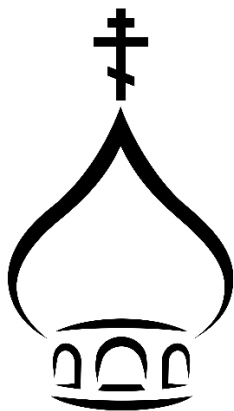


Great Vespers

Saturday, September 12, 2020

**Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sunday before the Exaltation
Commemoration of the Founding of the
Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem**



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

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Lord, I Call

(Tone 5) Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord! Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

(10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame. By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin and saved us from the gates of death. We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

(9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter in order to grant Resurrection to the human race. The princes of hell were frightened by this, for the gates of sorrow were lifted. Christ the King of glory had entered, saying to those in chains: "Go forth!" And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!" *(8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

O great wonder! The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man and rose again immortal. Come, O sons of nations, let us worship Him, for delivered from error by His compassion, we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

(7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

We offer Thee our evening worship, O never-setting Light, Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh; Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness. Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations. Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

(6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6 *(for the Founding)*

Dedication is to be honored, as was decreed in the Old Law; even more should the New Law be honored through dedication; for as Isaiah proclaims: "The islands are dedicated to God." By this we understand the churches now built by the Gentiles, which receive a firm foundation from God. Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!

(5) For Thy name's sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Be dedicated anew, O people! Putting away the old man, live in newness of life, placing a bridle on everything from which death may come! Let us chasten all our members, hating every evil fruit of the tree! Mindful of this, let us avoid our ancient errors, that mankind may thus be restored! Thus this day of dedication is honored.

(4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 6 *(by Anatolius)*

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word, Thou hast set up Thy Church as a tower of strength, founding it upon the rock of the faith. Therefore it abides in Thee, unshaken forever, for, without undergoing change, Thou becamest Man in these latter times for its sake. Therefore we give thanks to Thee and praise Thee in

hymns, saying: "Thou art our King since before time began; now and forever – glory to Thee!"

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 5 *Automelon (for the Forefeast)*

Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross, the invincible trophy of godliness, door to Paradise, firm support of the faithful, a wall that encompasses the Church! Through thee corruption has been destroyed and abolished. The power of death has been swallowed up, and we are raised from earth to Heaven. Thou art a weapon that cannot be vanquished, the adversary of demons, the glory of the martyrs, the true adornment of saints, and the haven of salvation, granting the world great mercy.

(2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord, through which mankind has been delivered from the curse! Thou art a sign of true joy, shattering our enemies by thine Exaltation. O Cross, worthy of all honor, thou art our help, thou art the strength of kings. Thou art the power of the righteous. Thou art the majesty of priests. All who sign themselves with thee are freed from danger. O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended, thou art a weapon of peace round which the angels stand in fear. Thou art the divine glory of Christ, Who grants the world great mercy.

(1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Rejoice, O guide of the blind, physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead; thou hast raised us up when we were fallen into mortality, O precious Cross! Through thee corruption has been destroyed, and incorruption has blossomed forth. We mortals are deified, and the devil is completely overthrown. Today, as we see thee exalted by the hands of bishops, we exalt Him Who was lifted up upon thee, and we fall down in worship before thee, drawing rich streams of great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(for the Founding, by John the Monk)*

Celebrating the memory of the dedication, O Lord, and glorifying Thee, the Giver of holiness, we ask that Thou hallow the senses of our souls, through the supplications of the glorious passion-bearers, O Thou Who art good and almighty!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 5 *(Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old, a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured. There Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel assisted in the miracle. There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet, here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed. After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable; after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin. O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man, O Lord, have mercy on us!

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify Thee in songs of praise, O incarnate Christ and Savior. By accepting the Cross and death for our sake, as the Lord and Lover of man, Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man, Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all. By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality. Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb, and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man. Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners. Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us. Grant us purification of sins, who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day! Make us worthy of Paradise and save us, O Lover of man!

Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh, to rise from the dead on the third day. Heal us from our earthly passions, and restore us from our evil transgressions; and save us, O Lover of man!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2 *(for the Founding, by Anatolius)*

We glorify Thee, O Lord, as we celebrate the dedication of the most holy temple of Thy Resurrection. Thou didst sanctify it and perfect it with Thine all-perfect grace. Thou art adorned in it by the faithful with sacrifices that are sanctifying, mystical and holy, receiving them bloodless and all-pure from the hands of Thy servants. To all those who rightly make offering, Thou dost give great mercy and cleansing from sins.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 *(for the Forefeast)*

The Cross of the Giver of life, a divine treasure hidden in the ground, was shown in the heavens to the pious emperor, spiritually revealing a decree of victory over the enemy. Joyfully and divinely hastening to see it on high with faith and love, he zealously lifted it from the bosom of the earth, for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of our souls.

Troparia

Tone 5 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 4 Troparion (*Founding*)

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, strengthen it for ever and ever and accept our supplication which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, the life and resurrection of all!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Troparion (*Forefeast*)

We offer in supplication the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord, which Thou hast granted to us although we are unworthy. Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers at the Divine Liturgy for the Health of the Servants of God:

Igumen David Lewis

Archbishop David Mahaffey

Archpriests: Thomas Edwards, John Perich, Rodion Pfeifer, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

Priests: Matthew Joyner, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

Matushki: Ashley Joyner, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Jennifer Bzik, Helen Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, David Gowarty, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Greg Konsevitch, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Mary Orzolek, Kylie Pinho, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pfeiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, John Uzick, Irene Witaneck

Child of God: Emily Estrin

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.