

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE

DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Парафіга Успіннга Пресв. Богороднці A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

### Address:

15608 -104 Avenue, **Edmonton**, AB **T5P 4G5** 

#### Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy (Ukr & Eng) at 10 am & Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

**Akathist or Molebyn** Most Wednesdays at 6 pm (see calendar)

# **Parish Website:**

http://dormition.eeparchy.com

# **Twitter**:

@dormitionparish

https://twitter.com/ dormitionparish

**Eparchial Website:** www.eeparchy.com

**Pastor:** 

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

# Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

#### Fr. Bo's Email:

fr.bo.nahachewsky @gmail.com

# Sunday, March 8th, 2020

Second Sunday of the Great Fast - Gregory of Palamas, Tone 6; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophilactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (c. 845)

### 2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas

This Sunday was originally dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople...

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#### Again, we would like to thank John for his service of baking Prosphora for our parish for many years.

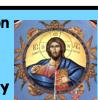
With John's retirement from this ministry we are looking for new volunteers to occasionally bake the bread that is offered at each Liturgy.

This Thursday at 5, Fr. Bo will demonstrate and explain the process. While it is resting and rising we will have our usual



6pm Community Night Prayer and Soup, then at about 7pm we will stamp the breads and bake them. Hopefully things will wrap up by 8-ish.

for Thursday is attending the first "Christ in the Old **Testament: Prophecy** and Fulfillment"



- March 12 Introduction, The Messiah -Fr. Danylo Kuc
- March 19 The Nativity Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky
- March 26 The Suffering of Christ Fr. Mihajlo Planchak
- April 2 The Passover Fr. Peter Babej

All sessions run 7:00 - 8:30 pm. LOCATION: Holy Eucharist Parish, 6425 120 Ave, Edmonton **All Welcome.** No registration is necessary.

Due to the serious fears of spread of the **COVID-I9** (Corona-Virus), parishioners are encouraged:

- to wash their hands regularly, and to
- change the "Kiss of Peace" into a "head nod, or elbow bump of peace", or another form of recognition between parishioners. Of course families can do what they wish, but please do not make people feel like they must shake hands.



Also, if any parishioner has a stockpile of hand sanitizer the parish would certainly appreciate having a couple of them at the entrances. Thanks.



# St. Gregory Palamas: Continued from Page I

.... Saint Gregory's father became a prominent dignitiary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then

comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nicodemus of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

After the demise of the Elder Nicodemus, Saint Gregory spent eight years of spiritual struggle under the guidance of the Elder

Nicephorus, and after the latter's death, Gregory transferredto the Lavra of Saint Athanasius (July 5). Here he served in the trapeza, and then became a church singer. But after three years, he resettled in the small skete of Glossia, striving for a greater degree of spiritual perfection. The head of this monastery began to teach the young man the method of unceasing prayer and mental activity, which had been cultivated by monastics, beginning with the great desert ascetics of the fourth century: Evagrius Pontikos and Saint Macarius of Egypt (January 19).

Later on, in the eleventh century Saint Simeon the New Theologian (March 12) provided detailed instruction in mental activity for those praying in an outward manner, and the ascetics of Athos put it into practice. The experienced use of mental prayer (or prayer of the heart), requiring solitude and quiet, is called "Hesychasm" (from the Greek "hesychia" meaning calm, silence), and those practicing it were called "hesychasts."

During his stay at Glossia the future hierarch Gregory became fully embued with the spirit of hesychasm and adopted it as an essential part of his life. In the year 1326, because of the threat of Turkish invasions, he and the brethren retreated to Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood.

Saint Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city's educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years.

In 1331 the saint withdrew to Mt. Athos and lived in solitude at

the skete of Saint Sava, near the Lavra of Saint Athanasius. In 1333 he was appointed Igumen of the Esphigmenou monastery in the northern part of the Holy Mountain. In 1336 the saint returned to the skete of Saint Sava, where he devoted himself to theological works, continuing with this until the end of his life.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm.

About the year 1330 the learned monk Barlaam had arrived in Constantinople from Calabria, in Italy. He was the author of treatises on logic and astronomy, a skilled and

sharp-witted orator, and he received a university chair in the capital city and began to expound on the works of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3), whose "apophatic" ("negative", in contrast to "kataphatic" or "positive") theology was acclaimed in equal measure in both the Eastern and the Western Churches. Soon Barlaam journeyed to Mt. Athos, where he became acquainted with the spiritual life of the hesychasts. Saying that it was impossible to know the essence of God, he declared mental prayer a heretical error. Journeying from Mount Athos to Thessalonica, and from there to Constantinople, and later again to Thessalonica, Barlaam entered into disputes with the monks and attempted to demonstrate the created, material nature of the light of Tabor (i.e. at the Transfiguration). He ridiculed the teachings of the monks about the methods of prayer and about the uncreated light seen by the hesychasts.

Saint Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied with verbal admonitions at first. But seeing the futility of such efforts, he put his theological arguments in writing. Thus appeared the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" (1338). Towards the year 1340 the Athonite ascetics, with the assistance of the saint, compiled a general response to the attacks of Barlaam, the so-called "Hagiorite Tome." At the Constantinople Council of 1341 in the church of Hagia Sophia Saint Gregory Palamas debated with Barlaam, focusing upon the nature of the light of Mount Tabor. On May 27, 1341 the Council accepted the position of Saint Gregory Palamas, that God, unapproachable in His Essence, reveals Himself through His energies, which are directed towards the world and are able to be...



# St. Gregory Palamas: Continued from Page 2

...perceived, like the light of Tabor, but which are neither material nor created. The teachings of Barlaam were condemned as heresy, and he himself was anathemized and fled to Calabria.

But the dispute between the Palamites and the Barlaamites was far from over. To these latter belonged Barlaam's disciple, the Bulgarian monk Akyndinos, and also Patriarch John XIV Kalekos (1341-1347); the emperor Andronicus III Paleologos (1328-1341) was also inclined toward their opinion. Akyndinos, whose name means "one who inflicts no harm," actually caused great harm by his heretical teaching. Akyndinos wrote a series of tracts in which he declared Saint Gregory and the Athonite monks guilty of causing church disorders. The saint, in turn, wrote a detailed refutation of Akyndinos' errors. The patriarch supported Akyndinos and called Saint Gregory the cause of all disorders and disturbances in the Church (1344) and had him locked up in prison for four years. In 1347, when John the XIV was replaced on the patriarchal throne by Isidore (1347-1349), Saint Gregory Palamas was set free and was made Archbishop of Thessalonica. In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of his teachings. But the people of Thessalonica did not immediately accept Saint Gregory, and he was compelled to live in various places. On one of his travels to Constantinople the Byzantine ship fell into the hands of the Turks. Even in captivity, Saint Gregory preached to Christian prisoners and even to his Moslem captors. The Hagarenes were astonished by the wisdom of his words. Some of the Moslems were unable to endure this, so they beat him and would have killed him if they had not expected to obtain a large ransom for him. A year later, Saint Gregory was ransomed and returned to Thessalonica.

Saint Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness. On the eve of his repose, Saint John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words "To the heights! To the heights!" Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the saint.

# Saint Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia

Saint Theophylactus lived at Constantinople in the eighth century during the time of the Iconoclast heresy. After the death of the iconoclast emperor Leo IV the Khazar (775-780), Emperor Constantine VI (780-797) ascended the throne. At the same

time, the holy Patriarch Paul (August 30), not having the strength to continue guiding the flock in the face of iconoclasm, voluntarily resigned his office (784). Saint Tarasius (February 25) was chosen in his place. At that time, he was an eminent imperial counselor. Under the supervision of the new Patriarch the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) was convened to condemn the Iconoclast heresy. A relatively peaceful time began for the Church, and monasteries again began to fill with monks.

Saint Theophylactus, a gifted disciple of Saint Tarasius, with the blessing of the Patriarch, went to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea with Saint Michael (May 23). The zealous ascetics by their God-pleasing labors and intense prayer were granted the gift of

wonderworking by God. During a drought, when the workers in the field were weakened by thirst, the saints prayed and an empty vessel became filled with enough water to last the entire day.

After several years in the monastery, they were both consecrated as bishops by Patriarch Tarasius. Saint Michael was

made Bishop of Synada, and Saint Theophylactus was made Bishop of Nicomedia.

Heading the Church of Nicomedia, Saint Theophylactus cared for the flock entrusted to him. He built churches, hospices, homes for wanderers, he generously distributed alms, was the guardian

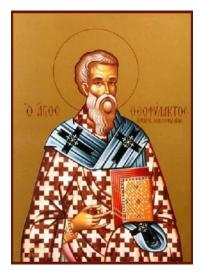
> of orphans, widows and the sick, and personally attended those afflicted with leprosy, not hesitating to wash their wounds.

When the iconoclast Leo the Armenian (813-820) came to the imperial throne, the terrible heresy burst forth with renewed strength.

But the iconoclast emperor was not able to influence Saint Nicephorus (June 2), the successor of Patriarch Tarasius, who with the other bishops vainly urged Leo not to destroy the peace of the Church. Saint Theophylactus was present at the negotiations of the emperor with the Patriarch. Denouncing the heretics, Saint Theophylactus predicted a speedy death for Leo the Armenian. For his bold prophecy the

saint was sent into exile to the fortress Strobil (in Asia Minor). He languished for thirty years until his death, which took place around the year 845.

After the restoration of icon-veneration in the year 847 under the empress Saint Theodora (February 11) and her son Michael, the holy relics of Saint Theophylactus were returned to Nicomedia.



# We have some awesome **PEROGY PINCHERS!**

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the UCWLC pinch, peel and roll their way into a pile of perogies. Your effort was not only helping our parish support itself financially, but it also helps build community and even bring people to the parish. Good job everyone.

We will probably be pinching more in the future, as there are rumours brewing about another future Perogy Supper. Stay tuned.

Also, thank you to our wonderful **office cleaners** too.



# Soroko-ooste

Five times a year the church commemorates all the deceased. It is traditional to say a panacbyda and read out all the names of our deceased parishioners and family members. Three of the five "All Souls Saturdays" fall during Lent. One just passed, and there are two more to come.

• If you would like to update your list of family members and friends, or if you have never given a list, please see Greg Ostopowich

These "Soroko-ooste" services take place in our parish after the Presanctified Liturgies on Fridays, March 6, 13 & 20.



Would you like to support one of our beautiful and happy parishioners? **Margie Woitas** is a well loved, "more mature" parishioner who unfortunately is often "shut-in" due to pain and has mobility issues. Despite her pain, she has been painting beautiful "**Pysanke**" for years. These traditional decorated and hand blown eggs are treasured by people everywhere. She has several dozen beautiful eggs that she can sell to you if you call her at 780-988-2200.



# YOU ARE INVITED TO "GRIEF AS A JOURNEY"

Join us for this 8-week program as we build community with others who have experienced loss, gain a better understanding of what we are experiencing and give and receive support and encouragement while journeying through mourning.

Wednesdays, March 25 - May 20. No session April 9, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Eparchial Pastoral Centre, 9645-108 Ave., Register: 780-424-5496 Cost \$20.00



# You are invited: For "Beers and Qs" with Fr. Julian Bilyj!

Wednesday, March 4, at 7 PM, at Fargos (5804 Terrace Road, NW).

An evening on topics about our faith and all with a drink of your choice! It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Ukrainian Catholic faith, meet new friends and participate in fruitful discussions!

P.S: please bring a friend and RSVP to Solomiia at 587-936-1148 or smsavaryn@gmail.com

Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2020						
<b>Palm Sunday:</b> April 5	<ul> <li>10 am Divine Liturgy with the blessing of Pussy Willows (Bilingual - English &amp; Ukrainian)</li> <li>2 pm Melkite's Divine Liturgy with the blessing of Palm Branches (Arabic &amp; English)</li> </ul>					
Great and Holy <b>Monday:</b> April 6	• 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy (English)					
Great and Holy <b>Tuesday:</b> April 7	• 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy (English)					
Great and Holy <b>Wednesday:</b> April 8	6 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing of the Sick (English)					
Great and Holy <b>Thursday:</b> April 9	<ul> <li>10 am Divine Liturgy with the blessing of Chrysm and the washing of feet at the Cathedral</li> <li>6 pm Matins of the Passion (the 12 Gospels) (Mostly English, some Ukrainian)</li> <li>8 pm Melkite's Matins of the Passion (the 12 Gospels) (Arabic &amp; English)</li> </ul>					
<b>Good Friday:</b> April 10	<ul> <li>3 pm Good Friday Vespers: Plaschanytsia (Shroud) service (Mostly English, some Ukrainian)</li> <li>6 pm Jerusalem Matins (Mostly English, some Ukrainian)</li> <li>8 pm Melkite's Jerusalem Matins (Arabic &amp; English)</li> </ul>					
Great and Holy <b>Saturday:</b> April 11	<ul> <li>10 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual - English &amp; Ukrainian)</li> <li>6 pm Vespers and "Nadhrobne" (English) * Note no vigil Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>					
Pascha! Easter Sunday: April 12	<ul> <li>9 am Resurectional Matins (Bilingual - English &amp; Ukrainian)</li> <li>10 am Resurectional Divine Liturgy (Bilingual - English &amp; Ukrainian)</li> <li>Easter Basket Blessing (following D.L.) (Bilingual - English &amp; Ukrainian)</li> <li>2 pm Melkite's Resurectional Services (Arabic &amp; English)</li> </ul>					



# Come and join our "Little Friends of Jesus"

who will be having classes on the following Sundays:

*March 8	* April 5	<b>*</b> May 24
*March 15	* April 19	<b>*</b> June 14
	*May 3	



Unwind, recharge and share some prayers and fun during this year's Spring Break Teen Retreat. Bring a friend and spread the word!

Four days of fun for \$125/person, with all your meals and accommodations included! For Teens in Grades 7-12. Camp Oselia is on Hwy 16 W at Range Rd.53. Drop-off 5-7pm Thurs., pick up 2 pm on Sunday. Car pooling is encouraged.

IS A 3rd Sunday of Lent: Sunday of the Holy Cross IO am Divine Liturgy with "LITILE FRIENDS OF JESUS" program 2 pm Melkite Liturgy	IG A 7pm Eparchial Sobor at Holy Cross Parish Melkite Youth in Hall Fr. Bo's family enjoys their Evening Family Time without him (oh the sorrow)	17 🗫 6pm Lenten Complines (Melkites)	18 <table-of-contents></table-of-contents>	II I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	20 Tirst Communion Camp Sacred Arts Guild of Alberta (SAGA) Display at Newman College 6pm Akathist (Melkites) 7pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with "Soroko-ooste"	21 (All Souls Saturday First Communion Company At Newman College Meeting of Edmonton SAGA
22 A Hth Sunday of Lent: the Commemoration John of the Ladder First Communion Camp First Communion Camp No am Divine Liturgy with "LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS" program with Baptism Our Dormition UCWLC's regular meeting (after Coffee) 2 pm Melkite Liturgy Verna Hnatiuk & Stefan Sokolowski's Birthdays	23 (A) Melkite Youth in Hall Fr. Bo's Evening Family Time	24 (m) 6pm Lenten Complines (Melkites)	25 🐟	26 The second se	27 A With the second s	28 A
29 A Sth Sunday of Lent: the Commemoration St. Mary of Egypt IO am Divine Liturgy with "LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS" program Parish Budget Approval Meeting March 26 - 29, 2020 Teen Lenten Spring Break Retreat 2 pm Melkite Liturgy with Lunch	30 (A) Melkite Youth in Hall Fr. Bo's Evening Family Time	3I	I () PPC Meeting at 6:30 Christine Lirette's Birthday	2 A 6 pm Community Night 7pm Christ in the Old Testament: Prophecy and Fulfillment, The Passover - Fr. Peter Babej Christina Hendt's Birthday	3 A No Akathist 7pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	4 A log Week Begins
5 👀 Triumphal Entrance into Jerusalem (aka Palm Sunday) IO am Divine Liturgy with "LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS" program 2 pm Melkite Liturgy	6 A Great and Holy Monday Monday of the Presanctified Gifts Melkite Youth in Hall	7 Contemporation of the presenctified Gifts	8 C Great and Holy Wednesday Wednesday of the Presanctified Gifts 8 pm Melkites prayer & setup for	9 😧 Great and Holy Thursday 10 am Vespers, Liturgy with Foot Washing and Clergy Meal at the Cathedral 6pm Reading of the 12 Gospels	10 😳 Good Friday 3 pm Plaschanytsia 6pm Jerusalem Matins 8pm Jerusalem Matins (Melkite)	II 🗭 Great and Holy Saturday IO am "Saturday's" Divine Liturgy 6 pm Vespers (without DL)



Edmonton, for it's own parishioners (like us) and also for everyone around us. These programs are put on by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of There are many awesome programs for you and your children at Camp Oselia.

Several of these great programs are just around the corner, so check them

out and don't miss out

Information on all of them can be found at

# Camposelia.com

# Parish & Eparchial News:

- We pray for the health and well-being of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: Fr. Josaphat Turkalo, laroslav, Miranda Mayko, Jean Miskew, Sarah Komar, Marge Woitas, Katie Bunio, John Puto, Ann Horsman, Louis Pewar & Rosa Maria Santos. (If you know any other people who should be on this list: please email me.)
- We wish God's blessings and **happy birthday** to our parishioner: **Helen Moneta** who celebrates her birthdays this week. May God grant you many years!
- If we don't have **your birthday**, or if we have your birthday info wrong... please send an email (or at least a piece of paper) with your corrected birthdate and name.
- During Great Lent, the Eparchy of Edmonton conducts its **ANNUAL COLLECTION** for **"Aid to the Missionary Church in Canada."** The purpose of this collection is to support the needs of the Church in Canada. Three charitable institutions are the recipients of the collection: the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, Catholic Missions in Canada, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Bishop David has evoked an **EPARCHIAL SOBOR** on "Global Unity and the Ukrainian Catholic Church" to be held in three locations in our Eparchy. Our Edmonton Deanery's Sobor will take place on Monday, March 16 at Holy Cross Parish. Our delegates will be (1) Fr. Bo, (2) Greg Ostopowich, (3) Sheila Leiding, (4) Helen Sirman, (5) Alex Schabel, and (6) Sharon Lonsberry. Our Eparchial Chancellor Iryna will be there too (7).
- The **FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION CAMP** from March 20-22 at Camp Oselia will be our parish's FSC program. If your child is in or near grade 2 and ready to receive their sacraments, please contact Fr. Bo.
- **TEEN "SPRING BREAK" LENTEN RETREAT** is coming on March 26 29. If you are interested in attending go to CampOselia.com or talk to Millie at the Bishop's offices 780-424-5496.
- Planning to get married and looking for a marriage prep course? The **EPARCHIAL MARRIAGE PREP COURSE** at Camp Oselia will take place from April 17-19. Talk to Fr. Bo for more details.
- SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2020, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at St. Josaphat Cathedral. With the help of PowerPoint, the presentation will examine the most intriguing and remarkable characteristics of the Shroud, many of which can be discerned and appreciated only in our time because of advances in science and technology. All are welcome!

- Holy Land Pilgrimage Postponed until February 2021. Please note that the planned October 2020 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been postponed until February 2021, owing to a huge increase in airfare (some 65%). For further information, contact Father Peter at (780) 422-3181 or : <u>fr.babej@eeparchy.com</u>.
- **Pope Francis** issued his **Message for Lent**, entitled "We implore you on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). In his *Message for Lent 2020*, Pope Francis points to the paschal mystery the mystery of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection as the basis of conversion. It, like all documents from the vatican, is available online.
- Pope Francis published his <u>Post-Synodal Apostolic</u> <u>Exhortation *Querida Amazonia*, *Beloved Amazon*, the final document of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian Region held in Rome from October 6-27, 2019. It, like all documents from the vatican, is available online.
  </u>
- The National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated May 10-17, with the theme, "Children: The Crowning Glory of Marriage." Material is available on COLF: <u>https://</u> www.colf.ca/en/events/item/301-national-week-for-life-andthe-family-2020
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Bishop's Prayer Breakfast" will take place 7:30 – 9:00 am, Wednesday, June 3, at Saint Josaphat's Cathedral Hall – Verkhovyna (9637 – 108 Avenue). The event supports, through prayer, our clergy, religious, monastics and laity in their leadership roles in continuing the mission of Christ in sharing the Good News among the people of God. For tickets and more information, contact the Chancery Office at (780) 424-5496; <u>chancery@edmontoneparchy.com</u>.

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WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING IN CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

# Changeable Parts for today's Liturgy

**Troparion, Tone 6:** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before Your tomb\* seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\* You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead,\* glory be to You!

**Troparion:** Light of orthodoxy, teacher of the Church; its confirmation!\* Ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians.\* Wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace:\* always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion:** The time for action is now revealed;\* the Judge is at the door.\* Let us rise and keep the fast,\* offering tears of contrition with alms and crying aloud:\* our sins are more numerous than the sands of the sea,\* but forgive us, O Maker of all, that we may receive incorruptible crowns.

### Prokeimenon:

You, O Lord, will guard us\* and will keep us\* from this generation\* and forever.

**Verse:** Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

# Epistle: Hebrews I:10-2:3

Brothers and Sisters, It is written: "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

#### Alleluia verses:

He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven.

He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope.

# Gospel: Mark 2:I-I2

At that time: When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic— "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

# Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider that all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

# **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

At the end of the service we sing: "You Have Suffered..." with prostrations