



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Parish Newsletter
RESTON

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA 17 April 2021

**FIFTH SUNDAY
IN THE GREAT FORTY DAYS**
TONE IV AND COMMEMORATION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH.

^{3,18} In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel; together they will come from the land of the north to the land which I gave to your fathers as a heritage. ¹⁹I had thought: How I should like to treat you as sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful among the nations! You would call me, “My Father,” I thought, and never cease following me. ²⁰But like a woman faithless to her lover, even so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel, says the LORD.

²¹A cry is heard on the heights! the plaintive weeping of Israel’s children, Because they have perverted their ways and forgotten the LORD, their God.

²²Return, rebellious children, and I will cure you of your rebelling.

“Here we are, we now come to you because you are the LORD, our God. ²³Deceptive indeed are the hills [*at the top of which one could find shrines and altars to non-existent deities—Ed.*], the thronging mountains; in the LORD, our God, alone is the salvation of Israel.

²⁴The shame-god [*stand-in talk for non-existent pagan deities—Ed.*] has devoured [*via sacrifices—Ed.*] our fathers’ toil from our youth, their sheep and their cattle, their sons and their daughters [*yes, human sacrifices!—Ed.*]. ²⁵Let us lie down in our shame, let our disgrace cover us, for we have sinned against the LORD, our God; from our youth to this day, we and our fathers also; we listened not to the voice of the LORD, our God.”

PROKIMENON, Tone IV

The prokimenon of the fourth tone: **O Lord, how manifold are your works! * In wisdom have you made them all!** [v.24 RSV]

PSALM 103 [NS]

NOTE: A magnificent hymn praising God’s creative wisdom and power. Filled with wonder, the psalmist acknowledges that it is the Lord who governs and sustains all his creatures and he proclaims the Lord’s omnipotence and sanctity.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are great indeed—clothed in majesty and splendor, ²robed in light as with a cloak.

You spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth, ³you built your towering palace far above their waters; making the clouds your chariot, you

Sunday, April 18
Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
Penitential Vespers at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 23
*Fortieth and last day of the
Great Forty Days*
PreSanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

Dear Father Paul,

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

As you may know, I am planning on coming down to the D.C. area for Holy Week and Bright Week. I am putting together my schedule of parish visitations.... I will be in town until Thomas Sunday.

I know that in the past you have had a Liturgy on Bright Monday, which could be another option for a visit, if you were planning it this year. I recognize that the ongoing pandemic continues to place obstacles for all of us.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Yours in Christ,
Metropolitan Tikhon

In response to our suggestion:

Dear Father Paul,

I would be pleased to come to Holy Trinity for Bright Monday and receive your hospitality. Please let me know what time the service begins. We can work out the other details closer to the time.

Yours in Christ,
Metropolitan Tikhon

Dear Fr. Paul,

Many thanks for the invite.

Looking forward to being with you and your parish on Bright Monday.

With love in Christ,
Gospódin Vitković

Thank you very much, dear Father Paul!!!

Fr. George

travel on the wings of the wind;...

⁵You fixed the earth on its foundations, never to be disturbed. ⁶With the deep you covered it, as with a garment;... ¹³From your towering palace you water the hills; the earth drinks its fill of your gift.

¹⁴You make grass grow for cattle and plants for man's use, that he may bring forth bread from the earth, ¹⁵and wine to gladden man's heart, oil to make his face glisten, and bread to strengthen his heart.

¹⁹You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set;... ²⁴**O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all!** The earth overflows with your riches!...

³¹May the glory of the Lord last forever! May the Lord take pleasure in all his works!... ³³I will sing to the Lord all my life! I will sing for joy in my God as long as I live!...

Reader: O Lord, how manifold are your works! People: In wisdom have you made them all!

READING FROM PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

BRETHREN: ⁹⁻¹¹When Christ came as high priest of the good things to come, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, ¹²he entered once for all into the Sanctuary [*i.e., into the presence of God and Father—Ed.*], not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ who through the Holy Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant..

ALLELUIA

PSALM 44 [NS]

NOTE: Keeping in mind Hebrews 1.8+ (wherein the Father addresses words of this psalm to the Son), this song of praise for a royal bridegroom and his foreign bride is understood by the Church in a typical sense, *i.e.*, as speaking to Christ, our King, and to his bride, the Church.

My heart overflows with a noble theme; let me recite my verses for you, O king! My tongue is as nimble as the pen of a skillful writer.

²You are the most handsome of men, and graciousness flows from your lips; the blessings God has given you can never fail....

⁴Ride on triumphantly in the cause of truth and meekness and right. ⁵Let the deeds of your right hand win you renown, for your arrows are sharp, and nations shall fall at your feet in terror.

⁶The eternal and everlasting God has enthroned you; your scepter is one that rules true; virtue you love as much as you hate wickedness.

⁷Rightly has God, your God, chosen to anoint you with the oil of gladness, setting you above all your companions....

Royal princesses take their place among your honored women; at your right stands the queen, dressed in a robe of many colors, embroidered in gold....

¹⁶As for you, O king,... ¹⁷...may this song make your name remembered from one generation to the next, that nations may praise you for ever and ever.

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

AT THAT TIME: ^{10.32}Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them what was going to happen to him. ³³“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles ³⁴who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise.” ³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶He replied, “What do you wish (me) to do for you?” ³⁷They answered him, “Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.” ³⁸Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹They said to him, “We can.” Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John. ⁴²Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority

over them felt. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; ⁴⁴ whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Triodion, Tone V:

We are slow to learn, O Lord, * for we are hobbled by our faults. * But we are quick to see in you * the great high priest over all God’s house. * You bring the new covenant sealed in your blood. * And through your sacrifice * you come into the Father’s presence on our behalf. * Now when the Day comes, Lord, * bring salvation to all who eagerly await you.

Troparion for the saint, Tone VIII:

Without stain was God’s image preserved in you, O holy mother, Mary, * for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. * By word and example you teach us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh, * so that now you rejoice with the angels in heaven.

Kondakion for the saint, Tone IV:

While you were still wandering about in the dismal darkness of sin, O holy mother, Mary, * the light of repentance burst forth in your heart and you turned to the Lord. * You offered him his own most pure and holy Mother as your compassionate advocate, * for through her you had received the remission of your sins. * Now you rejoice forever with the angels above.

Kondakion for the Sundays 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 Mildred, 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.

The Orthodox Church in America
Archdiocese of Washington
The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington

April 9, 2021

To the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Washington,

Christ is in our midst!

As I previously indicated, I am issuing the following general directives for our parishes and institutions as we approach Holy Week and Pascha.

Over the past year, all of you have been working very diligently with your parish leadership in navigating the various synodal, diocesan, and civil guidelines. I am grateful for your careful attention to the many complexities of this process and I am confident that you will maintain this vigilance as we enter Holy Week and the Paschal season. Please continue to monitor the local civil directives as you have and observe the following basic safety measures in church:

1. Maintain 6 foot distancing between individuals or family groups;
2. Maintain the wearing of masks; clergy may choose to not wear a mask in the altar but should wear one if there is an increased number of servers;
3. If anyone is sick or presenting symptoms, they must stay home.

As you know, my directives last year were particularly restrictive and most of you did not have in-person services for Holy Week and Pascha. Our year-long experience of navigating the pandemic, your faithful application of safety measures during that time, and the increasing availability of vaccines have brought us to a point where it is possible for us to anticipate a more traditional cycle of services for Holy Week and Pascha. While maintaining the above vigilance, I encourage you to have as full a Holy Week and Bright Week schedule of in-person divine services as your local situation allows and to provide as many opportunities for the faithful to participate.

The following are general recommendations with respect to some specific elements of Holy Week and Paschal services. These are not intended to be comprehensive but should provide all of you with a sense of how to plan your Holy Week and Pascha schedules. I intentionally left them flexible with the understanding that you will continue to work with your parish leadership to apply them in your respective circumstances:

1. While data continues to be evaluated concerning the risks of surface transmission of the virus, the CDC continues to recommend thorough cleaning. If you can maintain a reasonable degree of cleaning, you may hold services as frequently as practical.
2. Processions may take place while maintaining appropriate social distancing (families may walk together) either inside or outside the Church.
3. Liturgical items (palms, pussy willows, red eggs, antidoron, artos) may be distributed (pre-wrapped or pre-tied) by someone wearing plastic gloves or by spacing them on a table for individual pick-up. They should be distributed or picked-up at the end of the services rather than during the service.

4. Paschal Agape meals may be organized at your discretion but should only take place if they can be done outdoors or in a large enough space to allow social distancing.
5. Pascha baskets may be brought to the Church and blessed.
6. The use of ushers or other method of monitoring may be needed for those services that traditionally bring out visitors who may not be regular attendees.
7. Bell ringing is permitted according to the usual parish custom

If you have more specific questions or if there is an area of ambiguity in your context, please contact the Chancellor for guidance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cross symbol followed by the name 'TIKHON' in a stylized, cursive script.

+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

**With regard to the Bishop coming to Holy Trinity on Bright Monday:
We can restrict the gathering to parishioners only,
plus Father George, Father John and his wife Kiti.**