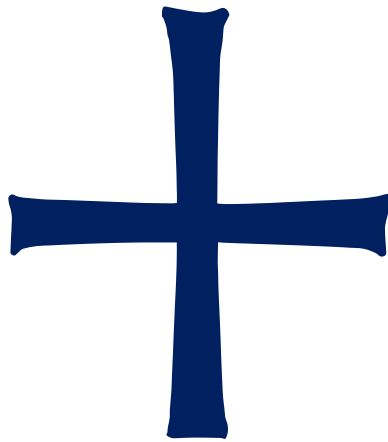


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

October 22, 2023—20th 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

- ❖ Cleaning Teams—Are you looking for a ministry that nobody sees you but everyone sees the results of your labor? Cleaning the narthex, nave and bathrooms is the job for you! We are in need of substitute cleaners. A team to step in when a scheduled cleaner can't make it. Maybe your spouse or friend would like to join you? If interested or have questions, please see Nancy Conrad.
- ❖ Barrel Vault Iconography—Our parish council has contracted with Brian Whirledge for a full length icon for our barrel vault ceiling for \$35,100. We sent a down payment of \$10,530, leaving a remaining balance of \$24,570. Of that balance, we have received \$2,000 and a pledge of \$1,000, so if you would like to help, we have a remaining balance of \$21,750. If you donate, just indicate “icon” in the memo line of your check or memo of your Zelle payment. Also, if you would like to pledge an amount now and write your check later, that works as well. 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.

October Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Thomas (Oct. 6); St. Athanasia, wife of St. Andronicus (Oct. 9); St. Symeon the New Theologian (Oct. 12)
- ❖ Birthdays—John Dirks (Oct. 11); Roxanne Bennett (Oct. 12); Pam Alcantra (Oct. 16); Andrew Prather (Oct. 26)
- ❖ Anniversaries—Gordy & Sheryl Becker (Oct. 2); Doug & Carol Lyons (Oct. 24)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

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| Oct. 23 rd —Monday
6:30pm Catechesis | Oct. 28 th —Saturday
9:00am Men's Fellowship
6:00pm Great Vespers |
| Oct. 25 th —Wednesday
6:00pm Vespers &
Orthodox Studies | |

Today's Hymns

20th Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 3.

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to 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 5 Troparion *(St. Abercius)*

Thou didst emulate the zeal of the Apostles
and shone forth like a morning star,
and thy works showed thy God-given power:
thou didst guide the erring to God, //
O hierarch Abercius.

Tone 4 Troparion *(Holy Youths)*

Thy seven holy martyrs, O Lord,
through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from
Thee, our God.

For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//

Through their intercession, save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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.

. . . over

Tone 8 Kontakion *(St. Abercius)*

The whole Church honors thee as a great hierarch
and as a companion to the Apostles!//

By thy prayers keep the Church unconquered and unshaken
by heresy, O glorious Abercius.

Glory . . .

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Holy Youths)*

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing comforts of this
world,

preferring the eternal things of Heaven.

They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead
and buried the snares of the devils!//

O faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise
to Christ!

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.

Epistle Reading—Galatians 1:11–19

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel Reading—Luke 16:19–31

“There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.’”

Today's Commemorations

Saint Abercius, Equal to the Apostles

During the reigns of Emperor Antoninus and his son, Marcus Aurelius, St. Abercius was the bishop of the city of Hierapolis in Phrygia. The great majority in this city were pagans, and St. Abercius governed his sparse flock, sorrowing in his heart because of the great number of pagans and idolaters, and diligently praying to God that He would bring them to the light of truth. During a boisterous idolatrous festival, Abercius became inflamed with God's zeal and entered the idolatrous temple, smashing all the idols. When the enraged pagans sought to kill him, three young madmen, foaming at the mouth and howling, fell down before this man of God, and he drove the demons from them. The young men became sane and calm. This turned the pagans' anger into amazement at the wonderworker of Christ, and five hundred of them immediately desired baptism. Little by little, all of Hierapolis came to believe in Christ and were baptized. The proconsul of the province, Publius, had a mother who was blind. Abercius restored her sight by prayer, and Publius, his mother and many others believed in Christ. In old age, Abercius was summoned to Rome, where he healed the emperor's daughter of insanity. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared several times to His faithful follower. People from near and far came to him for miraculous help when they suffered from incurable illnesses. The demons not only feared him, but also served him at his command. At the guidance of the Lord Himself, Abercius preached the Gospel throughout Syria and Mesopotamia. In great old age, St. Abercius presented himself to his beloved Lord in Hierapolis, at the end of the second century.

The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus

There was a great persecution of Christians during the reign of Decius. The emperor himself went to Ephesus, and there arranged a boisterous and noisy celebration in honor of the lifeless idols--as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices. They earnestly prayed to the one God to save the Christian people. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus. Their names were Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martin [Martinian], John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus, and Antonin [Antoninus]. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside of Ephesus called Celion, and there they hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be walled shut. Yet, God--according to His far-reaching providence--caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers Theodore and Rufinus (themselves secret Christians) built a small copper box into the wall. It contained lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men, and which recorded their martyric deaths during the reign of Emperor Decius. More than two hundred years passed. During the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450 A.D.), there was a great dispute about the resurrection of the dead, and there were some that doubted in it. Emperor Theodosius was in great sorrow as a result of this dispute among the faithful, and prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to men. Then some shepherds of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, were building folds for their sheep, using stones from the cave. They removed stone after stone. Suddenly, the youths awoke from their sleep, as youthful and healthy as on the day they fell asleep. The news of this miracle was spread abroad in every direction, so that Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and conversed with the youths, to his delight. After a week, they again fell into the deep repose from which they had awakened, to await the General Resurrection. Emperor Theodosius wanted to place their bodies in gold caskets; but they appeared to him in a dream, and told him to leave them in the earth as they had been laid there.

—*Prologue of Obrid*

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.

