

St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246

"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

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March 22, 2020 — Sunday of John Climacus

Troparia from the Divine Liturgy

1. Resurrection (tone 8): O Merciful One, who came down from on high and endured burial for three days in order to save us from suffering. O our Life and our Resurrection, glory to you.
2. St. John Climacus: Your abundant tears made the wilderness to sprout and bloom, and your deep sighs of love made your labors fruitful a hundredfold; you became a shining star showering miracles upon the world. Holy Father John, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.
3. St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doctor for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, intercede for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!
4. Kontakion of the Annunciation: Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

Prokimenon

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Stichon: Give to the Lord. You sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

Epistle: Heb 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made his promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, *"I will surely bless you, and will surely multiply you Gn.22 : 14)."* And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreements. Hence God, meaning to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the firmness of his will interposed an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to deceive, we may have the strongest comfort — we who have sought refuge in holding fast the hope set before us. This hope we have as a sure and firm anchor of the soul, reaching even behind the veil where our forerunner Jesus has entered for us, as he became a high priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek.

Alleluia

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High!

Stichon: To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

Gospel: The Possessed Boy, Mk 9:17-31

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And he, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought him to him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy in convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So he asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes, it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and he did not wish anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, he will rise again on the third day."

Online Services and other Resources for Prayer

<https://www.byzantinemilwaukee.com/the-domestic-church-covid-19/>

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: John & Alice Herro, Bill Koutris, Nick Langenfeld, Barb & Bruce Moden (sister- and brother- in-law of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Bob Peterson, Joe Radanovich, Beth Rodwell, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz, Espe Villasenor, John Zambo and Kathy Zambo.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: ordinary collections: \$216; candles: \$17. Thanks for your generosity! Owed to eparchy for last month (assessment, retirement and medial insurance): \$2,099.51

There is a link to donate via PayPal on our website:

<https://byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate/>

Schedule for This Week

Tuesday: *Preparation for the Annunciation*

Wednesday: *The Annunciation*

Thursday: *Thursday of Repentance*

Sunday: *Sunday of Mary of Egypt*

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Alexis Solis (3/26) and Monica Zambo (3/27). May God grant you many years!

For the Annunciation

Troparion: Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery that was planned from all eternity: The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel announces this grace. Let us join him in crying out to the Mother of God: Hail, O Woman full of grace! The Lord is with you.

Kontakion: Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity we offer you our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

Prokimenon

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Stichon: Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid, for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Epistle: Hebrews: 2: 11-18

Brethren, the sanctifier and the sanctified are all of one nature: therefore he is not ashamed of calling them brethren and saying, *"I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the church I will sing your praise. (Ps. 21: 22)"* And again, *"I and my children whom God has given me (Is.8: 17, 18)."*

Now, since children have blood and flesh in common, so he likewise has shared in the same, that through death he might destroy the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who throughout their life were kept in slavery by the fear of death. For of course it is not angels he is assisting, but the offspring of Abraham. Wherefore it was right that he should in all things be made in the likeness of his brethren, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the people's sins. For because he himself has suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia

He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, like showers he shall gently fall upon the ground.

Stichon: His name shall be praised forever; as long as the sun, his name shall last.

Gospel: Luke 1: 24-38

In those days Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah conceived and she secluded herself for five months, saying, "Thus has the Lord dealt with me in the days when he deigned to take away my reproach among men. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And when the angel had come to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." When she had heard him she was troubled at his word, and kept pondering what manner of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace with God. Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and shall bring forth a son; and you shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he shall be king over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How shall this happen, since I do not know man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you; and therefore, the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth your cousin also has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month; for nothing shall be impossible with God." But Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel left her.