



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 23, 2025 / THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (TONE 6)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE SIX

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

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

KONTAKION OF HOLY CROSS IN TONE SEVEN

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // “Enter again into Paradise!”

- *Instead of the Trisagion, the following is sung:*

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (4:14-5:6).

Brethren, let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God—Jesus, the Son of God. Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it. Every high priest is chosen from his fellow-men and appointed to serve God on their behalf, to offer sacrifices and offerings for sins. Since he himself is weak in many ways, he is able to be gentle with those who are ignorant and make mistakes. And because he is himself weak, he must offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people but also for his own sins. No one chooses for himself the honor of being a high priest. It is only by God's call that a man is made a high priest—just as Aaron was. In the same way,

Christ did not take upon himself the honor of being a high priest. Instead, God said to him, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” He also said in another place, “You will be a priest forever, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.”

ALLELUIA IN TONE EIGHT

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1).

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

- “*All Creation Rejoices in Thee ...*” is sung instead of “*It is Truly Meet ...*”

COMMUNION HYMN

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

SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY

Commemorated on March 23rd: Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples in Sicily; Martyr Philetus the Senator with Lydia, his wife, and their sons, and Companions, in Illyria; Martyrs Victorian, Frumentius and Companions, of Hadrumentum; St. Gwinear of Cornwall; St. Æthelwold, Hermit of Inner Farne Island; St. Basil of Mangazea; St. Nikon, Abbot of the Kiev Far Caves.

TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Sanctuary Lamp offered by Faith Verona in memory of Ann Verona.

UPCOMING SERVICES

6:00 PM (Monday) – Vigil w. Lity [*Holy Annunciation*]

9:30 AM (Tuesday) – Vespersal Divine Liturgy [*Holy Annunciation*]

6:00 PM (Friday) – Memorial Presanctified Liturgy

5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH & LOCAL NEWS

(1) Today’s Lenten Vespers is at St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 812 Grand St., Trenton, New Jersey at 5:00 PM. Next Sunday’s Lenten Vespers is at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 76 Whitehead Ave., South River, New Jersey at 5:00 PM.

(2) The Flea Market continues on March 29, 2025, 10 AM-2 PM. Thank you to all donors and volunteers!

(3) All parishioners ought to go to confession during Great Lent. Confessions may be heard after any Friday or Saturday evening service. Those who legitimately cannot attend services on Friday or Saturday evenings may call the Rectory to make your arrangements for confession at another time.

- *The following stichera are sung while the congregation venerates the Holy Cross after Dismissal.*

Stichera at the Veneration of the Cross

Tone 2

Come, O faithful, let us venerate the life-giving Wood
on which Christ the King of Glory voluntarily stretched out His hands
and raised us up to our ancient bliss,
though formerly the enemy had despoiled us through pleasure
and made us exiles from God.

Come, O faithful, let us venerate the Wood
through which we have been accounted worthy to crush the heads of our invisible enemies.
Come, all you kindred of the nations,
let us honor in hymns the Cross of the Lord:
“Rejoice, O Cross, complete deliverance of fallen Adam!
In thee our faithful rulers make their boast,
since by thy power they subjugate the people of Ishmael.
As we Christians now kiss thee with fear,
we glorify God Who was nailed upon thee, and we say:
‘O Lord, Who on the Cross wast crucified, have mercy on us, //
as Thou art good and lovest mankind!’”

Tone 8

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
Today He Who by nature is unapproachable approaches me.
He Who freed me from my passions endures the Passion.
The Light of the blind is spat upon by lawless lips.
For the sake of captives He gives His back to scourging.
When His pure Virgin Mother beheld Him on the Cross, she cried in pain:
“Woe is me, O my Child! What hast Thou done?
Thy beauty was fairer than that of any man,
yet now Thou dost appear lifeless,
without form or comeliness.
Woe is me, O my Light!
I cannot bear to see Thee sleeping.
My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,
and yet I praise Thy Passion.
I bow down before Thy compassion. //
O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!”

Tone 6

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Today the words of the Prophet are fulfilled:
for, behold, we worship at the place on which Thy feet have stood, O Lord;
and tasting from the Tree of salvation,
we have been delivered from our sinful passions
at the intercessions of the Theotokos, //
O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

Remember to support the parish every time you shop!



ShopRite, Stop & Shop, and Acme gifts cards available for purchase in the church vestibule.