

September 14th, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 5

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (Epistle)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 (Gospel)

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother,

Gospel continued on back

Many Years! anniversaries

2nd - Austin & Tori Jackson
6th - Victor & Terri Volosin
23rd - Rick & Shirley Sandbothe

birthdays

5th - Linda Deak
12th - Ken Denson
13th - Doreen Himelrick
14th - Cassandra Head
17th - Trevor Hendrix
20th - Noah Scott
22nd - Bill Stevens
24th - Dave Guy
29th - Michael Mikita
29th - Bodie Glover
29th - Eilidh Robinson

Calendar

Parish Council Meeting
Following Liturgy Today!

Slavic Fest Prep Continues
Following Coffee Hour Today!

September 17th Moleben
Followed by Adult Study
— Wednesday 6:30p

September 19th **Hierarchical Liturgy** with Bp. Vasily
Location: Holy Theophany
— Friday 8:00a

September 20th Great Vespers
— Saturday 6:30p

September 21st Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

Gospel continued from front

and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!

The Exaltation of the Lord's Cross has arrived. Then the Cross was erected on a high place, so that the people could see it and render honor to it. Now, the cross is raised in the churches and monasteries. But this is all external. There is a spiritual exaltation of the cross in the heart. It happens when one firmly resolves to crucify himself, or to mortify his passions—something so essential in Christians that, according to the Apostle, they only are Christ's who have crucified their flesh with its passions and lusts (cf. Gal. 5:24). Having raised this cross in themselves, Christians hold it exalted all their lives. Let every Christian soul ask himself if this is how it is, and let him hearken to the answer that his conscience gives him in his heart. Oh, may we not hear, "You only please your flesh in the passions; your cross is not exalted—it is thrown into the pit of the passions, and is rotting there in negligence and contempt!"

When the Lord was taken down from the Cross, the Cross remained on Golgotha, and then it was thrown into the pit that was in that place, where this instrument of execution was usually thrown, together with other refuse. Soon Jerusalem was razed and all of its edifices were leveled to the ground. The pit containing the Cross of Christ was also filled over. When the pagans rebuilt the city (the Jews were forbidden to come near the place where it was), it happened that on the place where the Cross of Christ was hidden, they placed an idol of Venus, the pagan Goddess of fornication and all manner of lusts. This is what the enemy suggested to them. This is how it is with our inner cross. When the enemy destroys the spiritual order in the soul, this is our mental Jerusalem, and then the spiritual cross is thrown down from the Golgotha of the heart and is covered over with the garbage of the affections and lusts. Lustful self-pleasure then rises like a tower over all our inner peace, and everything in us bows down to it and fulfills its commands until grace shines upon us, inspiring us to cast down the idol and lift up the cross of self-crucifixion.

—St. Theophan the Recluse

Troparion | Tone 1

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!*

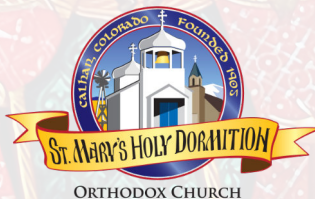
‡ *The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! (Ps. 98:1)*

‡ *The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the people. (Ps. 98:2)*

‡ *Bow down in worship to the Lord in His holy court! (Ps. 98:10)*

Kontakion | Tone 1

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!



Prayer List

living

Clergy: Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana

Community: Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Emily, Tony, Diane, Bourg Family, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard ✕ Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael.

Those with child: Libbie

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Charles, Bob Selle, Brian Molner, Avier Cruz

Commemorations

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross. Repose of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407). Monastic Martyr Macarius of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1507). Monastic Martyr Joseph of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1819).

Coffee Hour

A heartfelt thank you to Butch, Helen, Harold and Dee, who sponsored last week's coffee hour - Many Years! Today's Coffee Hour is provided by Kelly Glover. Please join us in the hall across the street for a time of fellowship and a light meal. If you would like to sign up to sponsor a coffee hour, please use the form in the parish hall to select a date and sign up.

September 21st
—Carrie (Dave "50th")

September 28th
—Linda & Colleen Hendrix

October 5th
—AVAILABLE

October 12th
—Slavic Fest!

October 19th
—Jennifer Pinnell

October 26th
—AVAILABLE