

rest and refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task...Or, to give another example: when a king is coming, at first his banner and symbols appear, then he himself comes glad and rejoicing about his victory and filling with joy those under him; likewise, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is about to show us His victory over death, ...is sending to us in advance His scepter, the royal symbol—the Life-Giving Cross—and it fills us with joy and makes us ready to meet, inasmuch as it is possible for us, the King himself. ...for the Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is the tree that was planted in Paradise, and for this reason our fathers have planted it in the midst of Holy Lent, remembering both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived of it, remembering also that partaking of this Tree we no longer die but are kept alive...



On this day, the third Sunday of the Fast, we celebrate the feast of the veneration of the precious and life-giving Cross.

Let the whole creation bow down in worship before You,  
O Word, as it venerates Your life-giving Cross.

Wherefore, through its power, O Christ our God, protect us against the snares of the evil one, make us worthy to pass safely through the struggle of the Fast. May we adore Your divine Passion and Your life-giving Resurrection. Have mercy on us, for You alone are good and the Lover of Mankind.

Synaxarion

## St. Ignatios of Antioch Melkite Church

1003 Merry St., Augusta, GA 30904  
 Parish Administrator: Fr. Miguel Grave de Peralta  
 Parish: 706-738-9388      www.melkite.net      Priest: 706-993-6279

***Sunday of the Holy Cross      Mar. 27, 2011***

Tone: 3

Eothinon: 11

### Today

Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

20 min. Class on Baptism (DVD series, Fr. David Anderson)

### This Week

Wed. 6:30 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,  
 Followed by potluck supper

Fri. 6:30 PM, Fourth Akathist

### April

Sat., April 16 Lazaros Saturday, Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Sun., April 17 Palm Sunday

Sun., April 24 Pascha

*Publicans' Prayers on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 11:00 AM  
 And on 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Basil the Great

### **Antiphon Prayer** (Said at the end of the Great Synapte)

O Christ God, You chose of your own free will to be raised on the Cross for the sake of mankind. Have mercy on your people called after your name. Grant to the Church, your Mystical Body, to rejoice in your might. Safeguard all the peoples that You reconciled by your crucifixion. As for us, who have been sealed by the sign of your Cross, grant that we may not be proud of anything but of your Cross, bearing at all times in our hearts and our minds, the marks of your Holy Passion.

For You are our Light and our Sanctification, O Christ our God, and to You we render glory, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

### **Antiphons of the Feast:**

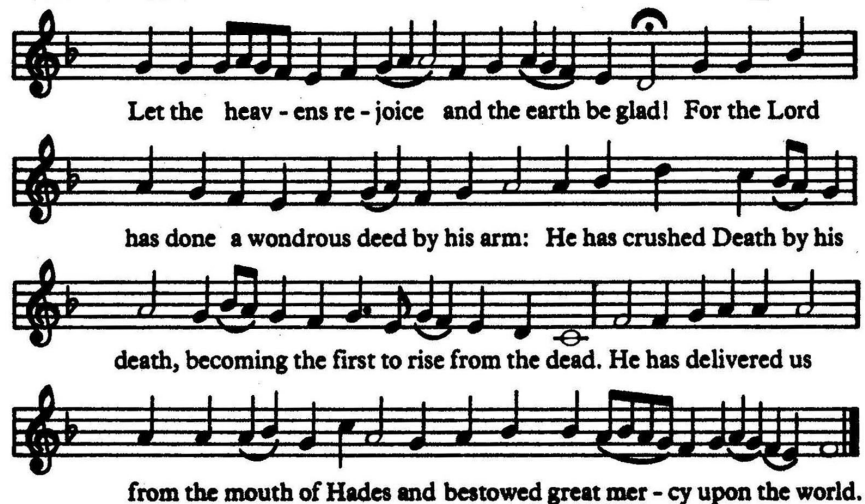
First Antiphon—usual response

Second Antiphon—usual response

Third Antiphon—Response is Troparion of the Feast

### **Hymns:**

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 3



Let the heav - ens re - joice and the earth be glad! For the Lord  
has done a wondrous deed by his arm: He has crushed Death by his  
death, becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us  
from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mer - cy upon the world.

And when we discover, whatever it may be, to set out to reject it out of our lives. It may be things that seem to be easy, or small, it may be things that are very heavy and difficult to reject. But we must not imagine that things which seem to be small things separate us *less* from God than those things which appear to be great to us... there is nothing which is small, and there is nothing which is great, if - and the 'if' is important - if we do not find a way of putting it aside....

There is a passage in the Great Canon in which it says, Let the hand of Moses covered with leper convince you that God can cleanse your own life which is covered in leper... Yes - if leper could be washed by an act of God, all leprosy which stains us, destroys us in soul, in body, which undermines the purity of our heart, darkens our soul, makes our will unfaithful to our *own* vocation and to the calling of God, all that can be *healed*.

And so we can enter into these days with hope, because *one sigh* of the Publican was enough to make him a child of the Kingdom, to restore him to wholeness. Let us bring at least *one sigh* from the depth of our heart - and salvation is ours... *Glory* be to God, *Glory* be to God in all things... Amen.



From the Synaxarion for the Sunday of the Holy Cross

On this Sunday...we celebrate the veneration of the honorable and Life-Giving Cross, and for this reason: inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves...and become bitter and despondent and failing, the Life-Giving Cross is presented to us for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion, and for comfort...We are like those following a long and cruel path, who become tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, continue their journey; likewise today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-Giving Cross was planted in our midst by the holy fathers to give us

**Hymn to the Theotokos:** In you, O Full of grace, all creation rejoices: the orders of angels, and the human race as well. O sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise and glory of virgins, from whom our God who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child. He has taken your womb as his throne making it more spacious than the heavens! Therefore, O Full of grace, in you all creation rejoices. Glory to you!

**Kinonikon:** Let the light of your countenance shine upon us, O Lord. Alleluia

**Instead of “We have seen the true Light...”** we sing the Troparion of the Cross.

### At the end of Divine Liturgy, Procession of the Holy Cross

---

#### Veneration of the Holy Cross of the Lord

Every major effort brings pain and fatigue. Discouragement sometimes

Excerpts from a homily of Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh on the Sunday of the Cross, 1989

His call to take up our cross and to follow Him is a call...to accept to be *true* disciples of Him, and also to do it in the certainty that He will never ask from us what He has not done or endured Himself. We can follow Him safely; we can follow Him with assurance, but also with a sense of peace in our heart and our mind.

And yet, this following is not devoid of tragedy because to be disciple of Christ we must, as the reading of the Epistle at our baptism warned us, die with Him in order to be risen with Him.

To die means to renounce, in an act of loyalty, of friendship, of solidarity with Him, of respect and veneration for Him, of recognition of the *cost* to Him for His love of us, to renounce everything which was the cause of His death. We must reflect on everything which is within us which makes us alien to God, unworthy of ourselves, unworthy of His love.

#### Troparion of the Holy Cross, Tone 1



O Lord, save your people and bless  
your in-her- i - tance, strengthen our  
Pub - blic Au-thor- i - ties in every  
good deed, and pro- tect your na- tion  
by the pow- er of your Cross .

#### Troparion of our patron, St. Ignatios of Antioch

#### Kontakion of the Annunciation, Tone 8



Tri - umphant Lea - der to you be - longs our  
prize of vic - to - ry! And since you saved us  
from ad - ver - si - ty we of - fer you our thanks

We are your peo- ple, O Mo- ther  
of God! So as you have that in- vin- ci-  
ble po- wer, con- ti- nue to de- li- ver us  
from dan- ger that we may cry out to you  
Hail, O Vir- gin and Bride e- ver pure

**Instead of the Trisagion:** We bow in worship before Your cross, O Master, and we give praise to Your holy resurrection.

**Epistle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

**Prokimenon (Tone 6)**

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

**Stichon:** To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

**Reading** from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Brethren, since we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, let us hold fast out profession of faith. For we

have not a high priest unable to pity our weaknesses, but one tried as we are in all things, save sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to have compassion on the ignorant and erring, because he himself also is beset with weakness, and therefore must make offerings for sin in his own behalf as in behalf of the people. And no one invests himself with this honor: only one who is called by God takes it, as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself with the high priesthood, but glorified the One who had spoken to him, “*You are my son, I this day have begotten you* (Ps. 2:7).” As he says also in another place, “*You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedek* (Ps. 109:4).”

**Alleluia (Tone 6)**

Remember your congregation which you have acquired from the beginning: you redeemed the scepter of your inheritance.

**Stichon:** God is our King forever: he brought about salvation in the midst of the earth.

**Gospel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Mark 8: 34-9:1**  
*(Taking up the daily cross)*

The Lord said: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father.” And he said to them, “Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power.”