

## LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

### *Second Sunday of Great Lent*

*Commemoration of Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica*

### **\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great\*\***

#### FIRST ANTIPHON

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy Name, O Most High!

**Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**  
To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy and Thy truth by night. *(Refrain)*  
Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. *(Refrain)*

Glory...Both now...*(Refrain)*

#### SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord is King; He is clothed with majesty! The Lord is clothed with strength and hath girt Himself.

**Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

For He established the world which shall not be shaken. *(Refrain)*  
Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days. *(Refrain)*  
Glory...Both now...O Only-begotten Son...

• *During the Little Entrance, chant the Apolytikion of the Resurrection, followed by the Entrance Hymn:*

#### ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, **Who art risen from the dead**; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

• *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below:*

#### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

#### APOLYTIKION OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS (TONE 8)

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

#### APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock, as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore, you have won the heights by humility, riches by poverty. Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

#### KONTAKION OF THE AKATHIST DURING GREAT LENT (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.

#### THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, will preserve us and keep us from this generation.*

*Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

#### ***Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (1:10-2:3)***

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?


## THE GOSPEL

### *Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (2:1-12)*

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## THE SYNAXARION

On the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our Father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica. This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a hierarch, a theologian who defeated the heretics of his era, and a miracle-worker who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

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Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.