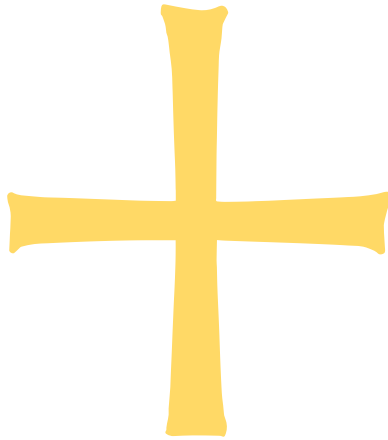


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

August 6, 2023—Holy Transfiguration



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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

- ❖ Women's Fellowship—The Women's Fellowship group will meet this month on Tuesday, August 8th, instead of August 1st. We will be discussing upcoming book options. The meeting will start at 6:30 and go until 8 p.m. or so.
- ❖ Canning Jars Needed—David Johnson is looking for about a dozen pint canning jars. If you have any to spare, contact him at boizeau55@protonmail.com.
- ❖ 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 or talk to her at church to join a team.

August Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Birthdays—Christine Adam (Aug. 16th); Michael Adam (Aug. 21st); Cheryl Becker (Aug. 28th)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

Aug. 8th—Tuesday
6:30pm Women's Fellowship

Aug. 9th—Wednesday
6:30pm Vespers & Orthodox Studies

Aug. 12th—Saturday
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Great Vespers

Today's Hymns

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 8.
Holy Transfiguration

The First Antiphon

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! *(Ps. 65:1)*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The voice of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; Thy lightning lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. *(Ps. 76:17b-18) (Refrain)*

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. *(Ps. 103:2) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

The Second Antiphon

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the great King. *(Ps. 47:2)*

Refrain: O Son of God, transfigured on the mountain, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

And He brought them to the mountain of His sanctuary, this mountain which His right hand had won. *(Ps. 77:58) (Refrain)*

The Mount Zion which He loved, He built as His sanctuary with mighty strength. *(Ps. 77:73b-74a) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...”)

Troparia and Kontakia

Tone 7 Troparion

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,
revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//
O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Glory . . . Now and Ever . . .

Tone 7 Kontakion

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God,
and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold Thee crucified,
they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world//
that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Instead of “It is Truly Meet . . .”

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount
Tabor!

Thy childbearing was without corruption;
God came forth from thy body clothed in flesh,
and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.//
Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle Reading—2 Peter 1:10–19

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts

Gospel Reading—Matthew 17:1–9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Eli'jah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Today's Commemorations

The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Why did our Lord not manifest His divine glory on Tabor before all the disciples instead of before three of them? First, because He Himself gave the Law through the mouth of Moses: “At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established” (Deuteronomy 19:15). Therefore, three witnesses are sufficient. These three witnesses represent three main virtues: Peter Faith, for he was the first to confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God; James Hope, for, with faith in the promise of Christ, he was the first who laid down his life for the Lord, being the first to be slain by the Jews; John Love, for he reclined on the bosom of the Lord and remained beneath the Cross of the Lord until the end. God is not called the God of many but rather the God of the chosen. “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6). God often valued a faithful man more than an entire nation. Thus, on many occasions, He wanted to destroy the entire Jewish nation, but because of the prayers of righteous Moses, spared that nation to live. God listened more to the faithful Prophet Elijah than to the entire unbelieving kingdom of Aliab. Because of the prayers of one man, God saved towns and people. Thus, the sinful town of Ustiug was to be destroyed by fire and hail had it not been saved by the prayers of the one and only righteous man in it, St. Procopius, the “fool for Christ” (July 8).

—Prologue of Ohrid

Now that our nature has been stripped of this divine illumination and radiance as a result of the transgression, the Logos of God has taken pity on our disgrace and in His compassion has assumed our nature and has manifested it again to his chosen disciples, clothed more remarkably on Tabor. He indicated what we once were and what we shall become through him in the future age, if we choose here below to live according to his ways as much as possible.

—Saint Gregory Palamas
The One Hundred and Fifty Chapters, Ch. 66

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.

