



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

APRIL 7, 2024 / 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (TONE 3)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

TROPARION OF THE CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

TROPARION OF ST. TIKHON IN TONE ONE

Let us praise Tikhon, the Patriarch of All Russia, / and Enlightener of North America, / an ardent follower of the apostolic traditions, / and good pastor of the Church of Christ, / who was elected by Divine Providence, / and laid down his life for his sheep! / Let us sing to him with faith and hope, / and ask for his hierarchical intercessions: / keep the Church in Russia in tranquility, / and the Church in North America in peace; / gather her scattered children into one flock, / bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith, / preserve our lands from civil strife, // and entreat God's peace for all people!

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

KONTAKION OF THE CROSS IN TONE SEVEN

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // “Enter again into Paradise!”

- *Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:*

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Prokeimenon in Tone One: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, 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 things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:26-8:2)

Brethren, for such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

ALLELUIA IN TONE EIGHT

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

v. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (10:9-16)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

- *"All Creation Rejoices in Thee ..." is sung instead of "It is Truly Meet ..."*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TODAY'S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on April 7th: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America; St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mytilene; St. Hegesippus the Chronicler; Martyr Calliopius at Pompeiopolis (in Cilicia); Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 200 soldiers with them at Sinope; St. Serapion of Egypt; St. Saturninus the Confessor, Bishop of Verona; St. Finnian, Abbot of Kinnity.

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Sanctuary Lamp offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Evelyn Zaleckis.

UPCOMING SERVICES

6:00 PM (Friday) – Presanctified Liturgy w. General Parastas

5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH AND LOCAL EVENTS

(1) Today's Deanery Lenten Vespers is at St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 812 Grand St., Trenton, New Jersey, at 5:00 PM. Next Sunday's Deanery Lenten Vespers, at 5:00 PM, is being hosted by OUR parish. We appeal to all parishioners to make every effort to attend!

(2) Please sign the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule if you plan to attend the Lenten supper in the church hall after the Deanery Lenten Vespers held at our church on April 14, 2024. Thank You!

(3) All parishioners ought to go to confession during Great Lent. Confessions may be heard after any Friday or Saturday evening service, or call the Rectory to arrange for confession at another time.

(4) During the month of April, a special collection basket will be set out for our parish's obligation towards this year's diocesan charity project (as mandated by the annual Diocesan Assembly, which is for the benefit of the Alaskan clergy. Please read below on the living conditions of our OCA clergy in Alaska.



The median family income for the state of Alaska is \$77,790 per year. But the median stipend for native priests is \$7,200 per year, a salary that is \$26,000 below the poverty line for a family of four. Almost all the clergy and their wives worry about a future that is so financially fragile. Some priests have been forced to leave priestly ministry to provide for their families. And pious young men considering the priesthood have hesitated to answer the call, with abject poverty looming in their future. For example, Rt. Rev. Bishop Alexei has told the story of a Yupik parent telling his son who expressed the desire to be a priest: “Son, you’ll be poor for your entire life. I don’t want to see you destitute.” Vocations have been *lost*! The Diocese of Alaska is the OCA’s oldest and largest territorial diocese, with 89 parishes and about 30,000 faithful statewide (most of whom are Alaskan natives)—surely it deserves as much support as we can possibly give it!