



O John, the Apostle who reclined against the chest of the Master and made the word fall on the world like rain, who watched over the Virgin as the apple of your eyes, ask Christ that we may receive great mercy.

Lete of the feast



Beholder of revelations past speech, spokesman of the mysteries of God on high, John, the son of Zebedee, has written down the Gospel Christ for us; he has taught us to acknowledge God as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Sticheron, Vespers

O apostle and evangelist of Christ, John the Theologian, you penetrated unspeakable theology and thundered forth your teachings to us, plainly declaring them as a beloved friend and companion of Christ, as Isaiah and Moses, who say God. In your boldness before Him, pray earnestly for us

Aposticha, Vespers



St. Ignatios of Antioch Melkite Church

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1st Sunday of Holy Cross Sept. 26, 2010

Tone: 1

Eothinon: 7

Today

First Sunday of Holy Cross

Commemoration of the Repose of the Apostle and Evangelist, John the Theologian (3rd Class)

First Sunday of the Gospel Cycle of Luke, which runs from the First Sunday of Holy Cross until Forgiveness Sunday

This Week

Sept. 27, Tues. Ladies Dinner, 6:30 PM, place TBA

Oct.

Oct. 23, Sat. Liturgy of St. James, 10 AM

News and Events in our CSRA Catholic Family

There is a new woman's ministry in town. It's called MAGNIFICAT and has been approved by the Latin Bishop of Savannah, J. Kevin Boland. If you are interested, there is a Coffee scheduled at St. Mary on the Hill Parish Hall for Saturday, October 2, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Guest speaker is Olga Myers from Dunwoody, GA. She is Magnificat SE Regional Representative. RSVP at 706-796-3577 or 706-793-7174.

*Publicans' Prayers on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 11:00 AM
And on First Saturdays at 5:00 PM*

Sunday

Orthros 9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

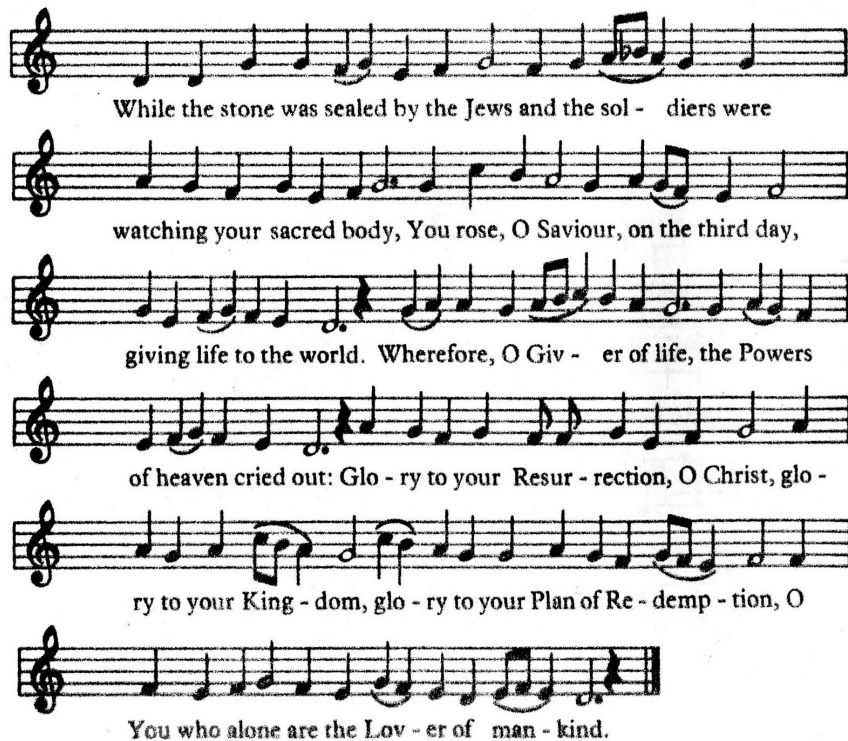
Daily

Vespers 5:30 PM

This Sunday's Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns:

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 1



While the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were
watching your sacred body, You rose, O Saviour, on the third day,
giving life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of life, the Powers
of heaven cried out: Glory to your Resurrection, O Christ, glory
to your Kingdom, glory to your Plan of Redemption, O
You who alone are the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of our patron, St. Ignatios of Antioch

Kontakion of the season: *O never-failing protectress...*

Epistle: 1 John 4:12-19, Page 399

Gospel of the 1st Sunday of Holy Cross, Luke 5: 1-11
(*Call of the Apostles*)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

At that time Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats moored by the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the

When John first met Jesus on the shore of the Jordan River, he was a disciple of the Baptist. When Jesus called him and his brother James they were mending their nets with their father Zebedee. According to the Holy Gospel, Peter, James and John were the three apostles closest to Christ, and especially John who designates himself as “the apostle Jesus loved.” At the Last Supper, this love permitted John to rest his head on the Lord’s breast and to ask Him the secret He wanted to keep from the other apostles. Before He died, the Lord entrusted John to his Mother and his Mother to John, so that they would be like mother and son. James lost his life in the year 44, killed by the order of King Agrippa. John participated in 51 in the council of Jerusalem, where the apostles decided to preach the Gospel to all nations and to free the Gentiles from the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law. Towards the end of the century, John lived in Asia Minor, visiting and strengthening the local churches with full and uncontested authority. Under the persecution of Emperor Domitian, he was exiled to the Island of Patmos where he wrote his book of “Revelations,” the Apocalypse. In the year 96, when Nerva (Nero) became Emperor, John returned to Ephesus where he composed his Gospel in Greek, and then died in the Lord.

The death of John is known in the Greek Church as his “dormition,” because some ancient writers believed he had been assumed bodily into heaven. Others use the expression “dormition” or “assumption” in reference only to his soul.

John is called “the Theologian” because his writings – the Gospel, three Epistles and the Book of Revelations – prove him to be “the breath of the Holy Spirit,” always filled with “the Word of Life,” Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Light and Life of the world.

Archbishop Joseph Raya, *Byzantine Daily Worship*

Resounding like thunder, your tongue expresses the hidden wisdom of God. O beloved Apostle, you open your mouth and say to us, “In the beginning was the Word!” You give light to all men to lead them to the knowledge of God. Sticheron, *Vespers*

miracles he converted many to Christianity and shook paganism to its foundation. The embittered pagans bound him and sent him to Rome, to face Emperor Dometian. Dometian had him tortured and flogged, but neither the bitterest poison he was given to drink, nor the boiling oil into which he was thrown, did him any harm. This terrified the emperor and, thinking him immortal, Dometian sent him into exile to the island of Patmos. There St. John converted many to Christianity by words and miracles, and confirmed well the Church of God. He also wrote his Gospel and Revelation on Patmos. In the time of Emperor Nero, who granted freedom to all prisoners, John returned to Ephesus, where he lived for some time, confirming the work he had begun earlier. He was over one hundred years old when he went to the Lord. When his disciples later opened his grave, they did not find his body. On May 8 of every year, a fine dust, fragrant and healing, rose from his grave. After a long, laborious and fruitful life on earth, this beloved disciple of Christ, a true pillar of the Church, took up his habitation in the joy of His Lord.

Bp. Nikolai Velimirovic, *Prologue of Ohrid*



boats, the one that was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And sitting down, he began to teach the crowds from the boat. But when he had stopped speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch." And Simon answered and said to him, "Master, the whole night through we have toiled and have taken nothing; but at your word I will lower the net." And when they had done so, they caught a great number of fishes, but their net was breaking. And they called to their comrades in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord," For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had made; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all and followed him.

Hymn to the Theotokos: *It is truly right...*

Communion Hymn: *Praise the Lord...*

First Sunday of Luke

In the Eastern church, the Sunday Gospel reading is prescribed by a lectionary, an annual cycle of readings from the four Evangelists. There is evidence that this cycle has remained unchanged at least from the seventh century. The basic schedule (interrupted for certain feasts and occasions) is:

St. John's Gospel: Pascha to Pentecost

St. Matthew's Gospel: Pentecost Monday until the Holy Cross

St. Luke's Gospel: Sunday after the Cross until Forgiveness Sunday

St. Mark's Gospel: Great Lent

The feast of the Nativity of Christ is the most ancient of the feasts celebrated on fixed dates of the year.

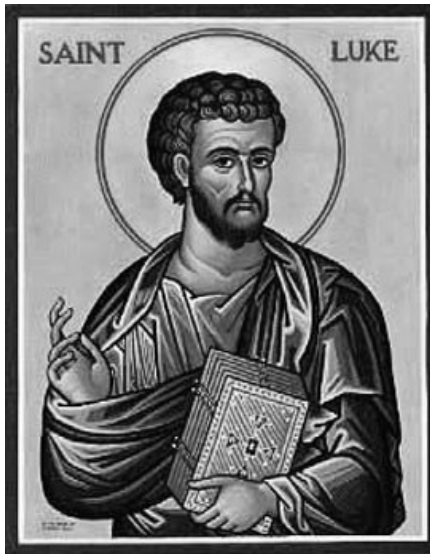
The establishment of this feast on the 25th of December soon

gave rise to the appearance of the feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos on the 25th of March, as the day of the conception of Jesus Christ by her. But the event of the Annunciation took place in the sixth month after the conception of John the Forerunner (Luke 1:26), following the appearance of the angel to Saint Zacharias.

On the basis of this, two feasts were established: the Conception of John the Forerunner, 23 September; and his Nativity, 24 June. Only the Evangelist Luke recounts both of these sacred events, which preceded the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Therefore, the Church has prescribed that the Gospel for Monday of the 18th Week (of Pentecost)—Lucan pericope 10—be read on the Monday following the Sunday after the Exaltation and that the sequential reading of the Gospel according to Luke continue thenceforth.

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Cycle of Saint Luke

After the steady growth and maturity of nature in summer comes the time of the harvest. Nature gives of her bounties, and man gathers all that he will need for his sustenance. It is time for the

Christian to enter into the life of the Father and become a *Paterophore*, a bearer of the Father. Luke stresses his Master's love of sinners and records many instances of forgiveness, of Christ's tenderness for the lowly and the poor. Also, St. Luke shows Christ's severity toward the proud and toward those who abuse their wealth. Another lesson we gather from Saint Luke, which Matthew and Mark did not mention, is joy in God and gratitude for his gifts.

Sunday after Sunday the church reads these episodes at the holy and divine Liturgy in order to reproduce these attitudes of Christ in our lives so that we may become one with the Father—*Paterophores*.

Lastly, Luke insists on the necessity of prayer (for which the Lord Jesus sets the example), on repentance, and on the treatment of self with unflinching detachment, especially from riches. Thus we are led into the period of Lent and the cycle of Saint Mark.

Abundance of Love, Archbishop Joseph Raya

September 26: Commemoration of the repose of the Apostle and Evangelist, John the Theologian (also called the Translation, the Falling Asleep, and the Passing)

John was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Theotokos. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and his fishermen's nets and, with his brother James, followed Christ. From then on, he was not separated from his Lord until the end. With Peter and James, he was present at the raising of Jairus's daughter and the Transfiguration of the Lord. At the Last Supper, he inclined his head on Jesus' breast. When all the other apostles had abandoned the crucified Lord, John and the Holy Mother of God remained beneath the Cross. In obedience to the Lord, he was as a son to the Holy Virgin Mary, and carefully served and watched over her until her Dormition. After her Dormition, John took his disciple Prochorus to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor. He lived and labored mostly in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and