

St. George the Great Martyr Eastern Orthodox Church, Hesperia, California

Diocese of the West, Orthodox Church in America

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**34th Sunday after Pentecost, February 5th
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee,
After feast of the Meeting
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion**

Troparion: Tone 1 *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding thy most pure body, thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion: Tone 1 *(Feast)*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us Resurrection!

Troparion to Saint George: You were bound for.... Glory to The Father....

Kontakion: Tone 1 *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Let us flee from the pride of the pharisee! Let us learn humility from the publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, O only merciful one!”

Kontakion: Tone 1 *(Feast)*

By thy nativity thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only lover of man!

Kontakion of Saint George: God raised you Now and ever

Prokeimenon: Tone 1 *(Resurrection)*

Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on thee! *(Ps. 32:22)*

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Prokeimenon: Tone 3 *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. *(Lk. 1:46-47)*

Epistle: (296) 2 Timothy 3:10-15

V. God gives vengeance unto me and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

V. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation! (Luke 2:29)

Gospel

(89) Luke 18:10-14

Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee! In the shadow and letter of the law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore, we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father who has no beginning, the Son firstborn of a mother who had not known man

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest. (*Ps. 148:1*)

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

NATIONAL ORTHODOXY

Fr. Alexander

National Orthodoxy is easily recognized. An apostle or evangelist preached the gospel in the most adverse conditions, possibly died as a martyr, some leaders became converts and the population followed, immediately or over a long time. Now the descendants are Orthodox, by convention, not by conviction. Their Orthodoxy is only national.

For the above reason, Russians, Romanians, Greeks, Arabs, etc. may have true Christians among them; but they also exhibit a national kind of Orthodoxy. Their knowledge of God can be rudimentary. All baptize their children, as this is socially expected. They celebrate saints' days, if a saint is named in the family. Most go to church at Easter, the most important service of the year; and they all enjoy foods associated with Christmas and Easter.

In case of war, as between Russia and the Ukraine, the motive is hidden in national interests. Orthodoxy is relegated to incidentals.

The reason for which we need to understand this is: At some time, in this life, every Orthodox Christian – with the help of parents, god-parents, priests, Sunday-school teachers, or regular-school teachers, or even one's peers – must come to the point of saying: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ by personal conviction. Therefore, I will make the church my spiritual home, listen to instruction, take correction, and ensure that I am a good example to those around me.

Remember Christ's last instruction to the 11 apostles: to “make disciples” in all nations. This speaks of people who are committed to God, not to national or nominal Christians.

Announcements**Confessions by appointment****Next Orthodox Study**

- February 4th at 3 p.m.

Hall Liaison: Eva Antoniades