



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of Zacchaeus

February 10, 2019

Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion – Tone 4

Thou didst become a firm pillar in the Church of Christ, wise Haralambos; a lamp of everlasting light to the world: well known to the world through thy martyrdom, thou didst dispell the dark night of idolatry.// Boldly intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion – Tone 4

Thou didst rise from the East like a star, Hieromartyr Haralambos, and didst enlighten the faithful with the brightness of thy miracles.// Therefore we honor thy holy contest.

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

v: *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!*

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

Epistle: Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel: Matthew Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Service Schedule for the week of February 10

Today – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday February 16 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday February 17 – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

February 3 – 41 adults, 17 youth, \$2,141

Parish Announcements The sign-up sheet for House Blessing is in the back of the church. Please include your name, phone number, and your preferred date and time for Father's visit. All house blessings must occur prior to Great Lent, which begins on March 11.

Bible Study classes will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM in the church basement. The next classes will be held on Wednesday February 13 and Wednesday February 27. All are welcome to attend!

Please remember to turn in your 2019 Stewardship Pledge Cards as soon as possible. They may be turned in to Nina Laushell, Father Volodymyr, Ludwig Koerte, or Herman Meyer. Thank you.

Vladimir "Walter" Novitsky, father of Alla Strauss, fell asleep in the Lord last week. A viewing will be held in the church on Monday February 11 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM followed by the funeral service. Burial will be at the Morrisville Cemetery.

Father Volodymyr will have a prosphora baking class for the parish children in Daria Hall on Saturday February 23 starting at 9:30 AM. Adults are welcome to attend as well. Class will be followed by a pizza lunch.