

*Please silence phones and pagers. Taking photos and videos during the liturgy is prohibited.*

**Saint Sophia Cathedral**



Sunday, February 23, 2020

Bilingual Liturgy

*Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)*

*Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna*

First Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and  
all that is within me bless His  
holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and  
forget not all that He has  
done for you.

The Lord in heaven has prepared  
His throne, and His kingdom  
rules over all.

Second Antiphon

Praise the Lord, O my soul; I will  
praise the Lord in my life; I  
will chant unto my God for  
as long as I have my being.

Blessed is He of whom the God  
of Jacob is his help, whose  
hope is in the Lord his God.

The Lord shall be King unto  
eternity; your God, O Zion,  
from generation  
to generation.

Third Antiphon

This is the day the Lord has  
made; let us rejoice and be  
glad in it.

Let the heavens and the earth  
praise Him.

HYMNS AT THE SMALL ENTRANCE

**The Resurrection Apolytikion, Mode 3**

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν  
βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν  
νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ  
μέγα ἔλεος.

Come rejoice all ye Heavens and be glad all ye on earth, for within the arc of  
His great arms He created a vast Dominion, by His own death He  
conquered death, for He became the first born of the dead. From the  
depths of Hades, He delivered us and He granted to mankind His great  
mercy

**Troparion of Saint Sophia (Holy Wisdom)**

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλείεις ἀναδείξας,  
καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην  
σαγηεύσας, φιλόανθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Blessed are You O Christ our God, Who as all wise the fishermen You  
showed forth; By sending your Holy Spirit down upon them and through  
them the universe You drew unto your net. O lover of mankind Glory to  
You.

**Kondakion Commemorating the Lord's Second Coming**

Ὅταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ γῆς μετὰ δόξης, καὶ τρέμωσι τὰ σύμπαντα, ποταμὸς  
δὲ τοῦ πυρὸς πρὸ τοῦ Βήματος ἔλκη, καὶ βίβλοι ἀνοίγωνται, καὶ τὰ κρυπτά  
δημοσιεύωνται, τότε ῥῦσαί με, ἐκ τοῦ πυρὸς τοῦ ἀσβέστου, καὶ ἀζίωσον, ἐκ  
δεξιῶν σου μὲ στήναι, Κριτὰ δικαιοσύνη.

When You come again as God to earth in glory, and all creation trembles  
and a river of fire flows before the tribunal of judgment, and great books are  
opened and all secret sins exposed, then rescue me from the molten lime  
and make me worthy to stand on Your right. Judge most righteous.

*We welcome baptized Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared to receive Holy  
Communion. All are welcome to receive a blessing.*

*Please let the children come first, then wait for the ushers to guide you out row by row.*

**SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL**

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V. Rev. Father John S. Bakas  
*Dean*  
Fr. Christopher Kolentsas  
*Assistant Priest*

# Scripture Reading

*Faith comes by hearing...*

Epistle Reader Julian Hanberg

**Priest:** Let Us Attend...

**Reader:** Great is our Lord, and great is his power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**Priest:** Wisdom.

**Reader:** The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (8:8-13; 9:1-2)

**Priest:** Let us be attentive...

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE** (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

# Memorials

*May their memory be eternal...*

*Among the spirits of the righteous perfected in faith, give rest, O Savior to the souls of your servants...*

*James A. Demetriou (40 days)*

*Chryssoula Anton*

*Dorothea Panagiota Stamatiades (2 years)*

*Lucas Dean (18 years)*

*Gary Botchin (5 years)*

## **ALTAR CANDLES**

Offered in loving memory of Lucas Dean by the Dean family.

## **ALTAR TABLE CANDLES**

Offered in loving memory of Dorothea Panagiota Stamatiades by her husband John Stamatiades.

## **SOLEA CANDLES**

Offered in loving memory of James A. Demetriou by his family.

## **COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS**

Offered in loving memory of Dorothea Panagiota Stamatiades by her husband John Stamatiades.

Offered in loving memory of Chryssoula Anton by her grandson Neal Desby.

## Judgment Sunday

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The commemoration for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning his Second Coming and the Last Judgment of all, both the living and the dead. In Matthew 25:31-46, Christ speaks about what will happen at this specific point in time when He will “come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him” (v. 31). At His coming, “He will sit on the throne of His glory,” and all of the nations will be gathered before Him. He will separate them “as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats” (v. 32). The sheep will be placed on His right hand, and the goats on the left. To the sheep, He will say “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (vv. 33-34) This kingdom is offered to the sheep because of their compassion and service to those in need. Jesus says, “...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.” The sheep, who are the righteous chosen for the kingdom, will ask how this could be so. They will ask Jesus when was He hungry or thirsty, a stranger, naked, and in prison. He will answer them by saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to me” (vv. 35-40).

Christ the King, seated on His throne of judgment, will then turn to the goats on His left and say, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (v. 41). He will condemn them because they did not feed Him when He was hungry, give Him drink when He was thirsty, take Him in when He was a stranger, clothe Him when He was naked, visit Him when He was sick or in prison. The goats will ask the Lord, “When did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?” Then He will answer them saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” (vv. 42-45). Jesus concludes His words on the Last Judgment by stating that those on the left “will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (v. 46).

On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God’s patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes.

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves. Another theme of this Sunday is that of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love—not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete and personal love for the human person—the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives. Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ’s love. We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love—the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ’s love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged.

### **The Mission of Saint Sophia Cathedral**

- 1. Proclaim and teach the Gospel according to the Orthodox Christian Faith*
- 2. Sanctify and enhance the spiritual life of the faithful through Orthodox Christian worship.*
- 3. Receive persons into the Church through instruction, baptism and/or chrismation.*

### **Sunday, February 23**

- 8:30 am — Orthros
- 9:45 am — Memorials
- 10:00 am — *Divine Liturgy*
- 12:30 pm — Bible Faith Studies

### **Tuesday, February 25**

Cancelled — Bible Studies

### **Saturday, February 29**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls*
- 9:00 am — Orthros
- 10:00 am — *Divine Liturgy*

