



The Divine Liturgy: A "Live" Presentation

A misconception that most Christians have is that on Sunday morning, we are supposed to come to Divine Liturgy, as if we are merely asked to attend a concert or a play. This greatest of all liturgical services, however, is far more than a performance, and more significant than a retelling of the life of Christ through hymns, prayers, and sacred actions. According to the theology of our Holy Church, the Divine Liturgy is thought to be a reliving of the "greatest story ever told." Time and again, the life of our Lord unfolds before us every Sunday, and we are all asked to play supporting roles in this dramatic reenactment. Indeed, the Divine Liturgy offers us a unique opportunity to be with Christ every step of the way from Bethlehem to Golgotha.

As the priest offers prayers over the Gifts at the Table of Oblation, the Birth of Christ takes place all over again. At the Little Entrance, we are witnesses to the beginning our Lord's public ministry – emerging from obscurity to become a Teacher and a Friend to many. When the Beatitudes are sung, it is as if we are listening to the Sermon on the Mount overlooking the Sea of Galilee, spellbound by every word uttered by our Master. When the Gospel lesson is read, it is as if Jesus were speaking directly to us, explaining His remarkable parables in a way we can totally comprehend. As the Great Entrance is made, we stand at Golgotha, and like the penitent thief, we hear those comforting words proclaimed by the celebrant: "May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom." As the Divine Liturgy proceeds, we are transported to the Upper Room and we become participants in the Mystical Supper as we hear those profound words: "Take and eat, this is My Body which is broken for your for the remission of sins" and "All of you drink of this, this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins." These words remind us that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are offered "in behalf of all and for all" at every Divine Liturgy. When the Gifts are returned to the Table of Oblation following the communion of the faithful, we stand on the Mount of Olives, looking upward as our Lord ascends into heaven and returns to be seated at the Right Hand of His Father.

Attending the Divine Liturgy is a privilege as well as a learning experience. It bridges the gap between what Jesus did 2,000 years ago and us today. May we come to it with frequency, and in piety and humility.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



January 26, 2014

15th Sunday of Luke

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January 26, 2014

15th Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Xenophon & his Companions; Symeon, Elder of Mount Sinai

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Angelike thinamis (Hymn of the Day) Tone 6

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

O mitran parthenikin Tone 1

For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Symeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

Epistle Reading 1st Timothy 4:9-15

TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Gospel Reading Luke 19:1-11

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the

Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

This Week

Thursday, 1/30– Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, 2/1– Philoptochos Garage Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ***Byzantine Chant 4 to 5 p.m.; Bible Study 5 to 6 p.m.;*** Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Please note changes of time for Byzantine Chant and Bible Study!

Sunday, 2/2– Presentation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the Temple

Next Week

Thursday, 2/6– Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, 2/8- ***Byzantine Chant 4 to 5 p.m.; Bible Study 5 to 6 p.m.;*** Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, 2/9– Triodion begins (Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee); Philoptochos Meeting 12 p.m.; House Blessings in Mililani in the afternoon.

Epiphany/Theophany House Blessings

Now that we have completed the celebration of Theophany, Fr. Alex is available to bless homes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the afternoons after 1:30 p.m., by appointment. Please see Fr. Alex or call the office to schedule a House Blessing. House Blessings can be arranged and grouped by region.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.