

SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

April 14, 2024— Third Sunday of Great Lent.
St. John Climacus



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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!

April Name Days, Anniversaries, and Birthdays

- ✦ Name days—St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker (April 24)
- ✦ Birthdays—Sydney Telegin (April 19)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

April 14th— (Today)
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers
at Holy Assumption, Seattle

April 15th—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

April 17th—Wednesday
5:00pm Confessions by Appt.
6:30pm Matins with Great Canon

April 19th—Friday
6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy

April 20th—Saturday
9:00am—Men's Fellowship
6:00pm Great Vespers

April 21st—Sunday
10:00am—Divine Liturgy
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers
at Holy Resurrection, Tacoma

Today's Hymns

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent—Tone 4.
St. John Climacus

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 1 Troparion *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown! //
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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. John Climacus)*

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,//
O our father and teacher John.

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, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

Epistle Reading—Hebrews 6:13–20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading—Mark 8:34–9:1

And one of the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Today's Commemorations

The Venerable John Climacus

John Climacus is the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. John came to Mount Sinai as a sixteen-year-old youth and remained there, first as a novice, later as a recluse, and finally as abbot of Sinai until his eightieth year, when he reposed, in about the year 649 A.D. His biographer, the monk Daniel, says about him: "His body ascended the heights of Sinai, while his soul ascended the heights of heaven." He remained under obedience to his spiritual father, Martyrius, for nineteen years. Anastasius of Sinai, seeing the young John, prophesied that he would become the abbot of Sinai. After the death of his spiritual father, John withdrew into a cave, where he lived a life of strict asceticism for twenty years. His disciple, Moses, fell asleep one day under the shade of a large stone. John, at prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related that in a dream he had heard John calling him, and that he had jumped up at the moment the stone had fallen. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. At the insistence of the brotherhood, John agreed to become abbot, and he directed the salvation of the souls of men with zeal and love. Certain people reproached John for talking too much. Not at all angered by this, John nevertheless remained silent for an entire year. He did not utter a word until the brothers implored him to speak, and to continue teaching them his God-given wisdom. On one occasion, when six-hundred pilgrims came to the Monastery of Sinai, everyone saw an agile youth in Jewish attire serving at table, giving orders to other servants and assigning duties. Suddenly, this young man disappeared. When everyone noticed this and began to ask questions, John said to them: "Do not seek him, for that was Moses the Prophet serving in his own place." During his silence in the cave, John wrote many worthwhile books, of which the most glorious is The Ladder. This book is still read by many, even today. In this book, John describes the method of raising the soul to God, comparing it to the climbing of a ladder.

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.

