

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Parish Newsletter
RESTON

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA 27 March 2021

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN THE GREAT FORTY DAYS**

READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH.

^{40.18} To whom can you liken God? With what equal can you confront him? ¹⁹ An idol, cast by a craftsman, which the smith plates with gold and fits with silver chains? ²⁰ Mulberry wood, the choice portion which a skilled craftsman picks out for himself, Choosing timber that will not rot, to set up an idol that will not be unsteady? ⁶ One man helps another, one says to the other, “Keep on!” ⁷ The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, the one who beats with the hammer, him who strikes on the anvil; He says the soldering is good, and he fastens it with nails to steady it.

²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Was it not foretold you from the beginning? Have you not understood? Since the earth was founde ²² He sits enthroned above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; He stretches out the heavens like a veil, spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. ²³ He brings princes to nought and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted or sown, scarcely is their stem rooted in the earth, When he breathes upon them and they wither, and the stormwind carries them away like straw. ²⁵ To whom can you liken me as an equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these: He leads out their army and numbers them, calling them all by name. By his great might and the strength of his power not one of them is missing! ²⁷ Why, O Jacob, do you say, and declare, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Do you not know or have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny. ²⁹ He gives strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes vigor abound. ³⁰ Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall, ³¹ they that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

PROKIMENON, Tone V

Reader: The prokimenon of the fifth tone: **You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us * from this generation and forever.** [v.7 OCA]

Sunday, March 28

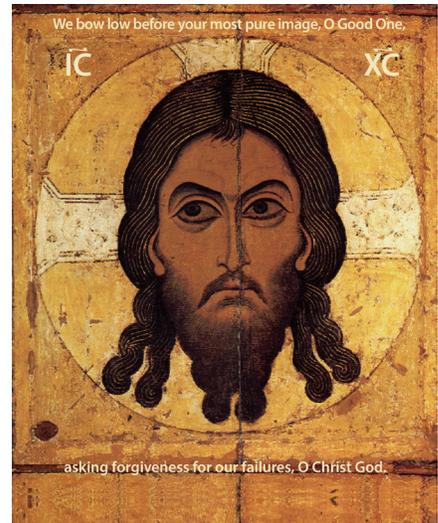
Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
Penitential Vespers at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

PreSanctified Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

As we set aside every encumbrance and the disadvantage of sin, with perseverance let us run the race that lies before us, ²looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross—ignoring its shame—and has taken his seat at the right of God’s throne. ³Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.
—Hebrews 12.1–3

*The Pasch on our horizon
is the image of that inexorable
Tomorrow
that makes sense of Today.*



IKON: Holy Face, late XII century, perhaps from Novgorod, in the Tretyakov Gallery. Thoughts of a Russian priest-scholar writing in 1987: A regal face. The face of Christ come to earth to save mankind. The almost monochromatic coloring leaves an impression of grave solemnity. An ikonographic style that seems to trace to the Syrian city of Edessa. In 944 A.D. such an ikon was brought to Constantinople and placed in the church of Pharos. [It disappears in 1204 A.D. in the Latin Sack of Constantinople]. A copy now appears in our templon array.

PSALM 11

NOTE: A prayer for help against the deceit and pride of the wicked, even as God's promises fill one with confidence.

Help us, Lord! The good have vanished! Loyalty has disappeared from mankind! ²They do nothing but lie, one to another, deceit on their lips, duplicity in their hearts!...

⁵Because the needy are oppressed, and the poor cry out in misery, I will rise, says the Lord; I will grant salvation to those who long for it.

⁶The Lord's words are without alloy, natural silver, from the very earth, seven times refined. ⁷**You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation and forever.**

⁸On all sides the wicked prowl about; treachery is highly prized among the sons of men!

Reader: You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us! People: From this generation and forever.

READING FROM

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

BRETHREN: ¹⁻⁸Of the Son God says [in the Scriptures]:

Your throne, O God, stands for all time to come; and the scepter of righteous is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

¹⁰and again:

At the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are works of your hands.

¹¹They will perish, but you remain; and they will all wear out like clothing.

¹²You will fold them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will have no end.

¹³But to which of the angels has [God] ever said:

Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?

¹⁴Are they not all *ministering spirits* sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

²¹Therefore, we must turn our minds more attentively to what we have been taught, so that we do not drift away.

ALLELUIA

PSALM 19

NOTE: Prayer for the Messiah-King with assurance of victory.

The Lord answer you in time of trouble! The name of Jacob's God protect you!

²From his sanctuary may he send you help; may he sustain you from Sion.

³May he be mindful of all your gifts, and your burnt offerings, may they please him!

⁴May he grant you whatever your heart desires, and all your hopes, may he fulfill them,

⁵that we may rejoice in your saving help, and in the name of our God hold high our banners. May the Lord grant all your requests!

⁶Now I am sure that the Lord will save his anointed; from his holy heavens he answers him by the saving works of his right hand!

⁷Some rely on chariots, others on horses, as for us, we count on the NAME of the Lord our God.....

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO MARK.

AT THAT TIME: ¹⁻⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to AT THAT TIME: ²⁻¹ When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. ²Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. ³They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵ When Jesus saw **their** faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, ⁷"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" ⁸ Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?" ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" — ¹¹ he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." ¹² He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." ¹³ Once again he went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them.

Since 1368 A.D. we keep the memory of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, metropolitan of Thessalonika (+14.XI.1359 A.D.). Older tradition kept the memory of the martyrdom of our father among the saints, Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (+167 A.D.).

**Troparion for the saint
by Kyr Philotheos, Tone VIII:**

O light of Orthodoxy! O pillar of strength and teacher of the Church! * Glory of monks and nuns, and invincible protector of theologians! * O preacher of Grace and pride of Thessalonika! * O wonderworker Gregory, pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

Glory:

Kondakion of the fast, Tone IV:

It is now time to act, * for judgment is at the door! * We will rise to a higher life through fasting, * and through charity we will attain tears of compunction. * Now, therefore, let us cry out to the Lord, * for our sins outnumber the sands of the sea. * O maker of all things, forgive us, * and count us worthy of the crowns of incorruptible life.

Both now:

**A new kondakion for the
Time of the Fast, Tone VI:**

At various times and in different ways * you spoke to our fathers through the prophets. * But in our own time you speak to us through your Son * through whom you made everything there is. * He is the radiant light of your glory. * He is the perfect copy of your very being. * By his powerful word he sustains the universe. * Now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, * he has gone to take his seat at the right hand of your Majesty. ^{Heb. 1.1-3} * Father in heaven, * in this season of renewal * turn our minds more attentively to what we have been taught. * Do not let us drift away. ^{Heb. 2.1}

**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 Ed and Janet and Andrea, and for all who have asked for our prayers *NN*...: 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.