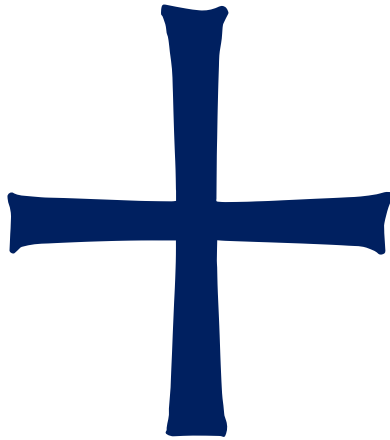


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

December 3, 2023—26th 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.

—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 in Poulsbo and dog while they are away February 1 to March 4, 2024. If interested, please contact them at pgjefferis@gmail.com, pgjefferis@yahoo.com, or (484) 529-2007.
- ❖ 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 \$20,354. 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 to join a team.

November Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Herman of Alaska (Dec. 13); St. Anastasia (Dec. 22); St. Stephen the Protomartyr (Dec. 27)
- ❖ Birthdays—Jamie Telegin (Dec. 12)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

Dec. 4th—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

Dec. 5th—Tuesday
6:30pm Great Vespers
*No women’s fellowship

Dec. 6th—Wednesday—St.
Nicholas
6:00pm Moleben of Healing
6:30pm Vespers

Dec. 9th—Saturday
9:00am Men’s fellowship
4:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Great Vespers

Today's Hymns

26th Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 1.

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom! //
 Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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 2 Troparion *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

We celebrate the memory
of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord;
through him we beseech Thee://
 “Save our souls!”

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee://
 “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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 *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O
Prophet Zephaniah,
for thou didst proclaim the coming of God:
“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem!//
 Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”

Now and Ever . . .

. . . over

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

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

Epistle Reading—Ephesians 5:9–19

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel Reading—Luke 18:18–27

And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of

God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Today's Commemorations

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah was a native of Mount Sarabatha, from the tribe of Simeon. He lived and prophesied in the seventh century before Christ, at the time of Josiah the pious king of Judah. Zephaniah was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Having great humility and a pure mind raised to God, he was found worthy of discerning the future. He prophesied the day of the wrath of God and the punishment of Gaza, Ashkalon, Ashdod, Ekron, Nineveh, Jerusalem and Egypt. He saw Jerusalem as *a filthy and polluted, ... oppressing city... Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; ... her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the Law* (Zephaniah 3:1-4). Foreseeing the advent of the Messiah, he enthusiastically exclaimed: *Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem* (Zephaniah 3:14). This seer of mysteries entered into rest at his birthplace to await the General Resurrection and his reward from God.

The Heiromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria

After functioning as patriarch for two years, Theodore was ridiculed and tortured by the pagans. They placed a crown of thorns on his head and finally beheaded him for his Faith in the year 606 A.D.

The Venerable Sava of Zvenigorod

Sava was a disciple of St. Sergius of Radonezh and a great miracle-worker. Following his death, he appeared to many as though he were alive, at times teaching them, at times reproaching them and at times healing them. He passed from this life to a better life in the year 1406 A.D.

—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.

