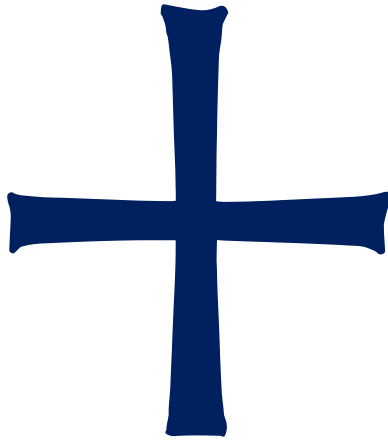


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

September 3, 2023—13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost



26580 Breidablik Place NW  
Poulsbo, WA 98370  
(360) 598-9700  
rector@stelizabethorthodox.org

<https://stelizabethorthodox.org>  
<https://oca.org>  
Facebook: stelizabethorthodox.org  
YouTube: @saintelizabethorthodoxpoul8086

## 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

- ❖ Women's Fellowship— Beginning September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, the group will begin reading a new book, *The Scent of Holiness* by Constantina Palmer. The group will be reading a chapter a week. Copies are available in the bookstore and also as an audiobook on Kindle.
- ❖ Game Night Returns—Game Night returns September 1<sup>st</sup> at a new location—7771 NE Beacon in Bremerton—from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. For more information, email Danielle at [atchantrieri@hotmail.com](mailto:atchantrieri@hotmail.com).
- ❖ 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](mailto:whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com) to join a team.

## September Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Gordian (Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ Birthdays— Grier Jefferis (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>); Gordy Becker (Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ Anniversaries— Reader Vladimir & Cheryl Lawson (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>); Bryan & Jamie Telegin (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

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| Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> —Monday<br>6:30pm Catechesis                                 | Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> —Friday—Nativity of the<br>Theotokos<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy |
| Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> —Tuesday<br>6:30pm Women's<br>Fellowship                     | Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> —Saturday<br>6:00pm Great Vespers                              |
| Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> —Wednesday<br>6:00pm Moleban of<br>Healing<br>6:30pm Vespers |  |

## Today's Hymns

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 4.

### **Tone 4    Troparion    *(Resurrection)***

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting the world great mercy!”

### **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 4    Troparion    *(St. Anthimus)***

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
thou didst become a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the  
Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. //  
O Hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God to save our  
souls!

**Tone 8      Troparion    *(St. Theoctistus)***

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile,  
and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.  
By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole  
universe./.

Our holy Father Theoctistus, pray to Christ our God to save  
our souls!

**Tone 4      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their  
chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,/.

He has risen on the third day!

**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.

**Glory . . .**

**Tone 4     Kontakion** *(St. Anthimus)*

Living hon'rably as a priest,  
thou didst complete the course of martyrdom;  
thou didst extinguish the worship of idols  
and didst become a champion of thy flock, O divinely wise one.  
Therefore, we honor thee,  
mystically crying out://  
    "Through thy prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-  
    memorable Anthimus."

**Now and Ever . . .**

**Tone 6     Steadfast Protectress**

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—1 Corinthians 16:13–24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Gospel Reading—Matthew 21:33–42

"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

## Today's Commemorations

### The Priestly-Martyr Anthimus

He was born in Nicomedia, and was raised from childhood as a true Christian. "His body was mortified, his spirit humbled, his envy uprooted, his anger subdued, his sloth banished.... He had love for all and peace with all; he was prudent with all, had zeal for the glory of God and was forthright with all." It is no wonder that a man with such virtues was appointed bishop. St. Anthimus governed as Bishop of Nicomedia during the cruel persecution of Christians under the villainous Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. Streams of Christian blood were shed, especially in Nicomedia. One year, on the Feast of Christ's Nativity, twenty thousand martyrs were burned to death in one church (see December 28). This took place during the time of Anthimus's episcopacy. Even so, the persecution did not end with this, but continued, and many Christians were cast into prison and kept there for torture and death. St. Anthimus withdrew to the village of Semana, not because he was fleeing from death, but in order to continue encouraging his flock in the feat of martyrdom, so that no one would fall away out of fear. One of his letters to the Christians in prison was intercepted and turned over to Emperor Maximian. The emperor dispatched twenty soldiers to find Anthimus and bring him to him. The gray-haired and clairvoyant elder came out to meet the soldiers, brought them to his house, and treated them as guests--and only then revealed that he was Anthimus, whom they were seeking. The soldiers, astonished by Anthimus's kindness, suggested that he hide, saying they would tell the emperor that they could not find him. But Anthimus replied that he could not let himself transgress God's commandment against falsehood to save his life, and he went with the soldiers. Along the way, all the soldiers came to believe in Christ and were baptized by Anthimus. The emperor had Anthimus harshly tortured for a long time, and then had him beheaded with an axe. He glorified the Lord and went to his rest at the beginning of the fourth century.



## **The Venerable Theoctistus**

He was a faster and fellow ascetic of St. Euthymius the Great. Theoctistus was abbot of Euthymius's Lavra, located some six miles from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho. In all things he was a disciple of St. Euthymius under whose spiritual guidance he governed the monastery until the age of ninety. He pleased God by his life, and reposed in the middle of the fifth century during the reign of Anastasius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

## **The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos (Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>)**

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson--but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity--this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

—Prologue of Ohrid

### **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.

