

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

TROPARIAN OF THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS TONE 1

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to Him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

KONTAKION FOR THE ANNUNCIATION (GREAT LENT) 8

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 EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

We Celebrate Today

On this day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his

disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Please remember in your prayers*The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Mariam, Vanda, Ghalia, Chris, Daniella, Mireille, Salim and Haya.

+ Daily Prayer: Monday & Tuesday @ 6pm Great Compline
 Wednesday @ 6 pm. Presanctified Liturgy
 Thursday @ 6 pm. Great Compline (Arabic)
 Friday @ 6 pm Last Akathist service.

+ Mother's day Celebration. On April 27 at Chateau Crystal. For more more information ,contact please Mrs. Amal Sawan 281-650-7798

+2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM is available in the Hall or online. A new form must be on file each year for members to be *in good standing*. The work and ministry of The Forty Holy Martyrs Church is made possible by tithing and pledging members. *May God bless your generosity!*

+PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE: June 13-16th, 2018 – Eldorado Hotel & Spa, Santa Fe, NM. *Guest Speaker:* Hieromonk Silouan, abbot of the Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael in Cañones, NM. Register today – www.SantaFePLC.org

+Guests and visitors are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee hour.

The Church of Christ

Brothers and Sisters! The all-merciful God desires happiness for us both in this life and in the life to come. To this end He established His Holy Church, so that she might cleanse us from sin, sanctify us, reconcile us with Him and give us a heavenly blessing. The embrace of the Church is always open to us. Let us all hasten their more quickly, we whose consciences are burdened. Let us hasten, and the Church will lift the weight of our burdens, give us boldness before God, and fill our hearts with happiness and blessedness.

(St. Nectarius of Aegina, *The Path to Happiness*, 1).

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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REGULAR SERVICES

Every night service @
6pm

Great Vespers: Saturday
5:00 PM(English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday
8:45 AM(English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday
10:00 AM(English)

Please visit our website for
additional information.

www.40martyrs.org

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Land

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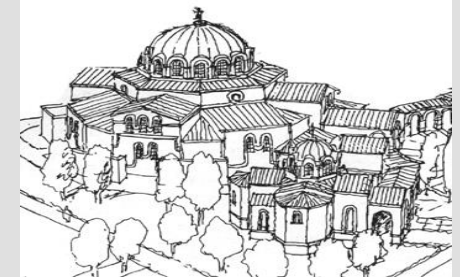
Divine Liturgy

MARCH 18-2018

**TONE 8/ EOTHINON 8;
FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT
LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN
CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE
LADDER"

CYRIL, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM;
MARTYRS TROPHYMOS AND EUKARPOS OF
NICOMEDIA AND THOSE WITH THEM;
NIKOLAI (VELIMIROVIC), BISHOP OF ZHICHA
WHO LABORED IN AMERICA



**Great Holy Lent .
Strict Fast Till Noon.**

