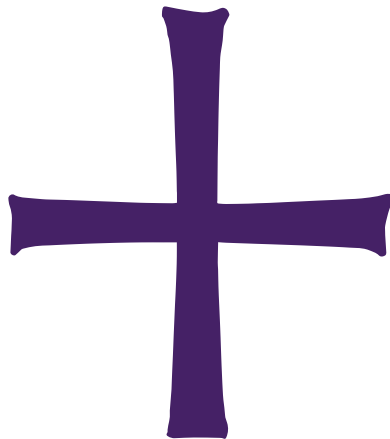


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

April 21, 2024— Fifth Sunday of Great Lent.
St. Mary of Egypt



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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

- ✦ May Charity Sunday & Bremerton Prayer Walk—The first Sunday in May falls on Pascha this year (May 5th), so we will be moving our next Charity Sunday to the second Sunday of May—Thomas Sunday on May 12th.

We also will be donating our May Charity Sunday collection to the Bremerton Prayer Walk, instead of to our normal in-parish charity fund. Donations will be put toward the purchase of backpacks, collapsible wagons, and fanny packs for the homeless.

During our walks with the Bremerton Prayer Walk, we learned that for many people, having a way to carry items is greatly needed, but these items can be costly. Also, many backpacks, wagons, and fanny packs are needed, as handing out only a few can lead to conflicts and other problems. Accordingly, our goal is to raise \$2,500 for this cause, which we calculate will buy 35 or more items to hand out.

Please consider giving to this cause next month. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated!

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 21st—(Today)
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten
Vespers at Holy Resurrection,
Tacoma

April 22nd—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

April 24th—Wednesday
5:00pm Confessions by Appt.
6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy

April 26th—Friday
6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy

April 27th—Lazarus Saturday
10:00am Divine Liturgy
6:00pm Festal Vigil

✦ April 28th—Palm Sunday
10:00am Divine Liturgy
6:00pm Bridegroom Matins

Today's Hymns

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent—Tone 5.
St. Mary of Egypt

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
 by His glorious Resurrection.

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. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother,
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.
By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes
away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
 Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the
 angels.

Tone 5 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, //
and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

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. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman,
thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. //
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the
Kingdom.

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

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

Epistle Reading—Hebrews 9:11–14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel Reading—Mark 10:32–45

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left,

in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Today's Commemorations

St. Mary of Egypt—A Reflection

Why is it that much is said and written about the sufferings of holy men and holy women? Because the saints alone are considered victors. Can anyone be a victor without conflict, pain and suffering? In ordinary earthly combat, no one can be considered victorious or heroic who has not been in combat, endured much or suffered greatly. The more so in spiritual combat, where the truth is known, and where self-boasting not only does not help at all but, indeed, hinders it. He who does not engage in combat for the sake of Christ, either with the world, with the devil or with one's self, how can he be counted among the soldiers of Christ? How then is it with Christ's fellow victors? St. Mary spoke about her savage spiritual combat to Elder Zosimas: "For the first seventeen years in this wilderness, I struggled with my deranged lusts as though with fierce beasts. I desired to eat meat and fish, which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also desired to drink wine, and here I did not have even water to drink. I desired to hear lustful songs. I cried and beat my breast. I prayed to the All-pure Mother of God to banish such thoughts from me. When I had sufficiently wept and beat my breast, it was then that I saw a light encompassing me on all sides, and a certain miraculous peace filled me."

—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.

