



HOLY ASCENSION

ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America
His Grace Bishop BASIL, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

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Sunday, March 29, 2020
Tone 8 / Eothinon 8

The Sunday of St John Climacus (“of *The Ladder*”); Other Saints of the Day: Martyr Mark, bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the deacon of Heliopolis and those with them; Martyrs Jonah and Barachisios of Persia and those with them; Eustathios the Confessor, bishop of Bithynia

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS – We are very happy to have you worshipping with us today. After the service, please join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall so we can get to know you.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION – We believe that the reception of Holy Communion is the highest expression of our unity in the ancient Orthodox Christian faith. While we work and pray for true unity among all Christians, it is not a reality at this time. For this reason, Communion may only be received by members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession. Everyone, however, is welcome and encouraged to venerate the Cross and receive blessed bread following the dismissal.

PARENTS & CHILDREN – We enjoy having children with us in worship as much as possible. A little commotion is to be expected, but sometimes a child may need to be taken out of church so they don't become a distraction. In these situations, parents are welcome to use the alcove to the right of the sanctuary entrance, where there is a window that allows you to see the service. There is also an unstaffed nursery downstairs, which you are welcome to use as needed.

VARIABLES IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. **BASIL THE GREAT**

The service begins on page 37 in the red pew book ("Orthros and Divine Liturgy"); the letter symbols below are coordinated with the book, to help you follow along.

A The 1st Antiphon

As usual...

B The 2nd Antiphon

As usual...

C The 3rd Antiphon

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us shout with jubilation unto God our Savior. Let us come before his countenance with thanksgiving, and with psalms let us shout in jubilation unto him; for the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth. For in his hand are the ends of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are his. For the sea is his and he made it; and the dry land his hands have fashioned.

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 8

From the heights thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

D The Entrance Hymn

As usual...

E

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 8

From the heights thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

Troparion for St John Climacus – Tone 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Troparion of the Ascension – Tone 4

Thou ascended in glory, Christ our God, making the disciples rejoice with the promise of the Holy Spirit; assuring them through thy blessing that thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion for the Annunciation – Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

F The Thrice-Holy Hymn – As usual...

G

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to his people.
Bring to the Lord, O sons of God; bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (6:13–20).

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia Verses:

- v.* It is good to give thanks to the Lord.
- v.* To proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth by night.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark. (9:17–31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered him, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?"

And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went out from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day."

H The Megalynarion - *Of the Liturgy of St Basil, as in the book.*

I The Communion Hymn - As usual...

J We have seen the true light...

FASTING GUIDELINES: Throughout Great Lent, it is traditional to abstain from meat, dairy, fish, and alcohol, with this exception: moderate alcohol is allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, in honor of the Sabbath and the Lord's Day.

THIS WEEK ON HOLY ASCENSION LIVESTREAM

normanorthodox.church/worshiplivestream

Wednesday, April 1	6pm Little Compline with the Full Canon of Repentance
Friday, April 3	7pm Little Compline with the Full Akathist to the Theotokos
Sunday, April 5	7:45am Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy