



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of Zacchaeus

February 14, 2021

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 1

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Auxentius. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown!// Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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 2

Thou didst delight in abstinence, restraining the desires of the flesh. Divinely wise and holy Father Auxentius, thou wast revealed to be shining with faith,// blossoming like a plant in the midst of Paradise.

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!

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: 1 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: 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 14 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Saturday February 20 – MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday February 21 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour and the FOCA Club chicken parmigiana sandwich sale in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

February 7 – 18 adults, 6 youth, \$1,869

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

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

Saturday February 13 – Masks not required

Sunday February 14 – Masks required

Saturday February 20 – Masks required

Sunday February 21 – Masks not required

Saturday February 27 – Masks not required

Sunday February 28 – Masks required

Saturday March 6 – Masks required

Sunday March 7 – Masks not required

Saturday March 13 – Masks not required

Sunday March 14 – Masks required

Saturday March 20 – Masks required

Sunday March 21 – Masks required

Indoor gathering in New Jersey has been increased to 35% instead of 25%, therefore it is permissible for approx. 73 persons to be in attendance at services. Again, we must remember to maintain proper social distancing and wearing of masks.

Unfortunately the chicken parm. sandwich sale that was scheduled for today is postponed once again due to the weather. We hope to finally be able to prepare the sandwiches next Sunday, February 21. Thank you for your understanding!

Gertrude Hawk Easter candy is for sale! An email was sent out to the parish earlier this week with a copy of the brochure and order form. If you need paper copies of either or both, please see a member of the FOCA Club. The final day for orders is Sunday February 28 as the total order must be submitted to Gertrude Hawk on March 1. Thank you!

The FOCA Club's next fundraiser on March 7, Meatfare Sunday, will be a platter of kielbasa, sauerkraut, and potatoes. All orders will be packaged to go. The cost is \$7/order and a sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Again, the Club appreciates your support as we fundraise funds for our church and various Orthodox ministries.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners **fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. If your family is in need of a pew, please ask the person at the candle desk for assistance to see if individuals can be moved to open up a pew.** The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

