

8th Sunday After  
Pascha  
(Holy Pentecost)  
May 31, 2026



Festal Matins Gospel Reading:  
John 20:19-23  
Epistle Reading:  
Acts 2:1-11  
Gospel Reading:  
John 7:37-52; 8:12  
Byzantine Music Tone:  
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On May 31, the Orthodox Church Commemorates:

The holy Martyr Hermias.

**ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY FROM PASCHA, WE CELEBRATE HOLY PENTECOST.**

*IN A VIOLENT WIND CHRIST DISTRIBUTES  
TO THE APOSTLES THE SPIRIT IN TONGUES OF FIRE.*

*ON ONE GREAT DAY, THE SPIRIT IS  
POURED OUT ON THE FISHERMEN.*

*By the intercessions of the holy Apostles, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.*



**A Message For Our Visitors:**

**Welcome to Saint George!**

Thank you for visiting us! We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour at the Hall next door, following the Divine Liturgy. If you are a newcomer, please introduce yourself to one of the priests or the Parish Council Members (Located at the Candle Stand) so that we can greet and welcome you properly.

We are glad to have you with us today!

## FESTAL MATINS GOSPEL READING:

John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were gathered, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Ὁρθρου Ἑωθινόν Ἐὐαγγέλιον:

Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 20:19-23

Ὁ ὕσης οὖν ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ γὰρ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἂν τινῶν ἀφήτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινῶν κρατῆτε, κεκράτηται.

## DISMISSAL HYMNS-KONTAKIA OF THE DAY

*Apolytikion of the Feast, Plagal 4th Tone*

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You sent down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen, and You gave them knowledge and wisdom in everything; and through them, as in a net You caught the whole world. O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You!

*Kontakion of the Feast, Plagal 2nd Tone*

When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, \* He divided the nations. \* When He distributed the tongues of fire, \* He called all to unity. \* And with one voice we glorify the all-holy Spirit.

## Ἀπολυτίκια - Κοντάκια τῆς Ἡμέρας

*Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον, Ἦχος πλ. δ'*

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

*Κοντάκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς, Ἦχος πλ. δ'*

Ὅτε καταβὰς τὰς γλώσσας συνέχεε, διεμέριζεν ἔθνη ὁ Ὑψιστος· ὅτε τοῦ πυρὸς τὰς γλώσσας διένειμεν, εἰς ἐνότητα πάντας ἐκάλεσε· καὶ συμφώνως δοξάζομεν τὸ Πανάγιον Πνεῦμα.



## Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

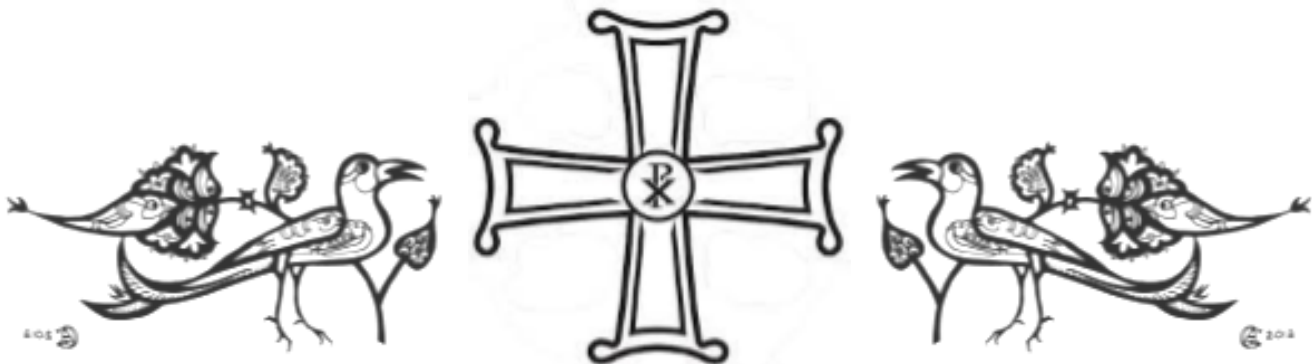
WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

## Ἀπόστολος: Πράξεις 2:1-11

Προκειμένον: Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στιχ: Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὡσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὠφθῆσαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισεν τε ἐφ' ἕνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέροις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μῆδοι καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἄραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέροις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ.



**O**n the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

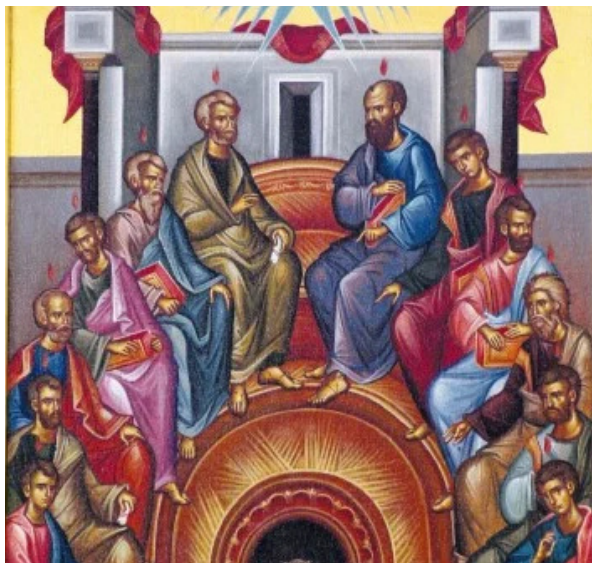
When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Ε**ν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· ἔάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ρέουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὐπὼ γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυῖδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυῖδ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἤθελον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἠγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἔλθων νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἷς ὢν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἔάν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γινῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεύνησον καὶ ἴδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγήγερται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.



## HIS EMINENCE'S MESSAGE



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday, we are blessed to celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes to rest upon the Disciples, and on the entire Church. The Book of Acts tells us that it was about nine in the morning during the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which falls 50 days after the Passover, and so the pilgrims were going to the Temple to pray, and to make offerings. There is a special similarity between the celebration of Shavuot and our Pentecost, because many Jewish sources also observe the festival as the commemoration of when God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Therefore, on both feast days, the inspiration of God comes to rest upon mankind.

During the Christian event, we read that *“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting”* (Acts 2:2). Tongues of fire—bright, but not burning, descended onto the Disciples. As we read in this week’s Gospel, Jesus says, *‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive...”* (John 7:37-39). Thanks to this divine gift, the Disciples spoke God’s Word, all in different tongues.

As poor fishermen, they had not studied, but this miracle helped the Disciples fulfill Christ’s Commission to preach to all the nations. The Disciples explained that Jesus, the Redeemer of our sins, is the Son of God, of whom Moses and the Prophets had spoken; and that through Christ’s life, death, Resurrection, and His Ascension, Man has been reconciled with God. So astonished were many of these foreigners to hear their own languages, that they came away believing in Jesus Christ, The Teacher of new Apostles.

Our Pentecost (because it comes 50 days after Pascha) is special for us, not only because it allows us to commemorate this beautiful historical event, but because we ourselves have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. If we permit God to dwell within us, by observing the Commandments of the Father and the teachings of the Son, then the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire each of us to be Disciples as well. Let us pray then that we be made worthy of the Wisdom, power, and strength from Above to carry out our Lord’s command to witness Him, now, and always.

**+SEVASTIANOS**  
**Metropolitan of Atlanta**

## Calendar for the Week

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Holy Pentecost

8:45 am Matins & Divine Liturgy

Vespers (Prayers of Kneeling)

Monday, June 1, 2026

8:45 am Divine Liturgy (Day of the Holy Spirit)

Friday, June 5, 2026

7:00 pm Small Paraklesis

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Sunday of All Saints

8:45 am Matins & Divine Liturgy

Chrismation

Coffee to honor John Davis

Baptism



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

Office Address: 4070 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919 Phone: 865-522-5043

Web: [www.saintgeorgeknoxville.com](http://www.saintgeorgeknoxville.com) Email: [stgeorgeknoxville@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeknoxville@gmail.com)

Facebook: [stgeorgeknoxville](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeknoxville) YouTube: [StGeorgeKnoxville](https://www.youtube.com/StGeorgeKnoxville)

Presiding Priest: V. Rev. Archimandrite Fr. Dionysis Lampropoulos, [fr.dionysis@gmail.com](mailto:fr.dionysis@gmail.com)

Emeritus: Rev. Protopresbyter Fr. Anthony Stratis, [franthonystratis@gmail.com](mailto:franthonystratis@gmail.com)

Deacon: Rev. Dn. Mark Smith

Choir Director: Dr. George Chagas Chanters: Anthony Martin, Samir Harb, Alex Skoulis

Security Director: David Ferguson