

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

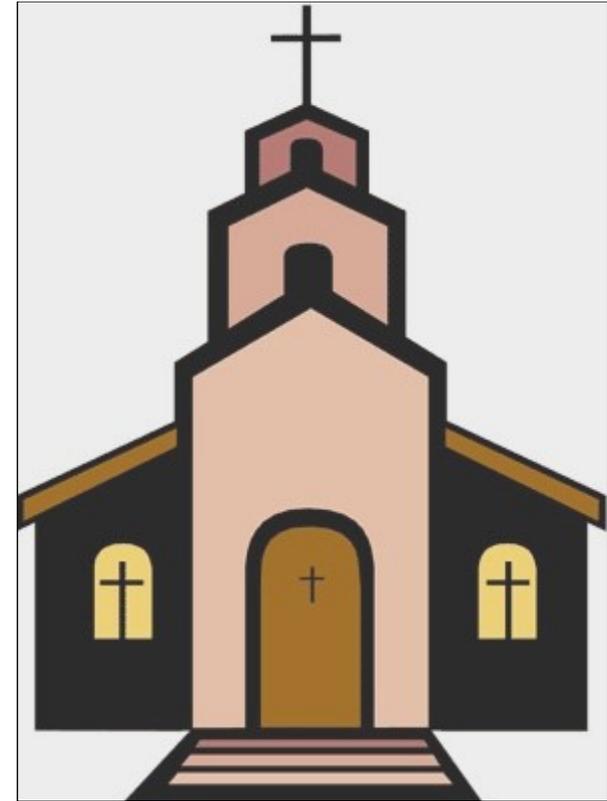


After her son ascended into heaven, scriptures have very little to say about the Theotokos. We know she was entrusted to the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, but aside from a brief mention of her being present in the Upper Room with the Apostles as they gathered in waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the New Testament says nothing more about her. Tradition tells us that the Virgin Mary, in effect, became the “first pilgrim,” making spiritual journeys to the sacred places that were so significant in the public ministry of our Lord. She became an inspiration to the early Christians, who eagerly sought to know more about Christ from the person who knew Him best.

Ultimately, the Theotokos learned she would leave this world in the same manner she received word she was to be the Mother of God: through a revelation from the Archangel Gabriel. Given three days to prepare for her departure from this earthly life, the Virgin longed to see the Apostles one last time. Only Thomas failed to arrive in Jerusalem prior to her death. When he reached Holy City three days later, Thomas begged to be given the opportunity to bid farewell to the Theotokos. When her tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane was opened, Mary’s body was nowhere to be found! That evening after dinner, the Apostles heard the singing of angels in the radiance of heavenly glory. Their joyful response was one that we are also encouraged to exclaim in times of tribulation and uncertainty: MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, HELP US!

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 13, 2017

10th Sunday of Matthew

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 521-7220 www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Office: office@greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

August 13, 2017

10th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Apodosis of the Transfiguration; Maximos the Confessor

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Metemorfothis (Transfiguration) Tone 7
You were transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, revealing Your Glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Also illuminate us sinners with Your everlasting Light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of Light, glory to You. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Tu lithu sfragisthentos (Hymn of the Day)
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews where the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. Wherefore the powers of heaven acclaimed You, o Giver of life. Glory to Your Resurrection O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your providence, You Who alone loves mankind. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Kontakion Tone 7
Epi tu Orus
Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading Matthew 17:14-23
At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal

him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Today

✠ SUN, 8/13– 10th Sunday of Matthew;

This Week

✠ MON, 8/14– Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

✠ TUE, 8/15– Dormition of the Theotokos: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

✠ SUN, 8/20– 11th Sunday of Matthew;

⇒ 36th Annual Greek Festival– August 26th thru August 27th

Aloha to All! The Greek Festival is upon us and volunteers are still needed for Admissions Gates. Please see Cleo Kritikos to sign up!

⇒Volunteers are needed today after Liturgy to help with the pastries for the festival and also on this Thursday 8/17 and Friday 8/18 starting at 9:30 a.m. 'til pau. (Lunch will be provided.) Please see Anita Akel-Soileu.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for this, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence."

~St. Maximos the Confessor (Celebrated today)

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.