



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

MARCH 17, 2024 / FORGIVENESS SUNDAY (TONE 8)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE EIGHT

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

KONTAKION FROM TRIODION IN TONE SIX

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, / Bestower of virtue, / Who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor, / strengthen and enlighten my heart! / O Word of the Father, / let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: / “Have mercy on me, a transgressor, // O merciful Lord!”

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

ALLELUIA IN TONE SIX

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.
v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.*

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (6:14-21)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

LENTEN APOLYTIKIA IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou didst give birth to the Savior of our souls. (The clergy and people prostrate.) O Baptizer of Christ, remember our congregation, that we may escape from our iniquities, for to thee was given grace to intercede for us. (*The clergy and people prostrate.*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. O pure apostles, and all ye saints, pray for our sakes, that we escape tribulations and sorrows, for we have taken ye as fervid intercessors with the Savior. (*The clergy and people prostrate.*)

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. We have taken refuge under the wing of thy compassion, O Theotokos. Turn not away from our beseechings in tribulation, but save us from distress, O thou who alone art pure and blessed. (*No prostration.*)

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. true Theotokos: we magnify thee. Bless, father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. O heavenly King, support our believing rulers; confirm their faith; guide the nations; give peace to the world and preserve well this holy church. Grant repose to our departed fathers and brothers, in the dwelling-places of the righteous. Receive us in repentance and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power, and idle talk. (*The clergy and people prostrate.*) But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. (*The clergy and people prostrate.*) Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*The clergy and people prostrate.*)

DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

- *The Priest reads the Dismissal Prayer.*

Choir: Amen.

THEOTOKION IN TONE TWO

Choir: O righteous one, Mother of the most-high God, defend all those who take refuge in faith in thy precious protection; for we sinners, bowed by the multitude of sins, have no other constant intercessor with God in tribulations and sorrows, save thee. Wherefore, we bow to thee, adoring. Save thou thy servants from every distress.

CEREMONY OF MUTUAL FORGIVENESS

As the choir very slowly and in low voice sings the above theotokion and then the odes of the Paschal Canon, the exchange of mutual forgiveness may now take place, beginning with the clergy. The priest stands next to the analogion as the faithful venerate the icon of the Theotokos. One by one the faithful bow before the priest, who also does the same before each of the faithful, each saying to one another, “Forgive me, a sinner.” The response is, “God forgives.” The faithful then receive his blessing and kiss his hand. The faithful also ask forgiveness from each other in the same manner, exchanging among themselves the kiss of peace. When everyone has completed the exchange of mutual forgiveness the priest, facing the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, says, Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Choir: Amen.

TODAY’S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on March 17th: St. Alexis “Man of God”; St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland; St. Gertrude, Abbess of Nivelles; Martyr Marinus of Caesarea; St. Ambrose of Alexandria; St. Withburga, Princess of East Anglia; St. Macarius the Wonderworker, Abbot of Kalyazin.

TODAY’S PARASTAS

Parastas in memory of John Wanko (40th Day).

TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Triple Candelabra offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Rena Robichaud.

UPCOMING SERVICES

6:00 PM (Monday) – Great Canon of Repentance
 6:00 PM (Tuesday) – Great Canon of Repentance
 6:00 PM (Wednesday) – Great Canon of Repentance
 6:00 PM (Thursday) – Great Canon of Repentance
 6:00 PM (Friday) – Akathist of the Divine Passion
 9:30 AM (Saturday) – Divine Liturgy w. Blessing of Kolyva
 5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
 9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

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