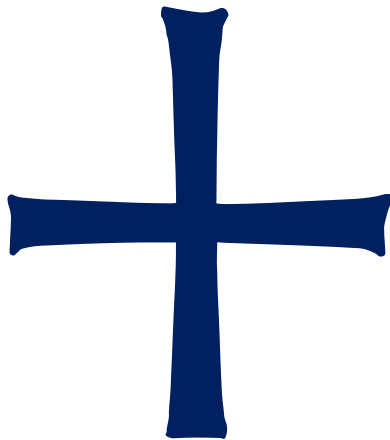


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

December 10, 2023—27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rector@stelizabethorthodox.org).

—Thank you for joining us today. Glory to Jesus Christ!

## Bulletin News

- ❖ Meal Teams Need Your Help!—Our meal teams are in dire need of help. With so many families leaving over the past year, and others away during winter, our parish is struggling to maintain our traditional meal together after Liturgy. If you can help out, please contact Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com to join a team.
- ❖ Fifth-Sunday Potluck—Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> will be our last fifth-Sunday, all-parish potluck of 2023! If you can contribute a dish, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.
- ❖ Barrel Vault Iconography—The council has contracted with our iconographer, Brian Whirledge, a full length icon for our barrel vault ceiling for \$35,100. We currently need \$17,729 for this beautification of our temple. We will be receiving a sketch soon.
- ❖ House & Dog Sitter Needed—Grier and Suzanna Jefferis are looking for someone to watch their house in Poulsbo and dog while they are away February 1 to March 4, 2024. If interested, please contact them at pgjefferis@yahoo.com or (484) 529-2007.

## November Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Herman of Alaska (Dec. 13); St. Anastasia (Dec. 22); St. Stephen the Protomartyr (Dec. 27)
- ❖ Birthdays—Jamie Telegin (Dec. 12)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> —Monday 6:30pm Catechesis	Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> —Saturday 4:00pm Parish Council 6:00pm Great Vespers
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> —Wednesday 6:30am Vespers & Orthodox Studies	

## Today's Hymns

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 2.

### **Tone 2      Troparion    *(Resurrection)***

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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.

### **Tone 8      Troparion    *(Martyrs)***

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions  
through their ascetic labors,  
the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus,  
received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work  
wonders both while alive and after death.  
It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing.//  
Glory to our only God and Creator!

**Tone 2      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with  
Thee, //  
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

**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.

**Tone 1      1<sup>st</sup> Kontakion      *(Martyrs)***

Let us sing praise in honor of the glorious Menas,  
and of his companions, the holy Hermogenes and Eugraphus.  
For they have honored the Lord and fought for His glory.  
They are worthy of numbering with the Angels in heaven, //  
and are bountiful in their miracles.

**Glory . . .**

**Tone 4      2<sup>nd</sup> Kontakion      *(Martyrs)***

The Lord snatched thee from the temporal army,  
making thee a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas;  
together with Hermogenes and Eugraphus  
with whom thou didst suffer, //  
thou art granted an incorruptible crown.

. . . over

## 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.

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### Today's Scripture Readings

*The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)*

#### Epistle Reading—Ephesians 6:10–17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

#### Gospel Reading—Luke 17:12–19

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he

fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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## Today's Commemorations

### The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and EUGRAPHUS

Both Menas and Hermogenes were born in Athens. They both lived in Byzantium, being held in great honor by the emperor and the people. Menas was known for his great learning and eloquence of speech and, although he acted outwardly as a pagan, he was a convinced Christian in his heart. Hermogenes was Eparch of Byzantium and acted as a pagan both inwardly and outwardly, but he was compassionate and performed many good deeds. When a dispute flared up between the Christians and the pagans in Alexandria, Emperor Maximin dispatched Menas to calm the disturbance and to root out the Christians from the city. Menas went and restored peace, but he declared himself a Christian and converted many pagans to the true Faith by his eloquence and many miracles. Hearing of this, the emperor sent Hermogenes to punish Menas and to smother Christianity. Hermogenes brought Menas to trial, cut off his feet and tongue, gouged out his eyes, and then cast him into prison. In prison, the Lord Jesus Himself appeared to Menas, healing and comforting His suffering servant. Seeing Menas miraculously healed, Hermogenes was baptized. He began to preach the powerful Christian Faith and was consecrated as Bishop of Alexandria. Then the enraged Maximin went to Alexandria himself and subjected Menas and Hermogenes to cruel tortures, which they courageously endured, helped by God's grace. Beholding the bravery of these soldiers of Christ and the miracles of God upon them, Eugraphus, secretary and friend of St. Menas, appeared before the tribunal and cried out to the emperor's face: "I too am a Christian!" The emperor became enraged, drew his sword and beheaded St. Eugraphus. Following this, the evil emperor ordered the executioner to behead St. Menas and St. Hermogenes. Their holy relics, thrown into the sea, miraculously floated to Constantinople, where the bishop, to whom this was revealed in a dream, solemnly met them and honorably buried them.

—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.

