

## LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

### *Fourth Sunday of Great Lent*

*Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder”*

### **\*\*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 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

#### APOLYTIKION OF 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.

#### 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

*The Lord will give strength to His people.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.*

#### **Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into “that which is within the veil,” where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest “forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”


## THE GOSPEL

### *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 Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "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 Thou canst 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 on 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."

## THE SYNAXARION

On the Fourth Sunday of the Fast, we commemorate St. John Climacus. The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.



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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.