



# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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May 31, 2020

7th Sunday after Pascha - Tone 6  
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council  
Afterfeast of the Ascension



## From the Fathers...

"Without winter there would be no spring, and without spring there would be no summer. So it is also in the spiritual life: a little consolation, and then a little grief - and thus little by little we work out our salvation. Let us accept everything from the hand of God.

- St. Joseph the Hesychast



## Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



Thou wast begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,/ but Arius taught wrongfully that Thou wast created:/ in his ignorance he designated Thee as a creature,/ yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed Thee as Son of God, // co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Arius fell into the abyss of sin,/ pretending blindness that he might not see the Light./ By his purpose he became the image of Judas./ But the Council at Nicea proclaimed Thee as Son of God, // co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,/ the God-bearing Fathers,/ who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,/ praising the changeless Trinity!// They laid low the errors of Arius / and upheld the Orthodox Faith.// They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls. (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

## TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Resurrection Troparion in Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;/ the guards became as dead men./ Mary stood by Thy grave,/ seeking Thy most pure body./ Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it./ Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

### Ascension Troparion in Tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God,/ granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit./ Through the blessing they were assured,/ that Thou art the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world!

### Fathers Troparion in Tone 8

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth./ Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith.// O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

### Fathers Kontakion in Tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church./ Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,// It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Ascension Kontakion in Tone 6

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake/ and united earth to heaven,/ Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee,/ but remaining with them and crying:// "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

### Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you.

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### Gospel: John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

## THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

**Sunday, May 31st**

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

*7th Sunday of Pascha*

*Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*

*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

*Apostle Hermes of the Seventy*

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36, John 17:1-13

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**Monday, June 1st**

*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

*Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him*

*Ven. Agapit, Unmercenary Physician of the Kiev Caves*

Acts 21:8-14, John 14:27-15:7

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**Tuesday, June 2nd**

*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

*St. Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople*

*Greatmartyr John the New of Sochi*

Acts 21:26-32, John 16:2-13

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**Wednesday, June 3rd**

*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

*Martyr Lucillian and those with him*

*Kevin of Glendalough, Wonderworker of Ireland*

Acts 23:1-11, John 16:15-23

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**Thursday, June 4th**

*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

*St. Metrophanes, First Patriarch of Constantinople*

*Righteous Martha and Mary of Bethany*

Acts 25:13-19, John 16:23-33

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**Friday, June 5th**

*Leavetaking of the Ascension*

*Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre*

*Ven. Theodore the Wonderworker, Hermit of the Jordan*

Acts 27:1-44, John 17:18-26

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**Saturday, June 6th**

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream)

*Ven. Bessarion the Wonderworker of Egypt*

*St. Jonah, Bishop of Perm*

1 Corinthians 15:47-57, John 6:35-39

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**Sunday, June 7th**

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

*8th Sunday of Pascha*

*Holy Pentecost. Feast of the Holy Trinity*

*Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra*

Acts 2:1-11, John 7:37-52, 8:12

### The First Ecumenical Council



The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council convened at Nicaea in 325. The results of the Council were very important, but so was its personal meaning for those who attended, as Father Alexander Schmemmann has described:

"For the first time, after centuries of semi-subterranean existence, prelates gathered from all parts of the Church, many still with the marks of wounds and mutilations received under [the persecutions of the emperor] Diocletian. The unprecedented magnificence of their reception and the hospitality and kindness of the emperor [Constantine] confirmed their joyous assurance that a new era had begun and that Christ was indeed victorious over the world. Constantine himself was the first to interpret the council in this way.

The great accomplishment of the Council was to refute Arianism, a widely-held heresy that threatened to divide the Church. It was a dispute, as the emperor said, that was 'more dangerous than war and other conflicts' because it called into question Jesus' ability to be our Savior."

The Arians claimed that Jesus was not eternal, not equal to His Father, but a created being. The Church insisted that He had to be the divinely powerful Son of God in order to be able to save us. So, opposing Arianism, the Fathers of the Council at Nicaea proclaimed that Jesus Christ is of the same substance as His Father, and that there was never a time when He did not exist. His perfect divinity, therefore, was able to assume perfect humanity, and save all who are human.

This teaching is squarely Biblical. In John 17:5 Jesus prays, "And now, Father, glorify me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made." Father and Son have the same glory, and have had it forever.

Despite its clear Biblical basis, there are many who don't accept the Church's teaching, including Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Mormons whose work is so generously supported by the devout Marriott family's hotel empire. Even immediately after the decisive declarations of Nicaea, there was conflict. Saint Athanasius was the hero of the Council because he formulated the term "homoousion" (meaning "of one substance" and referring to Christ and His Father). But Athanasius was hounded ever after by his Arian enemies; they managed to get him condemned and exiled.

The truth established at Nicaea remains basic to our faith. But then, as now, truth was accompanied by deceitfulness and the persecution of truth tellers. We must take comfort, as fourth century Orthodox Christians also had to do, in another verse (16:33b) from John's Gospel: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.



Guidance for COVID-19

**Reopening Guidelines**

At this time, we remain in Stage 3 of the re-opening process.

**Livestream Services**

All services will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

**Confessions and Visitations**

Confessions will be available by appointment only. Please contact Fr. Gregory directly to schedule. Hospital visitations remain limited to end-of-life only. Personal visitations by appointment with proper social-distancing may be available. Please contact Fr. Gregory to discuss.

**Online Adult Education Coming in June**

Fr. Gregory will be offering online adult education coming in June. Details will be announced soon.

**Candles and Bulletin Sponsors**

During this time of separation, if you would like a candle lit in church on your behalf or would like to sponsor the sanctuary lamp, please email Fr. Gregory. Donations can be made online on our website.

**Stewardship**

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Please review our new online giving option now available on our website!

**Growing Young Initiative**

The Parish Council supported Growing Young Initiative is meeting every **Wednesday 8:00-9:00pm** online at GoToMeeting.com, If you haven't been invited but would like to be in on the excitement let Steve or Cindy know. What are we doing? Check out St. George Facebook! Initiatives include mentoring our youth, Card Ministry, education and learning to create authentic dialogue. Join us!



**We are praying for...**

**Departed:**

Archimandrite Elias, Archpriest Paul, Popadia Marilyn, Aleksei, Bill

**Health and Well-Being:**

Maria, Tanya, Lawrence, Kathleen, Karen, Panka, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

**Catechumens:**

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



**Sanctuary Lamp**

The sanctuary lamp is lit today in memory of Bill Dimitroff and for the health of Evanka and her family.



**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:**

Jeff Pappas (6/4)  
Cindy Hopper (6/5)

**Anniversaries:**

Fr. Gregory Ordination to the Priesthood (6/5)

