



***Saint George The Great Martyr  
Eastern, Orthodox Church***

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**7<sup>th</sup> Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Afterfeast of the Ascension**

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs and the Saints bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ. But the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ. A certain enemies that the Lord warned us from (wolves in sheep Skin) had infiltrated the church from within. And the doctrine of the Church had to be defended and preserved. Arius was a Bishop, who falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being. A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, and condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops. Having been assured that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, the holy emperor Constantine decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered at Nicea; among the bishops were Saint Nicholas of Myra, and Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers? The emperor Constantine presided over the council's sessions, and Arius along with his supporters were excommunicated. The heresy of Arius was exposed as an error of false reasoning. In the Nicene Creed, the holy fathers confirmed the apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The Council also issued twelve canons on questions of church administration and discipline. It decided the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

**Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

**Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)**

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

**Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)**

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Troparion ST. George: You were.....Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

**Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,// It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

**Tone 6 Kontakion**

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying://“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

**Kontakion St. George.....Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Steadfast protectress of Christian**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Three Holy Children)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*) **V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)**

**Epistle (44) Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! **V. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Ps. 49:1) V. Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice! (Ps. 49:6)**

**Gospel (56) John 17:1-13**

**(Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:)** Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who hath ascended from earth to heaven! We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## Orthodox Saints Quotes

Our problem is not that we expect too much from God, but that our expectations are too low. We leave God out of our lives, except when we find ourselves in desperate straits. When confronted with a circumstance that is beyond our control, we find ourselves easily crying out to God for help. But in the course of our day to day lives, we tend to have low expectations of what God can accomplish. Such was the case with the disciples. The crowd was hungry. It was late in the day.. They were hungry. The need was great. Their resources were limited. It is in such a moment that God acts. Like the disciples, we look at the circumstances, and we conclude that there's nothing that can be done. But in the hands of the Lord, the smallest, most insignificant offering becomes the source for an overflowing abundance. “What are they among so many,?” the disciples ask. In His hands, our smallest offering becomes a source of life-giving blessing. **+Holy fathers teachings**

The thief who received the kingdom of heaven, though not as the reward of virtue, is a true witness to the fact that salvation is ours through the grace and mercy of God. All of our holy fathers knew this and all with one accord teach that perfection in holiness can be achieved only through humility. Humility, in its turn, can be achieved only through faith, fear of God, gentleness and the shedding of all possessions. It is by means of these that we attain perfect love, through the grace and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory through all the ages. Amen. **+ St. John Cassian,**

**+prayers for the livings: Archbishop Benjamin, Luca Nicholas, Grace and her parents, Daniel, Abbot Tryphon, the child of God Monika, Nick, Sam, Marleen and thier Family, Ruth, Debrutu, Alex Janice and their family Janice, Elizabeth, Daniel and their children, Vaso, Angela, Sonya and Dragosh, Timothy, Eric & Betsy and their Children, Michael, Eva, Sharalyn, Salwa & Steven, Adrian and his family, Mihali and Sophia, Marin, Maximos, and jonette.**

**Prayers for the Departed: all the orthodox that lies here and there sleep in the Lord.**

### REMINDER

**\*\*\* Fr. Boris will be serving the Divine Liturgy this Sunday the 13 th In CHRIST, always!**