



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, Aug 23, 2020 - The Unmerciful Servant

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Leavetaking of the Dormition.
Martyr Lupus, slave of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica.



Hymns for Today

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!”

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. In falling
asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos.
Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by
thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

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.

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her
intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, // she was
translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal
womb.

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:23-35

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me,

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.

and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

THIS WEEK’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Services livestreamed on Facebook & Youtube)

TODAY: 8:40 AM Hours, Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

Parastas Today after Divine Liturgy

In Memory of John and Mary Goobic,
John and Elizabeth Goobic
Offered by Denise & JP Meck

&

In Memory of Gregory Gobish

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Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist

Fri, Aug 28: 6:30 PM Great Vespers

Sat, Aug 29: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

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SAT, August 29: 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, August 30: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
Outdoor Coffee Hour

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Valletta Family, Nadine Breisch, Luke Austin, Rosalie Bagenski, Denise Meck, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Stephen & Mary Krill, Anna Hutz Lahr, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Connie Padrezas, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mary DeBenedetto, Violet Filipi, Karl Pfeiffenberger, Lisa Vallone, Christopher Polk, Emma St. Romain & Infant, Catherine, Diane Welgus, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Anastasia Homick, Camden Thomas, Dr. Peter Kaminski

Departed: Barbara Clark, Thomas Podalak, Martin Taylor, Dimitrios L., Gregory Gobish, Sky Kincaid, Kelly Purcell, Jerry Raimondi, Devon Nicewicz, Magdalena

*“The sign of sincere love
is to forgive wrongs done
to us. It was with such
love that the Lord loved
the world.”*

+ St. Mark the Ascetic

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, Aug 23: Alex H, Tommy D, Andrew N

Sunday, Aug 30: Christopher D, Symeon C, Ephraim N

Sunday, Sept 6: Alec B, Kaleb D, Andrew C

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Parish Finance Committee

Thursday, August 27th @ 10 AM at Holy Trinity

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 1st @ 6 PM on ZOOM

CALLING ALL HELPERS FOR AN OUTDOOR BI-WEEKLY COFFEE HOUR!

THANK YOU to all who helped with last week's coffee hour, especially for Stephen and Joanne Dutko for organizing, donating the coffee and helping with the setup! Because it was such a success - and with the weather cooling off - we would like to start having a bi-weekly outdoor coffee hour. Our first coffee hour will

be next week, **SUN, AUG 30th** immediately following Divine Liturgy. Like last Sunday, we will keep it as simple as possible. We are looking for volunteers to donate coffee (last week it was from Dunkin Donuts) and a couple strong young men to put out the chairs before Liturgy and put them back after coffee hour. If you would be willing to help in either of these areas please speak with Fr. Innocent, Joanne Dutko or Alexanne Conklin.

HELP US COMPLETE OUR PARISH DIRECTORY!

We are in the final stages of completing a Parish directory that can be distributed among all the faithful of Holy Trinity. Having a Parish directory will help us to stay better connected with one another as a parish family - especially in the midst of these challenging times. To complete the directory we need 2 things from each of you. The first is to confirm the information we have on file for you and your family. The second is for you to give the parish permission to include you (and your family) in the directory. We will not include your contact information in the directory without your permission. Please take a look at the copy on the podium in the vestibule, make necessary corrections to your listing, and write YES or NO to give (or not give) permission to be included. Once the directory is complete, each person or family included in the directory will receive a copy. The directory will not be posted online or distributed outside of the parish. If you are not yet able to come to church, give Fr. Innocent a call or email to review your information. Thanks!

“The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist is a Feast day established by the Church. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.”

Why We Celebrate The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist on August 29th.



The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: “Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip.” Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in an unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown to his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia’s war with the Turks and the Poles.

FAREWELL

JP and Denise Meck

All the best to you! May Our Lord be with you and keep you safe on your journey. We love you and will miss you.
Please keep in touch!

With love in Christ,
Your Holy Trinity Family

Also, thanks to everyone who helped make our going away meal for the Mecks a wonderful success.
