



# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Parish Newsletter RESTON

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA 16 January 2021



## Sunday after Theophany

### READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY.

[Moses speaks.] <sup>6,4</sup> Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates....

**The Lord, your God, shall you fear; him shall you serve....**

**You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test,** as you did at Massah. But keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, and the ordinances and statutes he has enjoined on you. Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that you may, according to his word, prosper, and may enter in and possess the good land which the Lord promised on oath to your fathers, thrusting all your enemies out of your way....

<sup>8,1</sup> Be careful to observe all the commandments I enjoin on you today, that you may live and increase, and may enter in and possess the land which the Lord promised on oath to your fathers. Remember how for forty years now the Lord, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that **not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.**

### PROKIMENON, Tone IV:

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord! \* God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us!** [vv.26,27 OCA]

### PSALM 117

**Reader:** The prokimenon of the seventh tone: **The Lord shall give strength to his people. \* The Lord shall bless his people with peace.** [v.11 OCA]

### PSALM 28

**NOTE:** After an invocation to praise the Lord, this striking psalm describes a magnificent theophany, the revelation of God's majesty in a tremendous thunderstorm, and ends with a message of hope for the people. (Psalm 28 is also the Alleluia psalm for Theophany.)

Give the Lord, O you spirit powers, give the Lord glory and praise! <sup>2</sup>Give the Lord the glory of his name! Bow down to the Lord in the splendor of his holiness!

<sup>3</sup>The Lord's voice resounds upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, on the immense vastness of the waters! <sup>4</sup>The Lord's voice, full of power, the Lord's voice, full of splendor!... <sup>7</sup>The Lord's voice—like flashing flames of fire!

<sup>8</sup>The Lord's voice shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. <sup>9</sup>The Lord's voice rends the oak trees; it strips the forest bare. In his temple, they all cry: Glory!

<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the floodwaters; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever! <sup>11</sup>The Lord

**shall give strength to his people. The Lord shall bless his people with peace.**

**Reader: The Lord shall give strength to his people.**

**People: The Lord shall bless his people with peace.**

### **READING FROM PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.**

BRETHREN: <sup>4,14</sup> Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who, similarly, has been tested in every way, **but without sin.** <sup>16</sup>So, with confidence, let us approach the throne of grace to receive mercy, and to find grace for timely help.

### **ALLELUIA**

#### **PSALM 90**

**NOTE:** By means of various metaphors the psalmist invites the community to ponder the Messiah/Christ's model trust in God and the benefits that follow—tangling with Death and surviving. In the epilogue God himself speaks, confirming the psalmist's words. [Note the texts that pay into the reading from the Gospel.]

He who lives in the shelter of the Most High, who dwells in the shadow of the Almighty <sup>2</sup>says to the Lord: My fortress and my refuge, my God whom I trust!

<sup>3</sup>He rescues you from the snare of the hunter who seeks to destroy you; <sup>4</sup>he covers you with the feathers of his wings, and under his wings you find refuge....

<sup>9</sup>If you call the Lord your refuge and make the Most High your stronghold, <sup>10</sup>evil can never touch you,...

<sup>11</sup>**for he will command his angels to care for you, to care for you wherever you go.**

<sup>12</sup>**They will carry you about in their hands, lest you knock your foot against a stone.** <sup>13</sup>**On the lion and the viper will you tread; you will trample the lion cub and the serpent....**

[Now God and Father speaks:]

<sup>15</sup>When he calls, I will answer him. I will stay with him in time of trouble; I will rescue him and spread a feast for him. <sup>16</sup>With long life will I content him, and I will make him enjoy my saving power.

### **READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.**

AT THAT TIME: <sup>4,1</sup> Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and they will carry you about in their hands, lest you knock your foot against a stone.*" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" <sup>8</sup> Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will bow down to me and serve me." <sup>10</sup> At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *You shall bow down to the Lord your God, and him alone shall you serve.*" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

## TROPARION OF THE FEAST

Tone I, Greek Chant

DO When you were baptized in the  
Jordan, O Lord, \* obeisance<sup>b</sup> to the  
Trinity was made manifest: \* for the  
voice of the Fa--ther bore witness to  
you, \* calling you, «Belovèd Son.» \*  
And the Spirit, in the form of a  
dove, \* confirmed the truthfulness of  
his word. **ANCIENT REFRAIN:** O Christ  
our God, who have revealed yourself  
and enlightened the world, \* glory to  
you!

Glory: Both now:

### KONDAKION FOR THEOPHANY

Tone IV, Greek Chant

DO Today you have appeared to the  
universe, \* and your light, O Lord,  
has shone on us who praise you with  
understanding: \* You have come and  
revealed yourself, \* O unapproach-  
able Light!

## THE ÉKTENY or FERVENT PRAYER

(Ancient Penitential Litany and Prayer)

Let us all say with our whole soul,  
and with our whole mind let us say:  
Lord, have mercy.

O Lord almighty! O God of our fathers!  
We pray you. Hear us and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your great mercy!

We pray you. Hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray:

- For devout and Orthodox Christians.
- For our Archbishop Tikhon.
- For all who have asked for our prayers: we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of their sins.
- For Orthodox Christians who are made to suffer on account of Christ, and we pray for those who persecute them.
- For Orthodox Christians and indeed all men who are victims of war and civil strife [and terror], of hunger and want, of intolerance and injustice.
- For physicians, nurses, care-givers, and all serving those infected with the virus; and for the thousands who have succumbed to the disease—and for all who will die today.

### PRAYER OF THE ÉKTENY

Lord our God, accept this fervent prayer from your servants, and have mercy on us according to the greatness of your mercy. Send down your compassionate help upon us and upon all your people awaiting the rich mercy that comes from you.

For you are God, merciful and loving to man, and we render glory to you—to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **RESTORING THE HOLY EUCHARIST TO OUR COMMUNITY**

**After this brief post-Christmas quarantine, the Divine Liturgy returns. This time on **Sunday morning, January 17**, at 10:00 a.m.**

**We will continue to simplify the Service to keep the duration of our gathering under an hour.**

**If you plan on coming, come on time because we will begin the service with the readings from Scripture—which, as Saint Nicolas Cavasilas reminds us, prepare and cleanse us for the Holy Eucharist.**

What do the readings from holy Scripture at this point in the Liturgy signify? I have already told you their practical purpose: they prepare and cleanse us in readiness for the great sanctification of the holy Mysteries.

—Nicolas Cavasilas, *Commentary*, II,22

**Anyone with a question or concern can e.mail me at [yegomost@verizon.net](mailto:yegomost@verizon.net).**

**As the virus tightens its grip on the nation, vaccines have become available, but inoculations are not proceeding as fast as we were led to believe. Marsha Morrow has been circulating information about signing up for an appointment and everyone should be encouraged by her affirmation that the address works. (Please be sure to share any experiences with her.)**

**A number of our parishioners have received the first inoculation along with an appointment for the second. Father Paul will receive his second shot on February 9.**

**God willing, when all parishioners have been vaccinated, our community can get back to something closer to normal.**



## **LOOKING TO THE 2021 CALENDAR.**

We will mark the Feast of the Encounter of the Lord which concludes the Feasts of Light on February 7.

The Great Forty Days begin Monday, March 2.

The Great and Holy Week begins April 25 with the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem.

The three-day Pasch begins Friday, April 30, with Resurrection Sunday, May 2, well after the Pasch of the Law which begins on the evening of April 4/14 Nissan. (The Roman Church and her Protestant shadows will celebrate the Resurrection on April 2, two days *before* the Pasch of the Law.) Blame it on the Julian calendar wherein March 21 falls on April 4, bringing the next full moon into the equation.

Pentecost, our Parish Feast falls on June 20.

In 2020 we had no Fast, no Pasch, no Pentecost. It remains to be seen what 2021 will permit.