



Greek Orthodox

Metropolis of Atlanta

**Saint George**

Knoxville, Tennessee

**Weekly Bulletin**

**6th Sunday of Matthew**

**July 20th, 2025**

VI Matins Gospel Reading: **Luke 24: 36-53**

Epistle Reading: **James 5:10-20**

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 9: 1-8**

Byzantine Music Tone: **Plagal 1st**

**On July 20th the Orthodox Church Commemorates:**

The fiery ascent into the heavens of the holy and glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) the Tishbite.

*By his holy intercessions, Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.*



**Reflection**

Sunday O how great was the fearlessness of the holy men and holy women! When we read about their lives, both shame and pride is awakened in us unwillingly - shame that we have lagged so far behind them and pride that they are of our Christian race. Neither sickness, nor prison, nor exile, nor suffering, nor humiliation, nor the sword, nor the abyss, nor fire, nor the gallows were able to shake the exalted peace of their souls, firmly attached to Christ, the Helmsman of the universe and human history.

*Adopted from the Book, The Prologue From Ochrid, by Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic*

**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!

## VI MATINS GOSPEL READING:

Luke 24: 36-53

At that time, having risen from the dead, Jesus went up and stood among His disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish [and some honeycomb], and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name in all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the Temple blessing God.

## DISMISSAL HYMNS-KONTAKIA OF THE DAY

### Resurrectional Apolytikion, Plagal 1st Tone

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross, and, death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.

### Apolytikion for the Prophet, 4th Tone

The angel incarnate and the Prophets' pedestal, the second Forerunner of the coming of Christ, Elias the glorious, sent down to Elisha the divine grace from heaven. He drives away diseases and he cleanses lepers. Therefore he pours out healings to those who honor him

## ΣΤ' ΕΩΘΙΝΟΝ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ:

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 24:36-53

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀναστὰς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκ νεκρῶν ἔστη ἐν μέσῳ τῶν Μαθητῶν, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Πτοηθέντες δὲ καὶ ἔμφοβοι γενόμενοι, ἐδόκουν πνεῦμα θεωρεῖν. Καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Τί τεταραγμένοι ἐστέ, καὶ διατί διαλογισμοὶ ἀναβαίνουνσιν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; ἴδετε τὰς χεῖράς μου καὶ τοὺς πόδας μου, ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐγὼ εἰμι, ψηλαφήσατέ με καὶ ἴδετε, ὅτι πνεῦμα σὰρκα καὶ ὀστέα οὐκ ἔχει, καθὼς ἐμέ θεωρεῖτε ἔχοντα. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν, ἐπέδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τοὺς πόδας. Ἐπι δὲ ἀπιστούντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς, καὶ θαυμαζόντων, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐχετε τι βρώσιμον ἐνθάδε; Οἱ δὲ ἐπέδωκαν αὐτῷ ἰχθύος ὀπτοῦ μέρος, καὶ ἀπὸ μελισσίου κηρίου. Καὶ λαβὼν, ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν ἔφαγεν. Εἶπε δὲ αὐτοῖς· Οὗτοι οἱ λόγοι, οὓς ἐλάλησα πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐπι ὧν σὺν ὑμῖν, ὅτι δεῖ πληρωθῆναι πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ νόμῳ Μωσέως καὶ Προφήταις καὶ Ψαλμοῖς περὶ ἐμοῦ. Τότε διηνοίξεν αὐτῶν τὸν νοῦν, τοῦ συνιέναι τὰς Γραφάς· καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ὅτι οὕτω γέγραπται, καὶ οὕτως εἶδει παθεῖν τὸν Χριστόν, καὶ ἀναστῆναι ἐκ νεκρῶν τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ, καὶ κηρυχθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν καὶ ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, ἀρξάμενον ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ. Ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐστε μάρτυρες τούτων. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς μου ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· ὑμεῖς δὲ καθίστατε ἐν τῇ πόλει Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἕως οὗ ἐνδύσησθε δύναμιν ἐξ ὕψους. Ἐξήγαγε δὲ αὐτοὺς ἔξω εἰς Βηθανίαν, καὶ ἐπάρας τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ, εὐλόγησεν αὐτούς. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εὐλογεῖν αὐτὸν αὐτούς, διέστη ἀπ' αὐτῶν, καὶ ἀνεφέρετο εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. Καὶ αὐτοὶ, προσκυνήσαντες αὐτόν, ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης. Καὶ ἦσαν διαπαντός ἐν τῷ Ἱερῷ, αἰνοῦντες καὶ εὐλογοῦντες τὸν Θεόν. Ἀμήν.

## ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ-KONTAKION ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ

### Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον, Ἦχος πλ. α'

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείρει τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

### Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Προφήτου, Ἦχος δ'

Ὁ ἔνσαρκος ἄγγελος, τῶν Προφητῶν ἡ κρητὶς, ὁ δεῦτερος Πρόδρομος τῆς παρουσίας Χριστοῦ, Ἡλίας ὁ ἐνδοξος, ἄνωθεν καταπέμψας, Ἐλισαίῳ τὴν χάριν, νόσους ἀποδιώκει, καὶ λεπρούς καθαρίζει· διὸ καὶ τοῖς τιμῶσιν αὐτὸν βρούει ἰάματα.

**Dismissal Hymn of the Most Holy Lady, Prousiotissa,  
1st Tone**

By your icon of Prousa you stand forth as a protectress of Greece, and a worker of dread wonders, O Immaculate Mariam, you who restore the sight of the blind and make firm the paralytics. You cast out demons, O good one, you saved those who fell off high cliffs, and heal all who flee to you crying out: Glory unto your childbirth without seed, Glory to Him that has made you wondrous. Glory to Him that works such manner of marvels through you.

**Dismissal Hymn of St. George the Great Martyr, 4th Tone**

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George; intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

**Kontakion, 2nd Tone**

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

**ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ: ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ 5: 10-20**

**ΠΡΟΚΕΙΜΕΝΟΝ:** You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**ΒΕΡΣΗ:** The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies my footstool.

**B**RETHREN, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation. Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one

**Απολυτίκιον Παναγίας Προυσιωτίσσης,  
Ἦχος α'**

Τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἀπάσης Σὺ προΐστασαι πρόμαχος καὶ τερατουργός ἐξαισίῳν τῇ ἐκ Προύσσης εἰκόνι Σου, Πανάχραντε Παρθένε Μαριάμ καὶ γὰρ φωτίζεις ἐν τάχει τοὺς τυφλοὺς δεινοὺς τε ἀπελαύνεις δαίμονας· καὶ παραλύτους δέ συσφίγγεις, Ἀγαθὴ, κρημνῶν τε σῶζεις καὶ πάσης βλάβης τοὺς Σοὶ προσφεύγοντας. Δόξα τῷ Σῷ ἄσπῳρω τοκετῷ, δόξα τῷ Σέ θαυμαστώσαντι, δόξα τῷ ἐνεργοῦντι διὰ Σοῦ τοιαῦτα θαύματα.

**Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος Γεωργίου, Ἦχος δ'**

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτής, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστής, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

**Κοντάκιον, Ἦχος β'**

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἢ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

**ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ 5:10-20**

**ΠΡΟΚΕΙΜΕΝΟΝ:** Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

**ΣΤΙΧΟΣ:** Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου· Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθροὺς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου.

**Α**δελφοί, ὑπόδειγμα λάβετε, ἀδελφοί μου, τῆς κακοπαθείας, καὶ τῆς μακροθυμίας, τοὺς προφήτας οἱ ἐλάλησαν τῷ ὀνόματι κυρίου. Ἰδοὺ, μακαρίζομεν τοὺς ὑπομένοντας· τὴν ὑπομονὴν ἰὼβ ἠκούσατε, καὶ τὸ τέλος κυρίου ἴδετε, ὅτι πολὺσπλαγχνός ἐστιν καὶ οἰκτιρῶν. Πρὸ πάντων δέ, ἀδελφοί μου, μὴ ὀμνύετε, μήτε τὸν οὐρανόν, μήτε τὴν γῆν, μήτε ἄλλον τινὰ ὄρκον· ἦτω δὲ ὑμῶν τὸ ναί, ναί, καὶ τὸ οὐ, οὐ· ἵνα μὴ εἰς ὑπόκρισιν πέσητε. Κακοπαθεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν; Προσευχέσθω. Εὐθυμεῖ τις; Ψαλλέτω. Ἀσθενεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν; Προσκαλεσάσθω τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας, καὶ προσευξάσθωσαν ἐπ' αὐτόν, ἀλείψαντες αὐτὸν ἐλαίῳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου· καὶ ἡ εὐχὴ τῆς πίστεως σώσει τὸν κάμνοντα, καὶ ἐγερεῖ αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος· κὰν ἁμαρτίας ἧ πεπονηκώς, ἀφεθήσεται αὐτῷ.

another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:1-8**

**A**t that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλοις τὰ παραπτώματα, καὶ εὐχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε. Πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη. Ἡλίας ἄνθρωπος ἦν ὁμοιοπαθῆς ἡμῖν, καὶ προσευχῇ προσηύξατο τοῦ μὴ βρέξαι· καὶ οὐκ ἔβρεξεν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐνιαυτοὺς τρεῖς καὶ μῆνας ἕξ. Καὶ πάλιν προσηύξατο, καὶ ὁ οὐρανὸς ὑετὸν ἔδωκεν, καὶ ἡ γῆ ἐβλάστησεν τὸν καρπὸν αὐτῆς. Ἀδελφοί, ἐάν τις ἐν ὑμῖν πλανηθῇ ἀπὸ τῆς ἀληθείας, καὶ ἐπιστρέψῃ τις αὐτόν, γινωσκέτω ὅτι ὁ ἐπιστρέψας ἀμαρτωλὸν ἐκ πλάνης ὁδοῦ αὐτοῦ σώσει ψυχὴν ἐκ θανάτου, καὶ καλύψει πλῆθος ἀμαρτιῶν.

### **ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: ΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΝ 9: 1-8**

**Τ**ῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικὸν ἐπὶ κλίνης βεβλημένον· καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν εἶπε τῷ παραλυτικῷ· θάρσει, τέκνον· ἀφέωνται σοι αἱ ἀμαρτίαι σου. καὶ ἰδοὺ τινες τῶν γραμματέων εἶπον ἐν ἑαυτοῖς· οὗτος βλασφημεῖ. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί γάρ ἐστιν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν, ἀφέωνται σοι αἱ ἀμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ περιπάτει; ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἀμαρτίας - τότε λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· ἐγερθεὶς ἄρον σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὑπάγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἐγερθεὶς ἀπήλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐθαύμασαν καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν Θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

### **THE METROPOLITAN'S MESSAGE ON THE SUNDAY JULY 20TH**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, This Sunday (July 20th) our Church commemorates two great Saints: one ancient, and one from our own time. Concerning the first, we only need to read the universal Epistle of Saint James: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest" (James 5:16-18). Concerning the second, Mother Maria Skobtsova, New-Martyr of France, we must return to the beginning of the Epistle: "Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord..." (James 5:11) Mother Maria's life is a testament to the power of endurance through faith. She was born Elizaveta Pilenko, in 1891, in Latvia. Though she was raised by pious Orthodox Christian parents, she lost her faith as a teenager, after her father fell asleep in the Lord. She then sought to find the answers to life's problems through art and politics--becoming an accomplished poet and marrying a prominent Bolshevik. However, her hunger for fulfillment led her to the conclusion that action was more important than thought, and her practice of serving the needy eventually brought her back to Christ. Following the Russian Revolution, she fled to Paris, where a series of tragedies changed her life. The death of her young daughter deepened her faith, and when her second marriage ended, the Metropolitan of Paris, suggested that she be tonsured as a nun (giving her the name Maria), which would allow her to continue her charitable work in the world. She founded a home which served meals for the homeless, single mothers, and those struggling with

abuse or addiction. By 1937, her home was serving 120 dinners a day, and she herself was cooking the soup, begging for food, and creating the icons for their chapel. Of course, within a few years' time the Second World War would begin, and Mother Maria would find herself in an occupied land. However, she chose not only to remain in Paris, but to continue her charitable work, in ways that were dangerous to her life. She began to assist the Jews of France by creating fake baptismal certificates for them. When nearly 13,000 French Jews were arrested, Mother Maria visited them for three days in the sports stadium where they were being imprisoned, bringing them food, and even rescuing children, by smuggling them out of trash cans. For all these noble works (including helping Jews escape into unoccupied southern France) Mother Maria was arrested in February 1943 and deported to the Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany. Mother Maria did not allow these circumstances to alter her fundamental spirit: she continued leading group discussions on literature and theology for her fellow prisoners. On March 31, 1945 (that year, Holy Saturday), shortly before the camp was to be liberated by the Allies, Mother Maria was taken to the gas chambers; some suggest that she took the place of a Jewish prisoner. My dear brothers and sisters, in some respects these twin feasts concern Saints who were unafraid to defy those who held earthly power. This was as true of Elijah, who rebuked the immorality of the royal family of Israel, as it was for Mother Maria in her own time. How, we ask ourselves, were they able to accomplish their Godly work, without giving in to fear? Would we ourselves be able to do this? And I humbly suggest that we turn back to St. James's words about the prophets, completing the thought that I allowed to be left unfinished: "You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). In the face of life's struggles, this may be difficult to remember, but surely Elijah held fast to his belief in a compassionate and merciful God, as he prayerfully waited for God to provide food through the ravens; and Mother Maria likewise never abandoned her understanding of what it meant to be a Christian, imitating Christ's willingness to lay down his life for our brothers and sisters. May these two great Saints continue to intercede for us and remind us of God's great compassionate love for us, both now, and always.

✠ SEVASTIANOS METROPOLITAN OF ATLANTA

## SAINTS WHOSE MEMORY IS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



THE PHOPHET ELIJAH, the God-seer, miracle-worker, and zealot, was born in Ancient Israel in the city of Thisbe, during the 9th Century BC. The Prophet Elias confronted the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. Queen Jezebel had initiated the worship of the Phoenician deity Baal in Israel. Through great miracles, Elias displayed the power and authority of God. He closed up the heavens, so that there was no rain for three years and six months; he called fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice to God, which the pagan priests were unable to do for their false god, Baal. With his prayer, Elias brought rain back to Israel. Additionally, he miraculously provided food during the famine for a widow in Zarephath, and resurrected her dead son; He encountered God's presence on Mount Horeb. Finally, he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. On Mount Tabor, he appeared together with Moses beside our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the world, St. Elias will appear again to rebuke the power of the Antichrist (Revelation, Chapter 11). His Memory is celebrated on July 20th.



SAINT MARY MAGDALENE, the Myrrh-bearing woman and "Equal to the Apostles," was born in the town of Magdala. She was tormented by seven evil spirits--from which the Lord Jesus freed her. She was a faithful follower of the Lord during His earthly life. After the death of the Lord, she visited His tomb, heard the angel proclaiming Resurrection, and then she saw the Risen Lord. She traveled to Rome and appeared before the Emperor Tiberius. Her appearance before the Emperor is associated with the Paschal Tradition of red eggs. Leaving Rome, she returned to Ephesus to assist St. John the Theologian in the work of preaching the Gospel. With great love and zeal for the Faith, she proclaimed the Holy Gospel to the world as a true apostle of Christ. She died peacefully in Ephesus. Her Memory is celebrated on July 22nd.

## Αποστολικό Ανάγνωσμα Κυριακής Καθολική Επιστολή Ιακώβου, ε' 10-20

**Α**δερφοί μου, πάρτε για παράδειγμα καρτερικότητας στις θλίψεις τους προφήτες, που μίλησαν στο όνομα του Κυρίου. Καλοτυγχίζουμε εκείνους που δείχνουν υπομονή. Ακούσατε για την υπομονή του Ιώβ και γνωρίζετε ποιο τέλος τού επιφύλαξε ο Κύριος, γιατί ο Κύριος είναι γεμάτος ευσπλαχνία και έλεος. Προπαντός, αδερφοί μου, να μην ορκίζεστε ούτε στον ουρανό ούτε στη γη ούτε να κάνετε κανέναν άλλο όρκο. Ας είναι το «ναι» σας πραγματικό ναι και το «όχι» σας πραγματικό όχι, για να μη βρεθείτε κατηγορούμενοι στην τελική κρίση. Βρίσκεται κανένας σας σε δύσκολη θέση; Να προσεύχεται. Είναι κάποιος χαρούμενος; Να υμνεί το Θεό. Είναι κάποιος από σας άρρωστος; Να προσκαλέσει τους πρεσβυτέρους της εκκλησίας να προσευχηθούν γι' αυτόν και να τον αλείψουν με λάδι, επικαλούμενοι το όνομα του Κυρίου. αι η προσευχή που γίνεται με πίστη θα σώσει τον άρρωστο· ο Κύριος θα τον κάνει καλά. Κι αν έχει κάνει αμαρτίες, θα του τις συγχωρήσει. Να εξομολογείστε τις αμαρτίες σας ο ένας στον άλλο και να προσεύχεστε ο ένας για τον άλλο, για να θεραπευτείτε. Η παράκληση του δικαίου έχει μεγάλη δύναμη και αποτελεσματικότητα. Ο Ηλίας ήταν άνθρωπος σαν κι εμάς και προσευχήθηκε να μη βρέξει, και δεν έβρεξε πάνω στη γη τρία χρόνια κι έξι μήνες. Και προσευχήθηκε ξανά, κι ο ουρανός έδωσε βροχή, και βλάστησε η γη το σπόρο που είχε μέσα της. Αδερφοί μου, αν κάποιος από σας ξεστρατίσει από την αλήθεια και κάποιος άλλος τον επαναφέρει, πρέπει να ξέρει ότι αυτός που επανέφερε έναν αμαρτωλό από τον πλανεμένο δρόμο του θα σώσει μια ψυχή από το θάνατο και θα την απαλλάξει από πλήθος αμαρτίες.

## Ευαγγελικό Ανάγνωσμα Κυριακής Κατα Ματθαιον θ' 1-8

Ο Ιησούς επιβιβάστηκε στο πλοίο, διέσχισε τη λίμνη και ήρθε στην πόλη του. ότε του έφεραν έναν παράλυτο ξαπλωμένο σ' ένα κρεβάτι. Όταν είδε ο Ιησούς την πίστη τους, είπε στον παράλυτο: «Θάρρος, παιδί μου, σου συγχωρήθηκαν οι αμαρτίες σου». Τότε μερικοί από τους γραμματείς είπαν μέσα τους: «Μα αυτός προσβάλλει το Θεό». Ο Ιησούς όμως, που κατάλαβε τις σκέψεις τους, είπε: «Γιατί κάνετε πονηρές σκέψεις; ι είναι ευκολότερο να πω: “σου συγχωρούνται οι αμαρτίες” ή να πω: “σήκω και περπάτα”; Για να μάθετε λοιπόν πως ο Υιός του Ανθρώπου έχει την εξουσία να συγχωρεί αμαρτίες πάνω στη γη» —λέει στον παράλυτο: «Σήκω, πάρε το κρεβάτι σου και πήγαινε στο σπίτι σου». Εκείνος σηκώθηκε και πήγε στο σπίτι του. Όταν ο κόσμος το είδε αυτό έμειναν κατάπληκτοι και δοξολόγησαν το Θεό, που έδωσε τέτοια εξουσία στους ανθρώπους.

## Άγιοι που Εορτάζουν αυτή την Εβδομάδα



**Ο ΕΝΔΟΞΟΣ ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ**, ο Ζηλωτής, γεννήθηκε και έζησε στο αρχαίο Ισραήλ κατά τον 9ο αιώνα π.χ. Καταγόταν από την πόλη Θίσβη (Θεσβίτης). Ενατινώθηκε στο Βασιλιά του Ισραήλ Αχαάβ και τη δόλια συζυγό του Ιεζάβελ. Η Βασίλισσα Ιεζάβελ είχε εισαγάγει στο Ισραήλ τη λατρεία της Φοινικικής θεότητας του Βαάλ. Ο Ηλίας με στερρά πίστη και θαυμαστά σημεία έδειξε τη δύναμη του μόνου και αληθινού Θεού. Έκλεισε τους ουρανούς και δεν έβρεξε σταγόνα για τρεισήμισι χρόνια, κατέβασε φωτιά από τους ουρανούς με την προσευχή του και με την προσευχή του έφερε και πάλι βροχή και ευφορία στο Ισραήλ. Ευρισκόμενος στο όρος Χωρήβ, αισθάνθηκε την παρουσία του Θεού, μέσα στην πνοή μιας λεπτής και δροσερής αύρας.

Επιπλέον, με θαυμαστό τρόπο έθρεψε την χήρα που τον φιλοξένησε σ' ο σπίτι της στην πόλη Σαρεπτά και ανέστησε το γιο της όταν εκείνος πέθανε ξαφνικά. Τέλος, ανελέφθη στους ουρανούς με τέθριππο πυρφόρο άρμα. Κατά τη Μεταμόρφωση του Σωτήρος Χριστού, εμφανίστηκε να στέκεται δίπλα στον Κύριο μαζί με τον Θεόπτη Μωυσή. Ο Προφήτης Ηλίας θα εμφανιστεί και πάλι κατά τις έσχατες μέρες για να ελέγξει την εξουσία του Αντιχρίστου (Αποκάλυψη Κεφ. 11). Η Μνήμη του τιμάται στις 20 Ιουλίου.



ΑΓΙΑ ΜΑΡΙΑ Η ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗ, η Μυροφόρα και Ισαπόστολος, γεννήθηκε στην πόλη Μάγδαλα της Παλαιστίνης. Βασανιζόταν από επτά διαμόνια, από τα οποία την ελευθέρωσε ο Κύριος. Υπήρξε πιστή μαθήτρια του Χριστού καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια της επίγειας δράσης Του. Μετά τόν θάνατο και την Ανάστασή Του, επισκέφθηκε τον Πανάγιο Τάφο, όπου είδε και άκουσε άγγελο Κυρίου να αγγέλει την Ανάταση του Σωτήρος. Ύστερα είδε και τον Αναστημένο Χριστό. Ταξίδεψε στη Ρώμη και παρουσιάστηκε προ του θρόνου του Αυτοκράτορα Τιβερίου. Η παρουσία της στο παλάτι του Ρωμαίου Αυτοκράτορα συνδέεται με την Πασχάλια παράδοση των κόκκινων αυγών. Από τη Ρώμη μετέβη στην Έφεσο, όπου συνέδραμε τον Άγιο Ιωάννη Θεολόγο στη διάδοση του Ευαγγελίου. Με αγάπη και ζήλο για την πίστη κήρυξε το Ευαγγέλιο σαν Ισαπόστολος. Εκοιμήθη ειρηνικά στην Έφεσο. Η Μνήμη της τιμάται στις 22 Ιουλίου.