



# 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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**Saturday, January 16, 2021**

**Saints and Commemorations: Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Apostle Peter; Peusippos and Neonilla and the martyrs of Cappadocia; Hieromartyr Damaskinos of Hilandar monastery on Athos; Honoratos, Archbishop of Arles and founder of Lerins Monastery; Romil of Ravanica**

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** – We are very happy to have you worshipping with us today.

**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 receive blessed bread following the dismissal.

**PARENTS & CHILDREN** – We enjoy having children with us in worship as much as possible. A little commotion is no reason to take them out of a service, but sometimes they may need to be taken out of church, so as not to 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.

# VARIABLES IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

## THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*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 1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon – *As usual...*

**B** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon

*The usual verses with this refrain:*

O Son of God, who art wondrous in the saints, save us who sing to thee: Alleluia.

**C** The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 St Peter's Chains – Tone 4**

Thou hast come to us without leaving Rome, O thou who dost preside over the apostles, by the power of the venerable chains thou didst bear. While honoring them with faith, we beseech thee, that through thine intercessions, God may grant us great mercy.

**D** The Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, who art wondrous in the saints, save us who sing to thee. Alleluia.

**E** Troparion of St Peter's Chains – Tone 4

Thou hast come to us without leaving Rome, O thou who dost preside over the apostles, by the power of the venerable chains thou didst bear. While honoring them with faith, we beseech thee, that through thine intercessions, God may grant us great mercy.

**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 of the Presentation of Christ – Tone 1**

Thou who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by thy birth and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom thou hast loved, O only Friend of Man.

**F** **The Thrice-Holy Hymn – As usual...**

**G**

### THE EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth.  
The heavens declare the glory of God.

**The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (12:1–11).**

**About that time**, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the Church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

### Alleluia Verses:

- v. Blessed, O Lord, are they whom you have chosen and taken to yourself.
- v. And their remembrance will endure from generation to generation.

### THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (21:14–25)**

At that time, Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after he was raised from the dead and said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I

love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” Jesus said to Peter the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because Jesus said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And Peter said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” (This he said to show by what death Peter was to glorify God.) And after this Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me.”

Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

**H** The Megalynarion – *As usual...*

**I** The Communion Hymn – Tone 8

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and his words unto the ends of the world. Alleluia.

**J** We have seen the true light...

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY ASCENSION

Saturday, January 16	5pm Great Vespers (open to the public)
Sunday, January 17	8:45am Orthros (signup required) 10am Divine Liturgy (signup required)
Monday, January 18	7pm Ladies Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday, January 23	9am Divine Liturgy (signup required) 5pm Great Vespers (open to the public)
Sunday, January 24	8:45am Orthros (signup required) 10am Divine Liturgy (signup required)