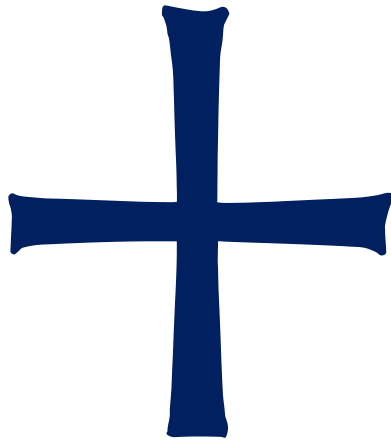


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

November 12, 2023—23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost.



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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

- ❖ House & Dog Sitter Needed—Grier and Suzanna Jefferis are looking for someone to watch their house and dog while they are away February 1 to March 4, 2024. If interested, please contact them at [pgjefferis@gmail.com](mailto:pgjefferis@gmail.com).
- ❖ Barrel Vault Iconography—The council has contracted with our iconographer, Brian Whirledge, a full length icon for our barrel vault ceiling for \$35,100. We have sent him a down payment of \$10,530, which gives a remaining balance of \$24,570. Please refer to the poster on the bulletin board for updated numbers regarding amount collected to date.  
  
If you donate, just indicate “icon” in the memo section of your check or memo of your Zelle payment. If you would like to pledge an amount now and write your check later that works, too. We expect to receive a sketch from Brian soon.
- ❖ Meal Teams—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.

## November Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—Archangel Michael (Nov. 8); St. John Chrysostom (Nov. 13); St. Andrew (Nov. 30)
- ❖ Birthdays—Hellenmae Reed (Nov. 3)
- ❖ Anniversaries—Walter & Nancy Conrad (Nov. 7)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup> —Monday 6:30pm Catechesis	Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup> —Saturday 4:00pm Parish Council 4:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> —Wednesday Beginning of Nativity Fast 6:30pm Vespers & Orthodox Studie	

## Today's Hymns

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 6.

### **Tone 6**      **Troparion**    *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //  
    glory to Thee.

### **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 8**      **Troparion**    *(St. John)*

By endurance thou didst gain thy reward, venerable Father;  
thou didst persevere in prayer unceasingly;  
thou didst love the poor and provide for them in all things. //  
    Blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ God that our  
    souls may be saved!

**Tone 8      Troparion    *(Ven. Nilus)***

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 Nilus, pray to Christ our God to save our  
souls!

**Tone 6      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty  
hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race./.

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God  
of all.

**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.

. . . over

**Tone 2      Kontakion    *(St. John)***

Thou didst distribute thy wealth to the poor  
and in return didst obtain wealth from heaven, O John the Merciful.  
Therefore, we honor thee and celebrate thy memory,//  
O namesake of mercy.

**Glory . . .**

**Tone 8      Kontakion    *(Ven. Nilus)***

By thy vigilant prayer thou didst cut away the undergrowth of the  
body's insurgent passions.  
As thou hast boldness before the Lord, free me from every danger  
so that I may cry to thee://  
"Rejoice, universal father Nilus!"

**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

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)*

### **Epistle Reading—Ephesians 2:4–10**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### **Gospel Reading—Luke 10:25–37**

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## Today's Commemorations

### Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

John was born on the island of Cyprus. His father was Prince Epiphanius. John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. He said: "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility." All the saints have been distinguished by mercifulness, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Matthew 5:23-24), and he remembered that one of the clergy in that church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached that priest, fell before his feet and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the table of oblation. Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint, and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them: "And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?" He would not leave until he heard the widow's complaint to the end.

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620 A.D. After he entered the Immortal Kingdom of his Lord, his miracle-working relics were translated to Constantinople, then to Budapest, and finally to Presburg.



## **The Holy Prophet Ahijah of Shiloh**

Ahijah prophesied a thousand years before Christ. He prophesied to Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, that he would reign over ten of the tribes of Israel (I Kings 11:29-31).

## **The Venerable Nilus of Sinai**

Nilus was at first a prefect in the capital city, Constantinople. As a married man, he had a son and a daughter. Seeing the sinful life of the capital, he agreed with his wife to withdraw from the world. This they did. His wife and daughter went to a convent in Egypt. Nilus and his son Theodulus went to Mount Sinai. Nilus lived a life of asceticism on Mount Sinai for a full sixty years. He wrote wonderful books on the spiritual life. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 450 A.D., in the eightieth year of his earthly existence, and took up his habitation in the blessed heavenly life. These holy words are his: "Physical passions have their origin in physical desires, and against them abstinence is necessary; but spiritual passions are born of spiritual desires, and against them, prayer is necessary."

## **The Venerable Nilus the Myrrh-Gusher**

Nilus was born in the Morea. As a hieromonk he went with his uncle to the Holy Mountain and there lived a life of asceticism as a recluse in a deserted place called "the Holy Rocks." When he entered into rest, myrrh flowed from his body in such abundance that it ran down from the top of the mountain into the sea. This miracle-working myrrh attracted ailing men from all over. A disciple of St. Nilus was so distracted by the many visitors that he complained in prayer to St. Nilus, and the flow of myrrh ceased at once. St. Nilus lived a life of asceticism in the fullest sense, like the saints of old. He entered into rest in the seventeenth century.

—*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.

