



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### Saint Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople

August 30, 2020

#### **Troparion – Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

#### **Troparion – Tone 2**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world,// and grants us great mercy.

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Thy mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace// through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander, John, and Paul!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 5**

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life,// but that which is false and temporal.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 8**

Set a flame by the love of Christ, O glorious ones, you took up the yoke of His precious Cross, revealing yourselves as followers in His footsteps by your way of life, and you became partakers of His divine glory, divinely-wise Alexander, with wonderful John and glorious Paul. As you stand before His throne, earnestly pray for our souls!

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 3**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

*v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

## **Saint Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople**

Saints Alexander, John and Paul, Patriarchs of Constantinople, lived at different times, but each of them happened to clash with the activities of heretics who sought to distort the teachings of the Church. Saint Alexander (325-340) was a vicar bishop during the time of Saint Metrophanes (June 4), the first Patriarch of Constantinople.

Because of the patriarch's extreme age, Alexander substituted for him at the First Ecumenical Synod at Nicea (325). Upon his death, Saint Metrophanes left instructions in his will to elect his vicar to the throne of Constantinople. During these times His Holiness Patriarch Alexander had to contend with the Arians and with pagans. Once, in a dispute with a pagan philosopher the saint said to him, "In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ I command you to be quiet!" and the pagan suddenly became mute. When he gestured with signs to acknowledge his errors and affirm the correctness of the Christian teaching, then his speech returned to him and he believed in Christ together with many other pagan philosophers. The faithful rejoiced at this, glorifying God Who had given such power to His saint.

The heretic Arius was punished through the prayer of Saint Alexander. Arius had apparently agreed to enter into communion with the Orthodox. When the Emperor asked him if he believed as the Fathers of Nicea taught, he placed his hand upon his breast (where he had cunningly concealed beneath his clothes a document with his own false creed written upon it) and said, "This is what I believe!" Saint Constantine (May 21), unaware of the deceitful wickedness of Arius, set a day for receiving him into the Church. All night long Saint Alexander prayed, imploring the Lord not to permit this heretic to be received into communion with the Church. In the morning, Arius set out triumphantly for the church, surrounded by imperial counselors and soldiers, but divine judgment overtook him. Stopping to take care of a physical necessity, his bowels burst forth and he perished in his own blood and filth, as did Judas (Acts 1:18).

His Holiness Patriarch Alexander, having toiled much, died in the year 340 at the age of 98. Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25) mentioned him afterwards in an encomium to the people of Constantinople. The Service to Saint Alexander was printed in Venice in 1771. According to some ancient manuscripts, Saint Alexander ought to be commemorated on June 2. Today he is remembered together with the holy Patriarchs John the Faster (September 2) and Paul the New (eighth century).

## **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

## **Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26**

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## **Service Schedule for the week of August 30 – services will be streamed live**

**Today – MASKS REQUIRED** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of graves at the Parish Cemetery at noon

**Saturday September 5 – MASKS REQUIRED** 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

**Sunday September 6 –** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

## **Weekly Giving**

August 23 - adults, youth, \$

## **Parish Announcements**

### **Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):**

Saturday August 29 – Masks not required

Sunday August 30 – Masks required

Saturday September 5 – Masks required

Sunday September 6 – Masks not required

Saturday September 12 – Masks not required

Sunday September 13 – Masks required

Saturday September 19 – Masks required

Sunday September 20 – Masks not required

Saturday September 26 – Masks not required

Sunday September 27 – Masks required

Saturday October 3 – Masks required

Sunday October 4 – Masks not required

Saturday October 10 – Masks not required

Sunday October 11 – Masks required

Saturday October 17 – Masks required

Sunday October 18 – Masks not required

Former parishioner, Raymond George, fell asleep in the Lord last week. He was buried in the parish cemetery next to his wife, Helen.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we will not have a Parish Picnic this year. Also, the annual Turkey Social is postponed and may be rescheduled for Spring 2021 if possible.

In order to prevent the spread of germs, the Communion prosphora and prosphora after Divine Liturgy will be handed out by an Altar server. We ask that you receive the prosphora in your hand and not reach for the prosphora on the tray or bowl.

*When venerating the icons, please only bow your head and refrain from kissing the icons in order to avoid the spreading of germs, which may transmit to a fellow parishioner and cause illness.*

### ***Receiving of Holy Communion:***

Please keep your social distance while waiting to approach the Chalice.

Father will tilt the spoon into your mouth so there is no contact with your lips.

Do not wipe your mouth on the cloth.

Do not kiss the Chalice, but you may bow your head.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Thank you for your monetary contributions to the church on a regular basis! We pray for everyone's continued health and well-being!