

Ss. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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August 14, 2022

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FEAST OF THE DORMITION
PROPHET MICAH

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 17 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 21 10:00am Divine Liturgy

One must be baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion. Guests are invited to receive a blessing at the chalice and partake of the post-Communion bread (Antidoron).

Fast Days: Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

**Troparion – Tone 8
(Resurrection)**

*Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!*

**Kontakion – Tone 2
(Dormition)**

*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.*

Prayers for those in our Sts. Peter and Paul community (parishioners, family, friends) can be listed for remembrance in our litanies during the Liturgy. Feel free to give names to Fr. Nicholas - please indicate how each person listed is connected to us (parishioner, family, friend, etc.), as well as why we are praying for them (health, memory, travel, etc.).

Confessions can be heard by appointment. If you need, I will come to you during the week. Please do not hesitate to call for a time to drop by the church or to have me visit you.

Remembrances for both the living and the dead during the prayers of preparation of the Eucharistic Lamb and during the Augmented Litany should be given the week before the desired remembrance so that the names can be put into the bulletin and given to the Deacons for the prayers. Any names of the living that are not marked as sick or traveling will be listed under general prayers.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Matthew 14:22-34

Monday

1 Corinthians 15:12-19
Matthew 21:18-22
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 15:29-38
Matthew 21:23-27

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 16:4-12
Matthew 21:28-32

Thursday

2 Corinthians 1:1-7
Matthew 21:43-46

Friday

2 Corinthians 1:12-20
Matthew 22:23-33

Saturday

Romans 15:30-33
Matthew 17:24-18:4

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 14: Zephaniah
Aug 15: Haggai
Aug 16: Zechariah 1-5
Aug 17: Zechariah 6-10
Aug 18: Zechariah 11-14
Aug 19: Malachi
Aug 20: Tobit 1-5

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:

AUGUST EVENTS

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Dormition
16-18 **Vacation Bible School**
17 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
24 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
31 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You gave us the Holy Spirit to empower us, encourage us, and mature us into credible witnesses of the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus. You did not give us Your Spirit to feed our egos or our passions or leave us addicted to emotions and experiences.

We are meant to be made like Christ by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we actively practice the disciplines of Normal Orthodoxy. Grant us to see beyond the feelings to the Faith and help us grow up to become by grace what Christ is by nature. Amen

Children's Word

Trust the Lord

Do you know the story of Jesus walking on water? We hear it today as the Gospel reading.

One night, Jesus sent His disciples out in a boat. After a while, the disciples saw the Lord walking toward them, on top of the water. The disciple Peter, asked Jesus to let him walk out to him too, and He did. Peter was really walking on the water too! But then he started to worry about the wind, and he started to sink. When he lost faith in God, Peter started to sink. He could no longer do that amazing thing!

Tomorrow, we celebrate the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the day Jesus's mother died and went to be with her Son in heaven. We celebrate what a great person she was. We celebrate how she is the saint above all the other saints. We thank her for her life and all she has done for the world. But how did she do it? How did a simple girl become the Mother of God? Well, she did what God wanted Saint Peter to do! She trusted in God all along. God told her what He wanted her to do, and she did it. She had complete faith in Him. And even though her life seemed impossible, she put all her trust in the Lord. Then, with God, she could do the amazing things she did, and the amazing things she is still doing through her miracles!

SAINT DEMETRIOS OF SAMARINA A TRUE MARTYR
Do you remember what a martyr is? When we talk about martyrs like Saint Barbara or Saint George or Saint Alexandra, we remember how these saints died for their faith. They wouldn't give up, even though the rulers were very cruel to them.

Really, a martyr means "witness." A martyr shows other people his strong faith. Many people became Christian when they saw the strong faith of a suffering saint. When Saint George was being hurt because he was a Christian, Saint Alexandra the Empress saw that faith, and she became a Christian too!

This week, we remember a true martyr. Saint Demetrios lived in western Greece, almost to Albania. He had a strong faith in our Lord, and he learned this faith from another saint, Saint Kosmas Aitolos. Sadly, the Turkish authorities learned about Demetrios and they tried their hardest to push him to give up his faith in Christ. Demetrios wouldn't budge! The authorities tried everything they could think of to hurt him. They even surrounded his whole body with rocks, with only his head sticking out. But still, Demetrios would not give in.

This Saint Demetrios was a true martyr. He was a witness to his Christian faith. One man became Christian when he saw how Demetrios stayed faithful to the end. And today, his life still shows us a great example! We celebrate St. Demetrios on Wed., Aug. 17th.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



"Having received from God a propitiation for your offenses, glorify Him who is long-suffering and forgiving, and make every effort to avoid deliberate sin. For though your sins may be forgiven daily until your death, it would be foolish of you to sin glibly with full knowledge of what you are doing. None the less, if you drive off despair with hopefulness and supplicate boldly and insistently, your many sins will be forgiven you. Then, in the age to be, as a debtor you too will love the God who is beyond all goodness and yet has compassion for you."

-St. Theognostos



Matthew 14:22-34

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Is Speaking in Tongues Real?

August 11, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

It's one of (if not the) fastest growing forms of Christianity in the world, and it's the movement I came from when I converted to Orthodoxy so many years ago. I'm talking about the Pentecostal movement. And one of the most distinctive aspects of Pentecostalism is something called "speaking in tongues." Every month I get some question or comment or inquiry about my attitude about this supernatural phenomenon so I thought I'd take this opportunity of today's lesson to talk about it.

First, "speaking in tongues" or glossolalia as it is known, is a common religious phenomenon in practically every religion from paganism to even Islam. The ecstatic utterance inspired by some spirit is as old as humanity itself. So, it isn't surprising to have some form of this spiritual; manifestation present in Christian history. But, how are Orthodox Christians supposed to "be the bee" and find that which is edifying and good in this while avoiding the bad?

Look at our lesson today in 1 Corinthians 14:6-19:

BRETHREN, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how shall I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves; if you in a tongue utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning; but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves; since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. Therefore, he who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with spirit and I will sing with the mind also. Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how can any one in the position of an outsider say the "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? For you may give thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

St. Paul is still trying to get those lovable, but unruly Corinthians to be sober in their faith. And it seems like there were a lot of folks who spoke in tongues there. But their lack of discipline, sobriety, and love for one another had reduced their gatherings to shameful displays.

First Paul insists that when the Church gathers, it be about "us" not "me." One of my own challenges, as I was moving away from Pentecostalism, was the very self-centered nature of my spiritual experiences. It was all about making me feel better. I was using faith like a drug to numb my pain and to change my mood. But the timeless faith is about the real spiritual struggle of becoming like Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, most experiences of speaking in tongues today are motivated by that very self-centered spirit. This is the first clue that this spiritual manifestation needs to be examined closely before we Orthodox say this is healthy!

Next, St. Paul encourages the Corinthians to desire being understood more than being emotionally satisfied. This goes to the heart of my own suspicion about the modern manifestation of speaking in tongues. I know some will say "But, father, this is my prayer language in my private prayer closet." I understand that but we do not live for ourselves in the Orthodox faith. We live for others. And my desire should always be to be understood and to teach and communicate the mysteries of the Faith well for my hearers and not some attempt to wow them with my spiritual manifestations. Of course, being understood in our worship services has many more implications as well! Finally, my own experience with speaking in tongues ceased when I was chrismated into the Church. Perhaps this was a particular discipline for me to move me away from the habit-forming emotional religious experiences of my past, but I no longer speak in tongues, and I'm happy with that. All religious experiences have to be placed under the loving and wise scrutiny of a loving community, the Church. We have to avoid the "me" mentality of religious experiences and learn the power of living with the wisdom of the timeless faith.

Today, are your religious experiences under the tutelage of the timeless Church? Or are you insisting that your faith medicate you into avoiding the true remedy of your soul? It's not easy being Orthodox on Purpose.

1-е Коринфянам 3:9-17

Ибо мы соработники у Бога, [а] вы Божия нива, Божие строение. Я, по данной мне от Бога благодати, как мудрый строитель, положил основание, а другой строит на [нем]; но каждый смотри, как строит. Ибо никто не может положить другого основания, кроме положенного, которое есть Иисус Христос. Строит ли кто на этом основании из золота, серебра, драгоценных камней, дерева, сена, соломы, – каждого дело обнаружится; ибо день покажет, потому что в огне открывается, и огонь испытает дело каждого, каково оно есть. У кого дело, которое он строил, устоит, тот получит награду. А у кого дело сгорит, тот потерпит урон; впрочем сам спасется, но так, как бы из огня. Разве не знаете, что вы храм Божий, и Дух Божий живет в вас? Если кто разорит храм Божий, того покарает Бог: ибо храм Божий свят; а этот [храм] --вы.

К Филиппийцам 2:5-11

Ибо в вас должны быть те же чувствования, какие и во Христе Иисусе: Он, будучи образом Божиим, не почитал хищением быть равным Богу; но уничижил Себя Самого, приняв образ раба, сделавшись подобным человекам и по виду став как человек; смирил Себя, быв послушным даже до смерти, и смерти крестной. Посему и Бог превознес Его и дал Ему имя выше всякого имени, дабы пред именем Иисуса преклонилось всякое колено небесных, земных и преисподних, и всякий язык исповедал, что Господь Иисус Христос в славу Бога Отца.

От Матфея 14:22-34

И тотчас понудил Иисус учеников Своих войти в лодку и отправиться прежде Его на другую сторону, пока Он отпустит народ. И, отпустив народ, Он взошел на гору помолиться наедине; и вечером оставался там один. А лодка была уже на середине моря, и ее било волнами, потому что ветер был противный. В четвертую же стражу ночи пошел к ним Иисус, идя по морю. И ученики, увидев Его идущего по морю, встревожились и говорили: это призрак; и от страха вскричали. Но Иисус тотчас заговорил с ними и сказал: ободритесь; это Я, не бойтесь. Петр сказал Ему в ответ: Господи! если это Ты, повели мне придти к Тебе по воде. Он же сказал: иди. И, выйдя из лодки, Петр пошел по воде, чтобы подойти к Иисусу, но, видя сильный ветер, испугался и, начав утопать, закричал: Господи! спаси меня. Иисус тотчас простер руку, поддержал его и говорит ему: маловерный! зачем ты усомнился? И, когда вошли они в лодку, ветер утих. Бывшие же в лодке подошли, поклонились Ему и сказали: истинно Ты Сын Божий. И, переправившись, прибыли в землю Геннисаретскую.

От Луки 10:38-42; 11:27-28

В продолжение пути их пришел Он в одно селение; здесь женщина, именем Марфа, приняла Его в дом свой; у неё была сестра, именем Мария, которая села у ног Иисуса и слушала слово Его. Марфа же заботилась о большом угощении и, подойдя, сказала: Господи! или Тебе нужды нет, что сестра моя одну меня оставила служить? скажи ей, чтобы помогла мне. Иисус же сказал ей в ответ: Марфа! Марфа! ты заботишься и суетишься о многом, а одно только нужно; Мария же избрала благую часть, которая не отнимется у неё. Когда же Он говорил это, одна женщина, возвысив голос из народа, сказала Ему: блаженно чрево, носившее Тебя, и сосцы, Тебя питавшие! А Он сказал: блаженны слышащие слово Божие и соблюдающие его.

I Korinthianëve 3:9-17

Sepse ne jemi bashkëpunëtorë të Perëndisë; ju jeni ara e Perëndisë, ndërtesa e Perëndisë. Unë sipas hirit të Perëndisë që m'u dha, si kryemjeshtër i ditur hodha themel; e një tjetër ndërton mbi të; po gjithsecili le të shikojë si ndërton mbi të. Sepse askush nuk mund të vërë tjetër themel, përveç atij që është vënë, i cili është Jisu Krishti. Edhe në ndërtoftë ndonjë mbi këtë themel me ar, argjend, gurë të çmueshëm, dru, bar, kallam, puna e gjithsecilit do të shfaqet; sepse dita do ta tregojë; sepse me anë të zjarrit zbulohet; edhe zjarri do të provojë cila është puna e secilit. Nëse mbetet puna e ndonjërit që ndërtoi, do të marrë pagë; nëse digjet puna e ndonjërit, do t'i bëhet dëm, por ai vetë do të shpëtojë, porsia nëpërmjet zjarrit. Nuk e dini se jeni tempull Perëndie, edhe Fryma e Shenjtë rri ndër ju? Në prishtë ndonjëri tempullin e Perëndisë, këtë do ta prishë Perëndia; sepse tempulli i Perëndisë, i cili jeni ju, është i shenjtë.

Filipianeve 2:5-11

Edhe le të jetë tek ju po ajo mendje që ishte edhe në Krishtin Jisu, i cili, duke qenë në formë Perëndie, nuk e quajti për rrëmbim të qenët i barabartë me Perëndinë, por zbraz veten e tij duke marrë formë shërbëtori, duke u bërë i ngjashëm me njerëzit, edhe duke u gjendur me pamje si njeri, e përuli veten e tij, duke u bërë i bindur deri në vdekje, edhe vdekje kryqi. Prandaj edhe Perëndia e mbilartësoi dhe i fali atij emër që është mbi çdo emër, që në emrin e Jisuit të përkulet çdo gju i atyre që janë në qiejt e mbi dhe e nën dhe, edhe çdo gjuhë të rrëfejë se Jisu Krishti është Zot, për lavdi të Perëndisë Atë.

Mattheut 14:22-34

Edhe përnjëherë Jisui i shtrëngoi nxënësit e tij të hyjnë në lundër, edhe të shkojnë përtej më përpara se ai, deri sa të lëshojë turmat. Edhe si lëshoi turmat, u ngjit në mal veçan që të lutet; edhe si u ngrys, ishte vetëm atje. Edhe lundra ishte tashmë në mes të detit duke u përpjekur nga valët; sepse era ishte kundër. Edhe në rojën e katërt të natës Jisui shkoi tek ata, duke ecur përmbi det. Edhe nxënësit kur e panë që po ecte përmbi det, u trembën e thanë se është hije. Edhe nga frika bërtitën. Po Jisui përnjëherë u foli atyre, duke thënë: Kini guxim, jam unë, mos u frikësoni. Edhe Pjetri iu përgjigj e tha: Zot, në je ti, urdhëromë të vij tek ti mbi ujërat. Edhe ai tha: Eja. Edhe Pjetri zbriti nga lundra dhe eci mbi ujërat, që të vinte tek Jisui. Po kur pa erën e fortë, u frikësua; edhe si zuri të zhytet, bërtiti, duke thënë: Zot, shpëtomë. Edhe Jisui përnjëherë zgjati dorën, e zuri, edhe i thotë: O besëpakë, përse ngurove? Edhe si hynë në lundër, pushoi era. Edhe ata që ishin në lundër erdhën e iu falën atij, duke thënë: Me të vërtetë je bir Perëndie. Edhe si shkuan përtej, erdhën në dheun Gjenisaret.

Llukait 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Edhe ndodhi që kur ata po shkonin, ai hyri në një fshat; edhe një grua me emrin Marta, e priti atë në shtëpinë e saj. Edhe ajo kishte një motër që quhej Maria, e cila ndenji pranë këmbëve të Jisuit dhe dëgjonte fjalën e tij. Ndërsa Marta mundohej shumë duke shërbyer; edhe pastaj erdhi përpara tij, e tha: Zot, A nuk do të dish se ime motër më la vetëm të shërbej? Thuaji pra asaj të më ndihmojë. Edhe Jisui u përgjigj e i tha: Marta, Marta, kujdesesh e shqetësohesh për shumë punë. Po për një është nevojë, edhe Maria zgjodhi pjesën e mirë, e cila nuk do të merret prej saj. Edhe ndodhi që kur ai po thoshte këto, një grua prej turmës ngriti zërin e i tha atij: Lum barku që të ka mbajtur, edhe gjinjtë që ke thithur. Po ky tha: Por në të vërtetë, të lumur janë ata që dëgjojnë fjalën e Perëndisë dhe e ruajnë.