

# Sts. 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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July 18, 2021

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 21 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Sun. 25 ..... 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, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

**Troparion – Tone 3**  
**(Ressurrection)**

*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.*

**Kontakion – Tone 8**  
**(Holy Fathers)**

*The Apostles' preaching and the  
Fathers' doctrines have  
established one Faith for the  
Church.  
Adorned with the robe of truth,  
woven from heavenly theology,  
It defines and glorifies the great  
mystery of piety.*

**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

Hebrews 13:7-16  
John 17:1-13  
Romans 6:18-23  
Matthew 8:5-13

### Monday

Romans 12:4-5, 15-21  
Matthew 12:9-13

### Tuesday

Romans 14:9-18  
Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30

### Wednesday

Romans 15:7-16  
Matthew 12:38-45

### Thursday

Romans 15:17-29  
Matthew 12:46-13:3

### Friday

Romans 16:1-16  
Matthew 13:4-9

### Saturday

Romans 8:28-39  
John 15:17-16:2  
Romans 8:14-21  
Matthew 9:9-13

## Reading the Bible in a Year

July 18: Lamentations  
July 19: Ezekiel 1-4  
July 20: Ezekiel 5-8  
July 21: Ezekiel 9-12  
July 22: Ezekiel 13-16  
July 23: Ezekiel 17-20  
July 24: Ezekiel 21-24

## ***When We Pray We Must Pray for Repentance***

## **JULY EVENTS**

When we face down our own weaknesses, we can begin the process of constructing the foundation for an intimate relationship with God. Ignoring those things that keep us stuck in the quagmire that is the ego, prevents spiritual growth, and the joy of being immersed in the Heart of God, remains but a dream. Confronting our weaknesses is the beginning of healing because it is at that moment that we realize we need God's help in order to be made whole. When we admit to our brokenness, and seek God's help, we can be healed.

When we pray we must make the central theme of our prayer a request that God bring us to true repentance. Repentance must be the goal of our prayer life, for only in repentance can we gain humility. God's grace will sustain us through any trial, and His grace will abound in us if it can take root in a humble heart achieved through repentance. Repentance must be the central goal of our life of prayer.

Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

### **July**

18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
21 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet  
25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
28 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

### **August**

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
04 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet  
05 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy *Feast of Transfiguration*  
06 – 6:00pm Fun Night  
08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
11 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

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***“When I consider the actual nature of compunction, I am amazed at how that which is called mourning and grief should contain joy and gladness within it, like honey in the comb”***

-St. John of the Ladder



## **A Prayer for the Week**

**Dear Lord, along with the Apostle Paul, I thank You for Your mercy in giving the Law to the descendants of Abraham. You did this for my salvation. And then You revealed this choosing as the way You were going to extend the blessings of being descendants of Abraham to anyone who had faith. Lord, we stand in awe of Your wisdom and mercy, and we rejoice that You save us and love us more than we could ever imagine. You are the Only Lover of Mankind. Amen.**

## **July Birthdays/Anniversaries**

Jacob Leibkind - 4th  
Nick Muzekari - 9th  
Protodeacon Gregory Vrato's ordination - 10th  
Michelle Murianka - 12th  
Jennie Speero - 14th  
Marina & Margarita Rubis – namesday - 17th  
Masha Zaychik - 19th  
John Douris - 20th  
Ilia Rubis – namesday - 20th  
Christina Schaeffer - 24th

## **Coffee Hour**

**This Week:** Maria Starr

**Next Week:** Masha Zaychik

If anyone who is currently unable to attend our Sunday Liturgy and supply coffee hour would like to donate to host a coffee hour, please contact Fr. Nicholas 860-861-7468

## **Romans 6:18-23**

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Matthew 8:5-13**

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

## **Children's Word**

### **Many will come!**

Have you ever had a birthday party and invited some of your friends? Who was on your list? Were they all from your class or sports team? Were they all boys or all girls? Did they all live in your same town? Chances are, your friends had something in common with each other. In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a Roman authority who came to find Jesus. His servant was sick, and he knew Jesus could heal him. He didn't expect Jesus to come and touch the sick man. He knew He could just say the word, and he would be healed! He really had great faith, but the funny thing was that the Roman authority wasn't even Jewish, like Jesus was! That's why Jesus praised this man: "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

When you have a party, you usually invite people like you, but our Lord invites everybody to be with Him. He says, in the Gospel today, "Many will come from east and west...in the kingdom of heaven." Heaven will be full of all types of people, because our Lord invites them all. God invites us all, but remember, we have to take His invitation! We take His invitation when we follow our Lord. We take His invitation when we believe in Him, like the man in the Gospel today!

### **SAINT MILITSA PRINCESS OF SERBIA**

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be a prince or princess?

We think of all the excitement of parties and dedications and crowns and gowns, but many rulers had to face hard times! They had to make hard decisions. They worried about who would attack them. Sometimes their families were in danger because somebody else wanted to take the throne!

Saint Militsa was a princess of Serbia more than 600 years ago. She was a princess, but things were not easy for her! Her husband, the prince, was killed in a battle when he was defending the Holy Orthodox Church against the Ottomans. Her son would grow up to be prince, but Militsa ruled until he was old enough to rule.

During her life, Militsa had to deal with lots of fighting—even in her own family! She tried to face everything in a peaceful way, with the love of Christ.

Later on, when she was almost 60, Militsa started a monastery for nuns, and she became a nun too. (She had a new name then, Eugenia). She built many other monasteries and churches in her country.

Saint Militsa is a special saint for Serbia. Her relics (her holy body) have healed many people through her prayers to God.

We remember St. Militsa tomorrow, July 19th

# The Unknowable Depths of God's Mercy

July 16, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I do this sometimes. When I'm checking out at the grocery store, I will read the outlandish headlines on the tabloid papers displayed there. Of course, that's why they put those papers there so that you'll read them while you wait in line. Smart marketing!

But sometimes the headlines are so outrageous that I will actually pick the paper up and look inside!

Why are we drawn to sensational stories? Why do we relish conspiracy theories? Why is "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" popular?

We DESIRE to KNOW everything, and we need to learn there are some things I simply can not truly know. And one mystery stands above all other mysteries: Just how deep does God's mercy go!

Let's look at our lesson today in Romans 11:25-36:

*Brethren, lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of Gentiles come in, and so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." As regards the gospel they are enemies of God, for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.*

St. Paul gives us a real treasure of wisdom and insight when he writes his Letter to the Romans, and the Holy Spirit wants us to discover and value this treasure because He preserved this wisdom for us in having Romans recognized as a part of the New Testament canon of Holy Scriptures. Today's reading is one of the many reasons why this is such a treasure.

Paul deals with the sticky issue of the special calling God made of Abraham and his descendants and the reality that the vast majority of the Children of Abraham rejected their Messiah when He came! This is a very real issue then and now. Did God change His mind about the Jews? Has God rejected His covenant with Abraham? Has God "picked" a new "favorite?" One could be forgiven for asking these questions in light of the very real situation of the message of Jesus as the Messiah and now all these non-Jews coming into the Church!

Paul says the hearts of the Jews have hardened against the Truth, but that God's calling on them is irrevocable. He then says that this moment in time has also produced the happy event of the Gentiles being received into the Family of God through God's grace. So, while the rejection of the Jews of God's mercy is terrible for them, it becomes an opportunity for us to received God's mercy and be grafted into the Vine of God's Family. After all, all men have proven to be disobedient, even the ones who've had a "head start" on God's grace and wisdom. But God's mercy and grace are stronger than all men's disobedience combined!

God's mercy and grace are always greater than humanity's sins and rebellion. God's grace is immeasurable and all the sins of all the humans who've ever lived are swallowed by His love and forgiveness. As we say in confession "If You kept a record of sins who could stand? But You are the God of the penitent!"

As painful and tragic as the rejection of Israel of their Messiah is, it isn't greater than God's mercy or His eternal calling. The truth is the first converts to the Church were all Jewish and all the Lord's Apostles were obedient Jews. And now, millions of Gentiles who never had the spiritual head start of being in the "Chosen Few." This message of God's forever intention of saving the whole world by first setting apart one group of people to give the Law to for the purposes of blessing the whole world is an amazing display of God's mercy and love.

Today, are you willing to see the whole picture of God's plan for saving the whole world? Look at His amazing mercy for us all in saving the whole of humanity and determine to live your life Orthoxox on Purpose.

## **К Римлянам 6:18-23**

Освободившись же от греха, вы стали рабами праведности. Говорю по [рассуждению] человеческому, ради немощи плоти вашей. Как предавали вы члены ваши в рабы нечистоте и беззаконию на [дела] беззаконные, так ныне представьте члены ваши в рабы праведности на [дела] святые. Ибо, когда вы были рабами греха, тогда были свободны от праведности. Какой же плод вы имели тогда? [Такие дела], каких ныне сами стыдитесь, потому что конец их—смерть. Но ныне, когда вы освободились от греха и стали рабами Богу, плод ваш есть святость, а конец-- жизнь вечная. Ибо возмездие за грех--смерть, а дар Божий-- жизнь вечная во Христе Иисусе, Господе нашем.

## **От Матфея 8:5-13**

Когда же вошел Иисус в Капернаум, к Нему подошел сотник и просил Его: Господи! слуга мой лежит дома в расслаблении и жестоко страдает. Иисус говорит ему: Я приду и исцелю его. Сотник же, отвечая, сказал: Господи! я недостойн, чтобы Ты вошел под кров мой, но скажи только слово, и выздоровеет слуга мой; ибо я и подвластный человек, но, имея у себя в подчинении воинов, говорю одному: пойдя, и идет; и другому: приди, и приходит; и слуге моему: сделай то, и делает. Услышав сие, Иисус удивился и сказал идущим за Ним: истинно говорю вам, и в Израиле не нашел Я такой веры. Говорю же вам, что многие придут с востока и запада и возлягут с Авраамом, Исааком и Иаковом в Царстве Небесном; а сыны царства извержены будут во тьму внешнюю: там будет плач и скрежет зубов. И сказал Иисус сотнику: иди, и, как ты веровал, да будет тебе. И выздоровел слуга его в тот час.

### **Romakëve 6:18-23**

Dhe, mbasi u liruati nga mëkati, u bëtë shërbëtorë të drejtësisë. Unë po flas njerëzisht për shkak të dobësisë së mishit tuaj. Sepse ashtu si një kohë i kishit përkushtuar gjymtyrët tuaja për të qënë shërbëtorë të papastërtisë dhe të paudhësisë për të bërë paudhësinë, kështu tani përkushtoni gjymtyrët tuaj për të qënë shërbëtorë të drejtësisë për shenjtërim. Sepse, kur ishit shërbëtorë të mëkatit, ishit të lirë në lidhje me drejtësinë. Dhe çfarë fryt kishit, pra, atëherë, nga ato gjëra, për të cilat tani keni turp? Sepse fundi i tyre është vdekja. Por tani, pasi u liruati nga mëkati dhe u bëtë shërbëtorë të Perëndisë keni për frytin tuaj shenjtërimin dhe për fund jeta e përhjetshme. Sepse paga e mëkatit është vdekja, por dhuntia e Perëndisë është jeta e përhjetshme në Jezu Krishtin, Zotin tonë.

### **Mateu 8:5-13**

Kur Jezusi hyri në Kapernaum i erdhi një centurion duke iu lutur, dhe duke thënë: “O Zot, shërbëtori im rri shtrirë në shtëpi i paralizuar dhe po vuan shumë.” Dhe Jezusi i tha: “Do të vij dhe do ta shëroj.” Centurioni duke u përgjigjur i tha: “Zot, unë nuk jam i denjë që ti të hysh nën strehën time; por thuaj vetëm një fjalë dhe shërbëtori im do të shërohet. Sepse unë jam një njeri nën urdhërin e të tjerëve, dhe i kam ushtarët nën vete; dhe, po t’i them dikujt: “Shko,” ai shkon; dhe po t’i them një tjetri: Eja,,” ai vjen; dhe po t’i them shërbëtorit tim: “Bëje këtë,” ai e bën.” Dhe Jezusi, kur i dëgjoi këto gjëra, u mrekullua dhe u tha atyre që e ndiqnin: “Në të vërtetë po ju them, se askund në Izrael nuk e gjeta një besim aq të madh. Unë po ju them se shumë do të vijnë nga lindja dhe nga perëndimi dhe do të ulen në tryezë me Abrahamin, me Isaakun dhe me Jakobin, në mbretërinë e qiejve, por bijtë e mbretërisë do të flaken në errësirat e jashtme. Atje do të jetë e qara dhe kërcëllimi dhëmbëve.” Dhe Jezusi i tha centurionit: “Shko dhe u bëftë ashtu si besove!” Dhe shërbëtori i tij u shërua që në atë çast.