



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sunday, October 18, 2020 - The Parable of the Sower

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke



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!”

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke,
the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ and the scribe
of the Acts of the Apostles; for his writings are a
testimony of the Church of Christ. He is the physician of
human weaknesses and infirmities. He heals the wounds
of our souls, and constantly intercedes for our salvation.

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.

Let us praise the godly Luke; he is the true preacher of
piety, the orator of ineffable mysteries and the star of the
Church, for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of
men, chose him, with the wise Paul, to be a teacher of the
Gentiles!

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel Reading - Luke 8:5-15

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good

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.*

ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

THIS WEEK’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Services livestreamed on Facebook)

SAT: 10 AM Funeral for Joni Belcher

5 PM Great Vespers & Moliebon

TODAY: 8:40 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy,
Church School

+++

Parastas after Divine Liturgy

In Memory of Stephen Krill

offered by Paul & Pat Kulich

+++

In Memory of Connie Padrezas

+++

In Memory of Joni Belcher

+++

**In Memory of Anastasia, Anna, Bernard Golubiewski;
Anna, Wasyl Kuncio and Anthony and Mark Sluhocki**

Offered by Bernard Golubiewski

+++

In Memory of William & Julia Talpash

Offered by the Talpash Family

+++

SAT, October 24: 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, October 25: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
Church School

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES – MANY YEARS!

Upcoming Birthdays: Paula Holoviak (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), Janet Vallone (10/7) John Zimich (10/11), Gail Coslett (10/12) Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Lisa Vallone (10/29), Brian Benczkowski (10/), Barry Benczkowski (10/)
Upcoming Anniversaries: William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Dan & Shannon Bisset Jr. (10/28)

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark

This Wednesday, October 21st

Over six sessions we will read through the Gospel of St. Mark and explore the miracles, parables, teachings and events that shape our faith & Christian lives.

THIS WEEK: Chapters 4–6

Class will be online at 7:00 PM.

(NOTE: OUR START TIME IS NOW 30 MIN EARLIER)

The link to join is the same every week but will be sent with a reminder each Wednesday morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 26th – NOV 2nd: Fr. Innocent and the family will be on vacation. Fr. John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon’s Seminary will be serving Divine Liturgy on Sunday Nov 1st.

Election Day Food Sale for Parishioners: In consideration of parish members who are unable to place an on-line order for the upcoming Election Day Food Sale phone orders may be placed by contacting Maryann @ 570-819-3395. **Ordering begins October 25 and ends October 29 between 9AM and 5PM daily.**

Please note this offer is being extended only to HTOC members and their immediate family. All others may place orders on-line via our website or in person on Election Day.

Menu items include: piggy soup & clam chowder (\$5 bowl, \$11 quart), chicken noodle soup (\$4 bowl, \$10 quart) and porketta sandwiches (\$6).

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, Oct 18: Alec B, Kaleb D, Ephraim N

Sunday, Oct 25: Alex H, Tommy D, Andrew N

Sunday, Nov 1: Christopher D, Symeon C, Andrew C

PARISH PRAYER LIST **Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Anna Hutz Lahr, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mary DeBenedetto, Violet Filipi, Karl Pfeiffenberger, Lisa Vallone, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Anastasia Homick, Camden Thomas, Dr. Peter Kaminski, Peter Holoviak & Family, Mary Krill, Thomas Padrezas, Bachman Family, Brian & Marni, Rose Marie **Departed:** Joni Belcher, Stephen Krill, Connie Padrezas, Karl P., James Balchune, Maria Severino

The Feast of The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's co-workers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyrlic death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.



Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke, the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles, for his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ: He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities. He heals the wounds of our souls, and constantly intercedes for our salvation!

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63

at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1–3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62–63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6–29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of Saint Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of Saint Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of Saint Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72–416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skeleton.

The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in Saint Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes. Saint Luke is also commemorated on April 22.

Receive the Seed of Christ and Bear Fruit

"And the earth brought forth green vegetation producing seed according to its kind and likeness and the fruit tree bearing fruit containing seed producing fruit according to its kind on the earth. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day."

Not only does God order the earth to bring forth "green vegetation," but also to bring forth "seed" that it can always bear fruit. And not only does God order that there be "the fruit tree," but also that it "produce fruit containing seed according to its kind," that is, that it can always bear fruit from these seeds which it contains.

And we, therefore, ought thus both to bear fruit and to have seeds within ourselves, that is, to contain in our heart the seeds of all good works and virtues, that, having these fixed in our minds, from them now we might justly perform all the acts which occur to us. For those are the fruits of that seed, namely our acts, which are brought forth "from the good treasure of our heart."

Origen. (1982). *Homilies on Genesis and Exodus*. (H. Dressler, Ed., R. E. Heine, Trans.) (Vol. 71, pp. 52–53). Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press.
