



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

11th SUNDAY AFTER

PENTECOST — Tone 2. Holy

## Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Baptist (1st c.).

Martyrdom of Ven. Athanasius, Abbot of Bretsk (1648). Martyrdom of the Holy Passionbearer Gleb (in holy Baptism David—1015). Martyr Tathuil, and his sister, Bebaia (98-138). Martyr Sarbelus of Edessa (2nd c.). Martyrs Juventinus and Maximus the soldiers, at Antioch (361-363). Martyrs Urban, Theodore, Medimnus, and 77 companions, at Nicomedia (370). Martyr Abdias (Obadiah) of Persia (5th c.).

Lord's Day - 09-05-2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

### Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

### Tone 4 Troparion (Prophet Zachariah)

Robed in the vestments of the priesthood, according to the Law of God thou didst offer whole-burnt offerings in a sacred manner, wise Zachariah. Thou didst become a luminary and a seer of the mysteries, bearing within thyself the signs of grace, all-wise one. Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, intercede together with the Forerunner// that our souls may be saved!

### Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

### Tone 3 Kontakion (Prophet Zachariah)

Today the prophet Zachariah, priest of the Most High and parent of the Forerunner, has prepared a banquet to his memory to nourish the faithful, mixing the drink of righteousness//  
Therefore we praise him as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

### Tone 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

V. *The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*  
(Ps. 117:18)

### Tone 2

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

V. *May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee!* (Ps. 19:1)

V. *Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!* (Ps. 19:9)

## Holy Scripture:

### 1 Cor 9.2-12 (Epistle)

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

### Matt 18.23-35 (Gospel)

The Lord said this parable: the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ‘Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

## Holy Words

**The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth** were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was the sister of Saint Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, “walking in all the commandments of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who “will be great in the sight of the Lord” (Luke 1:15) and “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias” (Luke 1:17). Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name.

They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them.

Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth

hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

On the Greek calendar, Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth are also commemorated on June 24, the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

God gives His communion to all who love Him. Communion with God is life and light and sweetness with all the good things that He has. But those who of their own will forsake him he rewards with separation from Him, which they themselves have chosen. As separation from light is darkness, so also alienation from God is deprivation of all good things which He has. But the good things of God are eternal and without end, so that the loss of them is eternal and without end. Thus sinners shall be the cause of their own torments, just as the blind do not see the light, although it is shining on them.

(St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies, V.27)

Christians, always rejoice, for evil, death, sin, the devil and hell have been conquered by Christ. But when all of this is conquered, is there anyone in the world who can bring our joy to naught? You are the lord of this eternal rejoicing as long as you do not give in to sin. Joy burns in our hearts from His truth, love, resurrection, and from the Church and His saints. Joy burns in our hearts all because of sufferings for Him, mockings for Him, and death for Him, insofar as these sufferings write our names in heaven. There is no true joy on earth without the victory over death, but the victory over death does not exist without the Resurrection, and the Resurrection does not exist without Christ. The risen God-Man Christ, the founder of the Church, constantly pours out this joy into the hearts of His followers through the Holy Mysteries and good deeds. Our faith is fulfilled in this eternal joy, insofar as the joy of faith in Christ is the only true joy for human nature.

(St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I Thessalonians, 5)

It is joyful to feel that we do not and cannot have any enemies among men, but only unhappy brethren, who are deserving of pity and help, even when, through misunderstanding, they become our enemies and fight against us. Woe! They do not understand that the enemy is found within ourselves, and that first of all one must cast him out of oneself, and then also help others to do the same. We have only one enemy: the devil and his evil spirits. But man, no matter how far he has fallen, never loses certain sparks of light and goodness which may be blown into a bright flame. But for us there is no reason to fight against people, even when they consistently send against all kind of blows and rebukes ... To fight against people is to take a false position of our enemies. Even if we succeed, we gain nothing from this fight, but rather become estranged from our own success.

(Martyr Roman Medved, Letter to His Daughter from the Gulag, 1932).

A brother asked an elder: If I see my brother fall into sin, is good to hide him? The Elder answered: When, out of love, we hide the sin of our brother, then God also hides our sins; but when we show our brother's sin before others, then God also makes our sins known to people. (Ancient Patericon, 9.9)

To judge sins is the business of one who is sinless, but who is sinless except God? Who ever thinks about the multitude of his own sins in his heart never wants to make the sins of others a topic of conversation. To judge a man who has gone astray is a sign of pride, and God resists the proud. On the other hand, one who every hour prepares himself to give answer for his own sins will not quickly lift up his head to examine the mistakes of others.

(St. Gennadius of Constantinople, The Golden Chain, 53-55)

**Services and Activities** (Calendar changes see website)

[www.orthodoxcrossingville.org](http://www.orthodoxcrossingville.org)

Tues. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> - Great Vespers 6pm

Wed. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> - Divine Liturgy Nativity of the Theotokos

Sat. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - Trek 4 Missions - Presque Isle 2pm with Vespers and Service for 9/11 victims.

Sun. Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> -- Church School Program - 3 age levels

Sept. 13-14 Elevation of the Holy Cross

### **Our mission project this fall:**

As you are probably already aware, OCMC is hosting its 2nd annual virtual **Trek4missions event** from August 9-September 17th. If not, you can find more info on OCMC.org or our website.

Our parish, **Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Crossingville**, has formed a team, but we also plan to do a **group walk on Saturday, September 11, 2021** at 2pm at Presque Isle, with Vespers and a special prayer for 9/11 victims, and a potluck dinner to follow at a pavilion. We would love for your parish to join us to make this a Pan-Orthodox event to help bring more awareness! Would you be able to form a team and join us? Please let us know!

Blessed Fast and Feast, Anna Rachocki

### **Pray with out ceasing...**

**PLEASE INCLUDE**

#### **THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY**

**PRAYERS:** Those in need - Fr. Andrew, Fr. Isaac, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Iguman Patrick, Hieromonk Herman, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Tamara, Olga, Susan, Karen, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., Lexi, John, Nickolas, Timothy, Preston, Olivia, Delani, Jeremiah, Valentina, Sandy, William...

The Homebound Tanya, Mary G

Catechumen-Christian... Military servers...Greg

Special requests... Paul, Gilbert, Joanne, Phyllis, Anthony, Ian, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Bill, Wesley, Kim, Margaret, Loren, Julia, Shelby, Janet, Lynn, Margret, Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Donna, Nicholas, Maya, Mia, Charles, Gregory, Don...

Departed : Metro. Theodosius, Archbishop David, Metropolitan Maximos Marie Guidus, Vincent, Richard, George, Ruth, Pearl, Jim(Grace's Dad), Ann, Lillian, Alice, William, Claudia, Theona, Helen, Ann, Katherine, Vernon, Paul, James, Nikolai, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy...

(IF you would like a name added to the list above give it to Fr. Daniel in writing.)