



## **ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of North America  
**Primate- His Eminence Metropolitan  
SABA**, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America

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**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY,  
MAY 18, 2025  
TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE  
SAMARITAN WOMAN  
& AFTER-FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST**

MARTYRS PETER, DIONYSIOS, ANDREW, PAUL, CHRISTINA,  
HERAKLIOS, PAULINOS AND BENEDIMOS; STEPHEN THE NEW,  
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

### THE FIRST ANTIPHON

**Verse:** Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

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

**Verse:** Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (*Refrain*)

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

### THE SECOND ANTIPHON

**Verse:** May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

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

**Verse:** That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee. (*Refrain*)

*Verse:* May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (*Refrain*)

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

### THE THIRD ANTIPHON

**Verse:** Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

**Verse:** As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. (*Refrain*)

**Verse:** So let sinners perish before the face of God, and let the righteous be glad. (*Refrain*)

**Verse:** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Refrain*)

**THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA**

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION FOR MID-PENTECOST IN TONE EIGHT**

In the midst of this Feast, O Savior, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for Thou didst call out to all, saying: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to Thee.

**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.

**THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT**

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

**THE EPISTLE**

*How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (11:19-30)**

In those days, when the apostles were scattered because of the tribulation that arose over Stephen, they traveled as far as Phoenicia

and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one, except to Jews only. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who upon coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. The report concerning them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas, to go as far out as Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should cleave to the Lord; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great multitude was added unto the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year, they were gathered together in the church, and they taught a great multitude of people, and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and signified by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole world; and this took place in the days of Claudius Caesar. And the disciples, every one according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren who dwelt in Judaea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

### **THE GOSPEL**

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (4:5-42)**

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His Disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that Thou, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will

never thirst forever; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered Him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and Thou sayest that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming [He Who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I Who speak to you am He.” Just then His Disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, “What dost Thou wish?” or, “Why art Thou talking with her?” So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, “Come, see a man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the city and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the Disciples besought Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the Disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him food?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He said to me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His words. They said to the woman, “It is

no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

MEGALYNARION FOR SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN  
WOMAN IN TONE ONE

*The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.*

Rejoice and be glad, O gate of the divine Light; for Jesus Who disappeared in the tomb hath risen with greater radiance than the sun, illuminating all believers, O Lady favored of God.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE  
EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

- *Instead of “We have seen the true light,” sing “Christ is Risen” once.*

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; 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, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, 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 holy and glorious Great-martyr Photeni, the Samaritan Woman, 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: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

People: ...bestowing life!

## **HOLY OBLATIONS**

Prayers are offered for **Mark Ajalat** today as he celebrates another wonderful year! May God grant you many, many more, **Barko!** Most lovingly, Mom and Dad.

Happy Birthday **Christian Kastoun!** God bless you and grant you many more. We love you! -From Mom, Dad, Danny, and Joseph”.

For **Steve Verba, Joanna, Jasmine, and Daniel Mahfouz, and Lucas Ajalat.** We commend you to God and are grateful for your service to His holy church in **serving our Sunday school children.** May God grant you his mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and many years! From the parish council and faithful parishioners of Saint Simeon Church

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coffee Hour:** We need your help in hosting coffee hours for the following dates: August 10, Nov 9, and Dec 21. Please sign up on Signup Genius!!

**If you would like to host Coffee Hour please contact Tracy Kuncar at 818-402-7994 or tkuncar@icloud.com**

## **FOR CATECHUMENS, INQUIRERS AND FOR EVERYONE**

**Join us on Saturdays at 4 P.M. to learn more about the Orthodox Faith:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> THRU 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAYS OF EVERY MONTH AT 4:00 P.M.**

### **Epistle Reading Schedule**

**May 4,** *Glenn Woshnak*

**May 11,** *Ramona Blanski*



**May 18,** *Larysa Lilly*

**May 25,** *Steve Verba*

### **St Simeon's Greeters Schedule**

**May 18,** *Denise Gavrizescy (8:20-8:50) & Tim Ridley (9:10-9:40)*

**May 25,** *Rusty Blanski (8:20-8:50) & Delano Howell (9:10-9:40)*

**Please submit your announcements and oblations to:**  
**stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com by 9 p.m. on Wednesday**

## **Thought for the Week**

***“For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the Disciples were for the first time called Christians.”***

Our present-day Antiochian Church has a great and venerable history, started in the very first century and carried to us over 21 centuries. Our present Patriarch John X is the 171<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of

Antioch. The Orthodox faith, beloved, is indeed a precious inheritance given to us by God. But we must understand that it is more than a historical transmission of a set of precepts and correct theology. It is more than the proper performance of the Liturgy and the decorating of our Churches rooted in tradition. The Orthodox faith, beloved, is an ethos, an attitude, and a way of relating to life.

If we read Acts 11 carefully we will see this ethos. First, when tragedy strikes- we must humble ourselves and glorify God-for He can use even tragedy for His own purposes. We fear God, love Him, and trust Him with all aspects of our lives-even our tragedies. If the persecutions did not occur in Jerusalem with many of our faithful being killed, then our faith would never have spread to Antioch and then to the world. It would have remain limited to Jerusalem and we would not have it today in our blessed country.

Second, the Orthodox Faith must reach out to the communities where we are. If the Jewish disciples did not go out of their comfort zone and reach out to the Greeks and foreigners in Antioch- our faith would have remained limited and probably disappeared. The Church then in Jerusalem sent Barnabus who in turn went and brought Paul to them- teaching our faith to them for a whole year. We, also, beloved must reach out to our communities, love our communities, and make our faith available to them. We must fill our churches with people who have never heard of the Orthodox Faith- shouting our love of Christ from the rooftops- meaning by the way we live our lives.

Lastly, my beloved in Christ Jesus, we Orthodox must always have a great veneration and respect for those who have given us our faith and who have labored to preserve it. That includes our parents, our Saints, and especially our Patriarchates-from whom we have been born. As the Lord wills, we will eventually have our own Patriarchate, as did Antioch, however for now we belong to her. We must love her and take care of her, as did the early Antiochians- sending their love and their support to those who were suffering in Jerusalem during the famine. We must also love our cousins- the Russians, Serbs, Romanians, Ukrainians, Estonians, Bulgarians, and all Orthodox- for they are a part of us-of our flesh and bones. We must love the whole world, for we are one humanity- all children of God- made in His image.

Beloved the Orthodox Faith is love for God, love of our fellow humanity, compassion, hospitality, self-sacrifice, respect for our forebearers, authenticity, and humility. Let us preserve these as well as our Liturgy, our music, and our church decorations.