

March 24, 2024

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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**Welcome!** We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first-time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book in the vestibule. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with the greeter at the candlestand in the narthex.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Matthew after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 1. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Forefeast of the Annunciation. Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemius (Artemon), Bishop of Seleucia (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 13th-14th c.). Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan' (1552).**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

The Lord reigns; He has clothed Himself with honor; the Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength. (*Psalm 92:1a*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

For He has established the world, which shall not be moved. (*Psalm 92:1b*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Who shall tell of the mighty acts of the Lord, and cause all His praises to be heard? (*Psalm 105:2*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (*Psalm 106:2*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

**SECOND ANTIPHON**

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works for the sons of men. (*Psalm 106:31*) **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders. (*Psalm 106:32*) **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. (*Psalm 32:18*) **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

To hear the groaning of those in fetters, to loosen the sons of the slain. (*Psalm 101:20*) **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.** (*Psalm 68:34*) **Tone 2** We vererate Your most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: / "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//by coming to save the world."

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (*Psalm 117:24*) **Tone 2** We vererate...

**O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You to the ages.** (*Psalm 29:12*) **Tone 2** We vererate ...

### **TROPARIA**

**Tone 1** When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom!// Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

**Tone 2** We vererate Your most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: / "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//by coming to save the world."

**Tone 4** Today the beginning of universal joy moves us to sing the prefestal hymn; / for Gabriel is coming and will cry to her: / "Rejoice, O Virgin full of grace, the Lord is with you.

**Tone 4** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

### **KONTAKION**

**Tone 8** You are the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of God. For the great Archangel Gabriel, God's minister, was sent from heaven to stand before you to bring you joy, therefore we all cry to you: rejoice, O unwedded bride!

**The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!** (*Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3*)  
*v. For You are just in all that You have done for us!* (*v. 4*)

### **THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (11:24-26, 32-12:2)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, having around us a cloud of witnesses, laying aside all weight and the sin which surrounds us, we also in forbearance run the race set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus the source and perfecter of the faith, who instead of the joy set before Him forbore the cross, despising shame, and sat at the right side of the throne of God. Think then of the such one who forbore onto himself hostility from the sinners, so that you are not hard pressed weary in your souls!

*Alleluia, Tone 4*

*v. Moses and Aaron within his priests, and Samuel within the ones who call upon His name.* (*Psalm 98:6*)

*v. They called upon the Lord, and he heard them.* (*Psalm 98:6*)

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (1:43-51)** At that time Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathaniel said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus

answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathaniel answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

**INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET ... ,":** All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

**COMMUNION HYMN** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (*Psalms 148:1*)

### **COMMEMORATION OF THE RESTORATION OF THE HOLY ICONS**

*After the Prayer behind the Ambo, the procession begins:*

**Choir:** **Tone 2** We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: / "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, / / by coming to save the world."

#### ***Petitions for the living:***

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our father and Archbishop \_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for all pious and right-glorifying Christians.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Priest:** For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Choir:** *We venerate Your most pure image...*

#### ***Petitions for those who have reposed in the faith:***

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Let us pray for the blessed, ever-memorable and pious rulers, right-glorifying kings and queens, patriarchs, bishops, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

**Choir:** Memory eternal! Memory eternal! Memory eternal!

**Priest:** for you, Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the rest of your fallen asleep servants, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Choir:** *We venerate Your most pure image...*

#### ***Petitions for the community:***

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for this city, for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and care for the builders and benefactors of our holy temple, for all those gathered here and for all the inhabitants of this city, and for all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell and are to be found here and throughout the world.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Priest:** For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Choir:** *We venerate Your most pure image...*

***Petitions for the world:***

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Priest:** Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**As the prophets beheld, / as the Apostles have taught, / as the Church has received, / as the Teachers have declared, / as the world has agreed, / as Grace has shown forth; / as Truth has been revealed, / as falsehood has been dissolved, / as Wisdom has become manifest, / as Christ awarded / - thus we declare, / thus we assert, / thus we preach Christ our true God, / and honor His Saints / in words, / in writings, / in thoughts, / in sacrifices, / in churches, / in Holy Icons; / on the one hand worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; / and on the other hand honoring the saints as true servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration. / This is the Faith of the Apostles, / this is the Faith of the Fathers, / this is the Faith of the Orthodox, / this is the Faith which has established the universe. / These preachers of true piety, we praise as brothers and as those we long to have as our fathers, to the glory and honor of the true Faith for which they struggled, and we say: To the champions of Orthodoxy, pious Emperors, most-holy Patriarchs, Hierarchs, Teachers, Martyrs, and Confessors:**

**Choir:** Memory eternal! Memory eternal! Memory eternal!

**Priest:** The Holy Trinity has glorified them. By their contests and struggles and teachings for the sake of the true Faith to the point of death, we entreat God that we may be guided and strengthened and beg that we may be shown to be imitators of their inspired way of life until the end, by the mercies and grace of the great and first high-priest, Christ our true God; through the intercessions of our All-glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, of the Angels, and all the Saints.

**People:** Amen.

**The Great Prokeimenon - Tone 7 - Psalm 76**

Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God Who does wonders!

*v:* You have made known your Power among the peoples.

*v:* And I said, "Now have I begun. This is the change of the Right hand of the Most High."

*v:* I remembered the works of the Lord, for I will remember his wonderful things from the beginning.