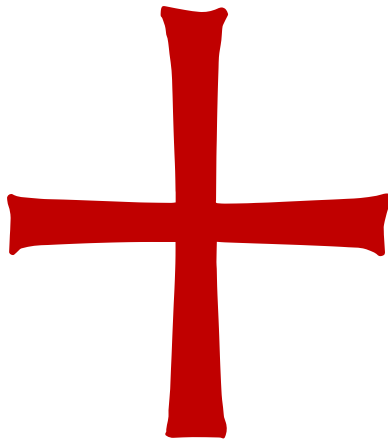


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin—July 16, 2023

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy &  
Celebration of St. Elizabeth Feast Day



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## Welcome to St. Elizabeth

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted you are here. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church. Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments in our fellowship hall. If you have questions about any facet of Orthodox worship, our priest—Father John Strickland—would be very happy to meet and assist you in any way possible.

If you are not familiar with the Orthodox Church, you may see some things that are new to you—icons and incense, the sign of the cross, veneration of the saints, and a lot of standing. These elements have been part of traditional Christian worship from ancient times. They reflect the heavenly nature of the Church.

If you would like to learn more about Orthodoxy, we have a small bookstore where Orthodox publications may be purchased and a lending library where many Orthodox books and periodicals can be borrowed. If you would like to learn more about our parish, please visit our website at <https://stelizabethorthodox.org>. There, you can find a link to our parish YouTube page where you can view Father John's Sunday homilies.

Please note that Orthodox priests may serve Communion only to baptized and chrismated members of the Orthodox Church. The Eucharist is the paramount expression of unity among Christians; but the reality today is that many Christians are not united in matters of doctrine and practice. While some Christians are content to agree to disagree, we believe true unity will occur only when modern Christians are reconciled to the ancient Church, with its faith and life delivered “once, and for all.” In light of this, we respectfully request that rather than partaking of the Eucharistic Chalice, our non-Orthodox guests join us in receiving the *antidoron*—or blessed bread—served at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Please feel free to contact Fr. John any time at (360) 598-9700 or [rector@stelizabethorthodox.org](mailto:rector@stelizabethorthodox.org).

—Thank you for joining us today. Glory to Jesus Christ!

## Bulletin News

- ❖ All-Parish Potlucks—We will be having all-parish potluck meals on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy for St. Elizabeth’s feast day, and on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> as it is the fifth Sunday of the month with no meal team assigned. Sign-up sheets are posted for these meals on the bulletin board.
- ❖ If you enjoy our Sunday meals and have not joined a meal team, please join one! We need your help. Contact Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com or talk to her at church to join a team.
- ❖ Cleaning Teams—Are you looking for a ministry where nobody sees you but everyone sees the results of your labor? Cleaning the narthex, nave and bathrooms is the job for you! We need a cleaning team for the last week of each month. You can clean any day of the week post Sunday service through mid-afternoon Saturday. Two people are best. Maybe your spouse or friend would like to join you. Please see Nancy.

## July Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Vladimir (July 15<sup>th</sup>); Royal Passionbearer Tsarina Alexandra (July 17<sup>th</sup>); St. Maria of Paris (July 20<sup>th</sup>); St. Mary Magdalene (July 22<sup>nd</sup>); St. Christina (July 24<sup>th</sup>);
- ❖ Birthdays—Reader Vladimir (July 28<sup>th</sup>)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

July 18<sup>th</sup>—Tuesday  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
followed by potluck meal

July 19<sup>th</sup>—Wednesday  
6:30pm Vespers

July 22<sup>nd</sup>—Saturday  
9:00am Men’s Fellowship  
4:00pm Parish Council  
6:00pm Great Vespers  
(confessions follow)

## Today's Hymns

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost.  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

### **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.

### **Tone 5      Troparion      *(Church)***

O God-wise Elizabeth,  
with humility thou didst hide thy nobility and honor Christ  
especially by imitating the labors of Martha and Mary.  
As a sacrifice to God, thou didst arm thyself with works of mercy,  
patience, and love.  
Seeing thy life of good works and suffering, we sincerely beseech  
thee, our true teacher.  
O Venerable Martyr, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, //  
entreat Christ our God to enlighten and save our souls.

### **Tone 5      Kontakion      *(Resurrection)***

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,  
shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, //  
and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

## Glory . . .

### **Tone 2    Kontakion    *(Church)***

Who can tell of thy great acts of faith,  
O long suffering Grand Duchess Elizabeth,  
while enduring death in the depths of the earth,  
thou didst radiate the brightness of Paradise.  
Rejoicing in psalms and hymns, thou didst pray with the angels for  
thy torturers,  
"O Lord forgive them for they know not what they do." //  
    O Christ our God, through her prayers, have mercy, and save  
    our souls.

## Now and Ever . . .

### **Tone 6    Steadfast Protectress    *(only clergy sing)***

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,  
constant advocate before the Creator,  
despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,  
but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call on thee in  
faith,  
hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,//  
    for thou dost always protect those who honor thee.

## Today's Scripture Readings

### Epistle Reading—Romans 12:6–14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

### Gospel Reading—Matthew 9:1–8

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

## Today's Commemorations

### St. Elizabeth the New Martyr (July 18)

The Heinous crime of Alapaevsk was perpetrated on the night of July 17–18, the vigil of St. Sergius of Radonezh and the Name Day of Elizabeth's late husband, Grand Duke Serge. The prisoners were awakened and driven in carts on a road leading to the village of Siniachikha. Along this road, some eighteen kilometers [away,] was an abandoned iron mine with a pit, sixty meters deep, which the Chekists had chosen for their bestial plan. This pit, called "Lower Selimskaya," was divided into two sections: an operational area where workers had formerly extracted iron ore, and the machine compartment that had housed equipment for pumping water out of the pit. The walls had been lined with wooden logs, now rotten and jutting out in all directions.

Cursing, shouting and beating the prisoners, the executioners . . . threw their victims into this pit. Unknown to them, a local peasant was a secret witness of all that happened. The Grand Duchess was the first to be thrown into the yawning darkness of the mine. The peasant saw that she was praying aloud and crossing herself, while repeating, "Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do." The others—all still alive—were hurled down after her. . . .

The Cheka then hurled hand grenades down the shaft. Their intention was to cover the pit with earth in order to simulate an explosion and disguise the crime, but only one victim . . . died as a result of the grenades . . . ; the others died in horrible sufferings caused by thirst, hunger and injuries.

Grand Duchess Elizabeth herself did not fall to the bottom of the pit. About fifteen meters down the shaft, her fall was broken by projecting logs. Duke John fell onto this same ledge, injuring his head. Suffering herself from head injuries, the Grand Duchess, careful lest she fall, managed in the pitch darkness to bandage his wound using her monastic veil. Easing another's suffering, she accomplished her last work of mercy on earth. . . .

The local peasant testified that he heard voices coming from the mine, singing the Cherubic Hymn from the Divine Liturgy. The singing was led by the Grand Duchess, who continued to sing hymns and speak words of comfort to the others until her soul left her body to ascend on high, where she was greeted by other, paradisiac melodies, while over her head shone a martyr's crown.

—from *Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, New Martyr of the Communist Yoke*  
by Lubov Milar

## **The Nicene Creed: the Symbol of Faith** (sung together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Pre-Communion Prayers** (said together)

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom.

May the communion of Thy Holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body. Amen.

