



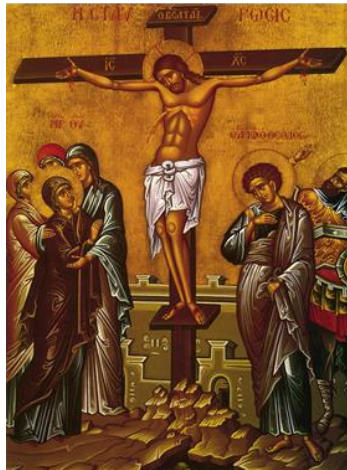
ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America

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DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 TONE 7 / EOTHINON 7 THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

MARTYRS CHRYSANTHOS, DARIA, AND THOSE WITH THEM OF ROME; MARTYR
PANCHARIOS OF NICOMEDIA

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****

WELCOME!

“The Newest Church in Santa Clarita is the Oldest Church in the World.”

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes all of you to our community this Sunday- for truly, ***“This is the Day that the Lord has made.”*** We are honored to have you worship with us. If you are new to our community or simply have any questions, please introduce yourselves to Fr. George after the Divine Liturgy. He would love to meet and chat with you. May our Lord bless you and your families.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Thou hast given to those that fear thee a sign, to flee from the bow.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast given an inheritance to those that fear Thy Name, O Lord. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Let us worship at the place where His feet have stood.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

God is our King before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. (***Refrain***)

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool. O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Feed them, and lift them up forever.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the **Holy Cross**. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is “O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead...” as on ordinary Sundays. After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

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 FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY) IN TONE EIGHT

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 ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify. (THRICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

Dynamis!

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

(For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual with the following variables.*

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body

more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us. Alleluia.

- *Post-Communion Hymn: Instead of “We have seen the true light”, sing the Apolytikion of the Holy Cross.*

Procession of the Holy Cross

As done on the Third Sunday of Great Lent

(See the separate file, which is based on the Liturgikon, fourth edition, P. 423-424)

- *If the procession is begun as the Great Doxology concludes in Orthros, the final “Holy God, Holy Mighty” is slowly chanted (traditionally, if possible, in the “Agia” style of Tone Four).*
- *If the procession follows “Blessed be the Name of the Lord” in Divine Liturgy, it starts with “Holy God, Holy Mighty” and is chanted in the same style as above, if possible.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross—which we especially venerate today—by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Martyrs Chrysanthos, Daria, and those with them of Rome; and the Martyr Pancharios of Nicomedia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

HOLY OLBATIONS

Happy and blessed 16th Birthday Joseph! God grant you many years.
From your loving family; Dad, Mom, Christian, Kristy, and Daniel

God's blessings on Joseph Kastoun as he celebrates his birthday.
Offered with love from Kristy Maloof.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will continue to collect donated items for Single Mothers Outreach, gathering them in the playpen in the Sunday School classroom. The mothers and children continue to need especially items that they can't purchase with food stamps, including:

- Shampoo, conditioner
- Soaps and body wash
- Cleaning wipes, baby wipes, washcloths
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Razors
- Fleece blankets
- Clothing for kids age 10-17

All the items that we collected for the last donation day were donated and gratefully received! The next donation day will be Thursday, April 27. Please be generous! Thank you!

Please submit your oblations to: stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com by 9pm on Wednesday.

Thought for the Week

“For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

On this Sunday of the Life-giving Cross, St. Paul tells us of the unfathomable mercy of our God who became truly one of us in every respect except that He did not sin. This statement has profound implications for each one of us, beloved.

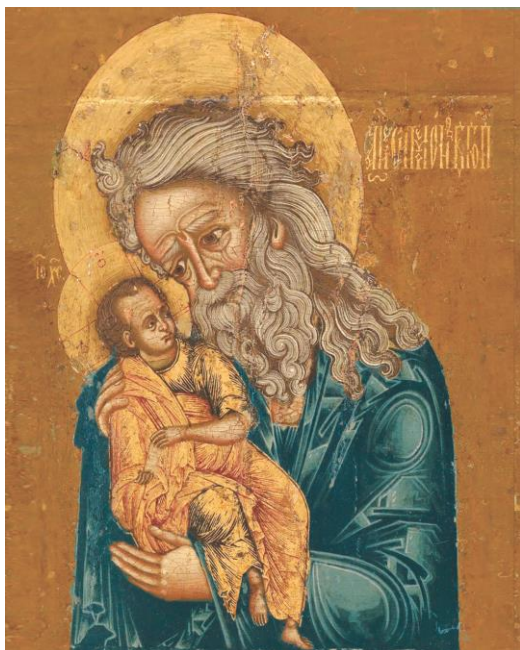
Let us first start out from a purely human and practical standpoint. How often are we alienated or distanced by those who just don't seem to understand us? Whether they be relatives or not, they cannot relate to nor forgive our weaknesses and they do not rejoice in our strengths. In this setting, a personal relationship that can deepen is impossible. And

think about the opposite, those spouses, friends, or relatives who are totally interested in whom we are- and to help us in both our weaknesses and strengths-how very close do we grow to them?

Beloved, we have a God that in every respect understands our humanity. He has experienced hunger, lack of sleep, sadness, abandonment, disloyalty, fear, sadness, and tears. He knows our weakness and faults yet does not judge us. He only wants to make us better. He is the only One that has the capability to give us the power to overcome our weaknesses. He is willing even to give His own life, that we may live. We must only draw near to Him and enter into His very life. This is our calling as Christians- to live and become truly human; to love without any taint, to help with no hint of self-gratification, and to make others better by loving and interceding for them with all of our strength. True love is always directed outward-towards the other. This is who our God is for “God is love” as the beloved Apostle says.

This is why we should have great confidence and come boldly before Him, for we will never be rejected. The throne to which we draw near is not the throne of judgement, but of grace. It is the throne of forgiveness and healing. It is the throne where we will find the cure for every weakness. It is the throne that can give us the power to love. We all must, with confidence, draw near to this throne and live in the power of God by every ounce of our own will. The throne of God is here with us-in our Holy Church. The cure is available if we are willing to accept it now, for now is our time of need. *“Now he sits granting pardon, but when the end is come, then he rises up to judgement. For it is said, “Arise, O God, judge the earth.” (St. John Chrysostom).* Let us not neglect for one moment what He is offering us. But, let us be *“transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom 12:2).* Let us rejoice in so great an inheritance and may we all enter into the joy of our Lord this Holy Pascha. Amen.

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace,
according to Thy word**



For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.