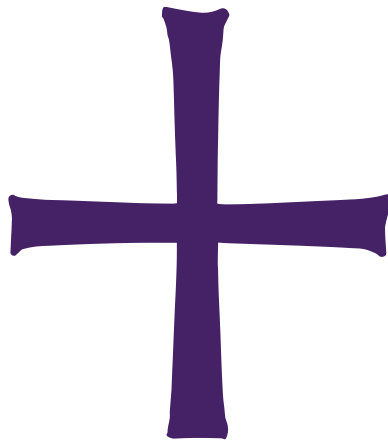


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

March 17, 2024—Forgiveness Sunday



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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

- ✦ Fifth-Sunday Potluck—As the fifth Sunday of the month, March 31<sup>st</sup> will be an all-parish potluck after Liturgy. If you can contribute a dish, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.
- ✦ Parish E-mail List—If you are not already receiving parish-wide email updates and announcements, and if you would like to do so, please email Bryan Telegen at [bulletin@stelizabethorthodox.org](mailto:bulletin@stelizabethorthodox.org).

## March Name Days, Anniversaries, and Birthdays

- ✦ Name days—St. Gregory Dialogus, Pope of Rome (Mar. 12); Annunciation of the Theotokos (Mar. 25); St. Larissa (Mar. 26); St. Innocent of Alaska (Mar. 31)
- ✦ Birthdays—Nancy Conrad (Mar. 18)
- ✦ Anniversaries—John & Pam Alcantra (Mar. 13); Josh & Allison Toth (Mar. 27)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>—Clean Monday  
6:30pm Great Penitential  
Canon of St. Andrew

Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>—Clean Thursday  
6:30pm Great Penitential  
Canon of St. Andrew

Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>—Clean Tuesday  
6:30pm Great Penitential  
Canon of St. Andrew

Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>—Clean Friday  
6:30pm Presanctified Divine  
Liturgy (lenten potluck  
follows)

Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>—Clean Wednesday  
5:00pm Confessions by  
Appointment  
6:30pm Great Penitential  
Canon of St. Andrew

Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>—Saturday  
9:00am Men's Fellowship  
6:00pm Great Vespers

## Today's Hymns

Forgiveness Sunday—Tone 8

### **Tone 8**      **Troparion**    *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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.

## 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      Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,  
Bestower of virtue,  
Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor,  
strengthen and enlighten my heart!  
O Word of the Father,  
let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee:  
    “Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//  
    O merciful Lord!”

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### Today’s Scripture Readings

*Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)*

#### Epistle Reading—Romans 13:11–14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

## Gospel Reading—Matthew 6:14–21

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

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## Today’s Commemorations

### Forgiveness Sunday

“Finally comes the last day, usually called “*Forgiveness Sunday*,” but whose other liturgical name must also be remembered: the “*Expulsion of Adam from the Paradise of Bliss*.” This name summarizes indeed the entire preparation for Lent. By now we know that man was created for paradise, for knowledge of God and communion with Him. Man’s sin has deprived him of that blessed life and his existence on earth is exile. Christ, the Savior of the world, opens the door of paradise to everyone who follows Him, and the Church, by revealing to us the beauty of the Kingdom, makes our life a pilgrimage toward our heavenly fatherland.”

—Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent, Journey to Pascha*

## **St. Alexis the Man of God** (from the Prologue of Ohrid)

Varied are the paths upon which God leads those who desire to please Him and fulfill His Law. There lived in Rome at the time of Emperor Honorius a high-ranking dignitary, Euphemianus, who was highly respected and extremely wealthy. He and his wife, Aglaida, led a God-pleasing life. Even though he was wealthy, Euphemianus sat at the table once a day, after the setting of the sun. He had an only son, Alexis, who was compelled to marry when he became an adult. But, on the night of the wedding, Alexis left not only his wife but also the home of his father. He boarded a boat and arrived at the city of Edessa in Mesopotamia, where there was the wondrous image of our Lord, sent there by our Lord Himself to King Abgar. Having venerated this image, Alexis clothed himself in the garb of a beggar. As such, he lived in the city for seventeen years, continually praying to God in the vestibule of the Church of the Theotokos. When it became known that he was a holy man, he became frightened of the praise of men, departed Edessa, boarded a boat, and traveled to Laodicea. According to God's providence, the boat was carried off-course and sailed all the way to Rome. Considering this to be the hand of God, Alexis decided to go to the house of his father and there, unknown, continue his life of self-denial. His father did not recognize him but out of charity allowed him to live in his courtyard in a hut. Alexis remained there for seventeen years, living only on bread and water. Mistreated by the servants in various ways, he endured everything to the end. When his end approached, he wrote a letter, clenched it in his hand, and then lay down and died, on March 17, 411 A.D. At the same time there was a revelation in the Church of the Twelve Apostles. In the presence of the emperor and the patriarch a voice was heard which said: "Seek out the Man of God." Shortly after that, it was revealed that this "Man of God" resided at the house of Euphemianus. The emperor along with the pope and an entire retinue arrived at the home of Euphemianus, and after a lengthy discussion they learned that the beggar was that "Man of God." When they entered his hut, they found Alexis dead, but his face shown like the sun. From the letter his parents learned that he was their son Alexis. And his bride, who for thirty-four years had lived without him, learned that he was her husband. All were overcome with immense grief and pain. Later they were comforted, seeing how God glorified His chosen one. By touching his body, many of the sick were healed, and from his body flowed a sweet-smelling oil [Chrism]. His body was entombed in a coffin of marble and jasper. His head is preserved in the Church of St. Laurus in the Peloponnese.

## **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.

