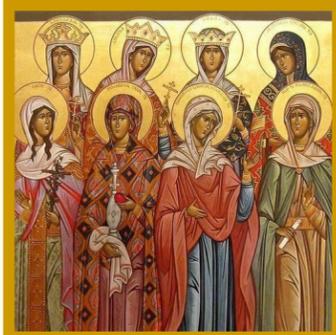


Scripture Readings

EPISTLE Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

GOSPEL Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8 At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 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 they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

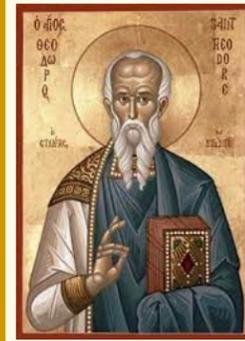
Gospel Reflection: Announcing the Risen Lord of Mercy



The verses from today's Gospel according to St. Mark comprise the reading before the closed doors of the Church on the night of Holy Pascha. The passage ends dramatically, as the Angel asks the Myrrh-bearing women to tell the disciples the news that they would meet the risen Lord in Galilee. Rather than do as commanded, the women flee from the tomb, "for trembling and astonishment had come upon them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Put yourself in their place. The trauma of the crucifixion of Jesus, the fear of retaliation against His believers, the unspeakably intense and bewildering experience of finding the tomb empty and dialoguing with an angel, all in the space of mere days, must have been overwhelming. What they witnessed was a theophany, a revelation of God like Moses's experience on Mt. Sinai when he saw the burning bush. Similarly, the Apostles Peter, James and John experi-

enced at Mt. Tabor the Transfiguration of Jesus, as he revealed to them His divine glory. Every theophany comes with a commandment. For Moses, it was to set God's people free. For the Apostles, it was to not yet tell anyone what they have seen. For the Myrrh-bearing women, it was to "go and tell." What separates this theophany from earlier ones is the addition of the Angel's prophecy: "He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him as he told you." After they recover from their initial fear, the Myrrh-bearing women did as they were commanded. It is so with us. When we glimpse the glory of God, we are not often ready to respond as we should. It may take a long time to comprehend His message, and for the image of God within us to awaken to the Divine Presence. We are so used to ignoring His voice that when at last we realize the Lord is speaking to us, we run away in fear, as did Adam and Eve from God in Eden. But the Lord commands us: "Do not be afraid," for He came not to condemn the world, but to save it. Jesus reaches out His hand to comfort the shaken and to still the anguished heart. He does not want us to live in dread of Him, even as we do live in awe of Him. This is ultimately the message of the Holy Myrrh-bearers: "Be not afraid." The message of the Gospel - of the life, death, and resurrection of the Messiah - is that God is love. He is the healer of wounds, the advocate for sinners, the corrector of the unjust, the lover of mankind, the One who stands at our door. If we turn away from Him, He draws closer. If we reject Him, He embraces us. If our hearts become harder, He searches infinitely for the inevitable crack through which to invade it. He draws near to us like a lover, cares for us like a mother, encourages us like a father, and accompanies us like a brother. Heed the message of the Myrrh-bearing women, that the heart of the Risen Lord is filled with mercy and compassion. All we have to do is listen for His voice!

St. Theodoros the Sanctified: Disciple of St. Pachomius the Great (May 16)



St. Theodore was called "Sanctified" because he was the first in his monastery ordained to the priesthood. St. Theodore was the son of rich and illustrious Christian parents in Egypt. The yearning for monastic life appeared early in him. At one large party at his parents' home during Theophany, the boy avoided the festivities in fear of the earthly joys that might deprive him of eternal joys in the life to come. He left home at fourteen and entered the nearby Tabennisi monastery to find the ascetic Pachomius the Great, generally recognized as the founder of Christian monasticism that stresses communal life. Having been informed by God beforehand about his arrival, St. Pachomius received the young man warmly. St. Theodore remained at the monastery and quickly succeeded in all his monastic tasks, in full obedience to his guide, and with great compassion towards his brethren. St. Theodore's mother learned her son was at the Tabennisi monastery. She came to St. Pachomius with a letter from the bishop, asking to see her son. St. Theodore did not wish to break his vow to renounce the world, and he would not meet with his mother. Seeing St. Theodore's strength of mind and ability, St. Pachomius told him to instruct the monastic brethren on Holy Scripture. St. Theodore obeyed and began to speak, but some of the older brethren took offense that a new monk should teach them, and they departed. St. Pachomius said to them, "You have given in to the devil, and because of your conceit, your efforts will come to naught. You have not rejected Theodore, but rather the Word of God, and have deprived yourselves of the Holy Spirit." After St. Pachomius withdrew to a more solitary monastery, St. Theodore became overseer at Tabennisi. St. Theodore remained devoted to the health and well-being of his instructor through his final illness. When St. Pachomius reposed in the Lord, it was St. Theodore who closed the elder's eyes. For the next two decades, St. Theodore headed not only the Tabennisi monastery but also many other monasteries across Egypt's Thebaid desert region. St. Theodore the Sanctified was famed for his holiness of life and his great gift of wonderworking, and he was well known to St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Theodore reposed in 368, at the age of 54.

Attending Divine Liturgy

To safely accommodate the faithful in accordance with official health guidelines, please register for May 23 services at <https://forms.gle/SdLnkHpg4cooAzW78> - there are no reservations, and seating is on a 'first come, first served' basis. Those without computer access should call the Church office to register. Live Stream at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream>

O Lord, Grant Them Eternal Rest



Christos Patera (1 year)
Vassilios Lazaros Ioannou (1 year)
Nicholas Giavara (5 years)

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



A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks; a voice through which Christ speaks; a hand through which Christ helps and a heart through which Christ Rises!

St. Augustine of Hippo

Save and Protect, O Lord, These Thy Needing Servants

Metropolitan +Panteleimon of Antinoes; Metropolitan +Kallistos of Diokleia, Cindy Howe, Maria Barton, K. Constantine, the child Abbey Renehan, Anthony Kopsidas, Alexander Falsken, Andrew Katson, Anatoly Seraphim, Jessica, Ourania Mantzouranis, Maria Kritzas, Cathy, Janie Pappas, Eleni Gourmani, Angela Apidououlos, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Betty Jean Dubard, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, Constantina Speris, Joy Kizzie, Stavros, Laura-Maria, Philippos-Spyros and all the members of this Holy Church.

PARISH MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDY: The Spring session of Bible Study will begin on Thursday, May 27 at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The subject of our study will be the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. Sessions are on ZOOM every Thursday at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join this important study! Please bring your Bibles to each study.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Every Monday at noon, fifteen-minute reflections live-streamed through the Orthodox Christian Network at <https://www.facebook.com/MyOCN/>.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

LIGHT A CANDLE: Please make wax and red glass candle offerings and tray offerings at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream/> - thank you for your continued love and generous support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In-person instruction for ages 5-18 at 11:15 AM in the upper level of the Education Building, following safety regulations. Spacing is limited, so please register in advance through the Divine Liturgy registration form. Parents may provide snacks for their own children. Virtual instruction for ages 3-18 begins at 11:30 AM. Parents of in-person students can participate in the Family Ministry discussion group in the Chapel.

ST. GEORGE MISSION TEAM: Due to continued safety concerns we have decided not to travel out of state this year. Our spirit is high, and we will embark in local service projects to assist those in need. Please consider participating and be part of an organization that puts your Orthodox faith to work. Students can earn service hours. For information, contact Athena Kaiser at avmail@verizon.net or (240) 498-0870.

GREEK PRESCHOOL: 2021-2022 school year registration now open for programs Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-5:30 PM, offering half or full-day classes for children ages 2-5. To schedule a private tour, contact Director Marilena Michalakis at directorstgeorgegreekpreschool@gmail.com. To register or for more information, visit <https://www.stgeorgegreekpreschool.org/>



Prayer to the Theotokos Mother of Her Resurrected Son

Most Holy Theotokos, you witnessed the passion and death of your only Son, thus fulfilling the prophecy of the aged Simeon that a sword of sorrow will pierce your heart. Rejoice Mother of the Savior, for He has risen from the dead and thus destroyed sorrow and death itself! Pray to your Risen Son for us that we surrender our egos as you did and follow the counsel you gave at the Wedding of Cana: "Do whatever He tells you." O Mother of the Word Incarnate pray always for us that we may be faithful to your Risen Son and our God! Amen.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

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



**CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY, HE IS RISEN!**

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SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

St. Theodoros the Sanctified

May 16, 2021



Χριστός Ανέστη!
Ἀληθῶς Ανέστη!



Apolytikion of the Feast of Feasts

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡμῶν χαρισάμενος!

Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down
upon death, and to those in the tombs
He has granted life!