsored and hosted by the Sunday School and the Hope/Joy Ministry.

GREEK PRESCHOOL: Registration is open for the 2017-2018 school year. Wide variety of classes (MON-FRI 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) offered for children 18 months – 5 years of age. Classes are filling up, so please hurry! Visit [www.stgeorgegreekpreschool.com](http://www.stgeorgegreekpreschool.com)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Summer “Superhero” camp June 26-30, 9:00 AM-Noon, w/KOA extended day option. Register now at <https://stgeorge.org/education/vacation-bible-school> - VBS needs volunteers, who will receive 50% off camper registration. For information, please contact [vbsofst.george@gmail.com](mailto:vbsofst.george@gmail.com)

#### RESURRECTIONAL ἈΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ Tone Plagal 4 (Tone 8)

Descending from on high, O Compassionate one, to free us all from our iniquities. Humbling Thyself by dwelling three days in the tomb, our life and Resurrection, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

#### ἈΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ OF ST. GEORGE

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

#### Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.