Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.
Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:9-10, 32-40

Προκείμενον. Ἡχος δ’
 Dalyh. 3.26-27

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὄτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:9-10, 32-40 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρῴκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακὼβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἡ βασιλείας καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείψει γὰρ ἡ με δήησίμων ὁ θρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψὼν καὶ Ἰερώνη, Λεωνίδ τε καὶ Σαμουήλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἳ διὰ πίστεως κατηκονήσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐφέτυχον ἐπαγγελίαν, ἐφραζαν στόματα λεόντων, ἐξεβάζαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἀνάστασιν στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἄπαντας ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἱσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολάς ἐκλίναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκας ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἀξίους τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ὃν προσδέξαμεν διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττο τι προβλεψαμένου, ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις ὑστεροῦμεν, ἐν σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὕτωι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρίς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσί. 
The Gospel
According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Mathan, and Mathan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαίου 1:1-25

Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Βίβλος γενέσεως ᾿Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυὶδ υἱοῦ ᾿Αβραάμ. ᾿Αβραὰμ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ισαὰκ, ᾿Ισαὰκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιακώβ, ᾿Ιακὼβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, ᾿Ιουδᾶς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Φαρὲς καὶ τὸν ᾿Αμὶναδάβ, ᾿Αμὶναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Δαυὶδ, Δαυὶδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιωσαφάτ, ᾿Ιωσαφὰτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιωράμ, ᾿Ιωρὰμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Οζίαν, ᾿Οζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιωάθαμ, ᾿Ιωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Εζεκίαν, ᾿Εζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιωσίαν, ᾿Ιωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος.

Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος ᾿Ιεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιὴλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Αβιούδ, ᾿Αβιοὺδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ελιακείμ, ᾿Ελιακεὶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Αζὼρ, ᾿Αζὼρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Αχείμ, ᾿Αχείμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ελιούδ, ᾿Ελιοὺδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ελεάζαρ, ᾿Ελεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθὰν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιακώβ, ᾿Ιακὼβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾿Ιωσὴφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη ᾿Ιησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ ᾿Αβραὰμ ἕως Δαυὶδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυὶδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες.
HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrection Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy!

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἡγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

For the Forefeast. Mode 4.

As she carried in her womb * what she conceived without seed, * Mary went to Bethlehem * with elder Joseph to enroll, * for they were of the house and the lineage of David. * The time arrived for her * to give birth to her Child; * but then there was no place * in the inn for them. * Therefore the grotto served as a luxurious * royal palace for the Queen. * And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image * which was formerly fallen.

Ἀπεγράφετο ποτὲ, σὺν τῷ πρεσβύτῃ Ἰωσὴφ, ὡς ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυΐδ, ἐν Βηθλεὲμ ἡ Μαριάμ, κυοφοροῦσα τὴν ἄσπορον κυοφορίαν. Ἐπέστη δὲ καιρὸς ὁ τῆς Γεννήσεως, καὶ τόπος ἦν οὐδεὶς τῷ καταλύματι ἀλλ’ ὡς τερπνὸν παλάτιον τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῇ Βασιλίδι ἐδείκνυτο. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

For the Fathers. Mode 2.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ Άγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῦτα αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Apolytikion for the Church in the Plagal First Mode

Like a most fruitful olive tree you did blossom forth in the folds of the Lord, Sophia, martyr most pious! And to Christ you did bring sweetest fruit: the tender sprouts of your womb, through divine martyrdom, Agape, along with Hope and Faith. The God-minded with whom do you pray to God for all of us.

Advent Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin comes forth to give birth to God the Word ineffable. On this day she comes to the cave to give birth to Him who was before all. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings! Glory to Him from the Angels and with the shepherds, Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child, Who before all ages is God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τόν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀποῤῥήτως. Χόρειε ἢ οἰκουμένη ἄκουσθαι θαύματος, δόξαν μετὰ Αγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐπορθήναι, Παιδίον νέον, τόν πρὸ αἰώνιον Θεόν.
Sunday—December 24, 2023

Memorial
Fani Kousmanidis (40 Days)

Trisagion
Antonios Kousmanidis (12 Years)

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL
JOIN US TODAY
FOR COFFEE HOUR

COFFEE HOUR TODAY
Is Sponsored by the Family
In Memory Of
Fani Kousmanidis

A special thank you to the following members of our community who have volunteered to donate their time today to serve coffee:

Kathy Shiromos & Nikki Stamoulacatos
Church Services & Events for Today & the Upcoming Week

**Today ~ Christmas Eve**
Sunday before Nativity
8:45 am Orthros
9:00 am Royal Hours
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy for Nativity

**Christmas Day**
Monday ~ December 25, 2023
No Services

**Wednesday ~ December 27, 2023**
6:00 pm Paraklesis
7:00 pm Bible Study

**Thursday ~ December 28, 2023**
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday ~ December 30, 2023**
5:00 pm Great Vespers
6:00 pm Dinner Dance
Honoring Past & Present Parish Council Presidents

50th ANNIVERSARY

St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church
Consecration Dance

James Sakezes
Larry Tavlarides
Nick Dusckas
Dean Boucounis
Spiro Tzetzis
Dean Assimon
Andy Boucounis
Peter Lemoniades
Peter Manolakos

Greek Music from the Aegeans

Saturday, December 30th
6pm-11pm
325 Waring Road

Adult $30 Children under 13 Free
$40 after December 23rd

Serving heavy mezethes with a cash bar

Tickets online at stsophias.org or Eleni Kosmas 315-882-6507
AHEPA Chapter 37
is collecting
Monetary Donations
for

If you would like to make a cash or check contribution, please place it in the collection basket in the Narthex. Checks payable to “Toys For Tots”

For more information
contact George Nardone (315) 430-8996
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