

January 22, 2023
Sunday of Zacchaeus



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8: pg. 161 - 163

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 22 SUNDAY of ZACCHAEUS
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Lori Gilbert, 30th year after passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

SUN., JAN. 29 SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Lori Foister, 6th year after passing, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

Do you desire Christ?

This Sunday marks the first of five Sundays before the beginning of the Great Fast in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Pascha. The Gospel lesson for today is clear: everything begins with the desire to see Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus, the rich tax collector, desired to see Jesus so much that he even climbed a sycamore tree to get a good view, not worrying about what others thought of him. Jesus saw him, called him down and visited his house. Zacchaeus then acknowledged his sinfulness and voluntarily offered to give half of what he had to the poor and four times what he had taken from anyone by false accusation. The joy of the occasion is evidenced in Christ's words: *"Today salvation has come to this house... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus led to his salvation.

We are taking down the Christmas decorations in the Church TODAY after Liturgy
If you are able, please stay and help. *Thank you!*

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

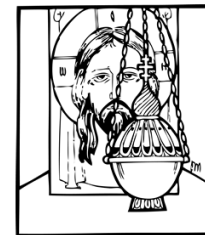
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – Jan. 22: Dan Pinchot – Jan. 29: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Jan. 22: F. Hersh – Jan. 29: R. Mudron

If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.
We could always use the help!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 22 - 28, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ John Chabala

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Mary Elizabeth Olack

Lessons of the story of Zacchaeus

Don't make a judgment based on appearance. Far too often we make a judgment about someone based on how someone looks or acts. This makes us impotent to help someone change their lives.

Don't make a judgment based on reputation. People gained a reputation For Better or Worse from their lives they have lived and reports that have been spread about them. When you hear negative reports from someone, ask God to help you withhold judgment.

ZACCHEUS MEETS JESUS
SECRET MESSAGE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	5	19	21	19		19	1	9	4		20	15		8	9	13			20	15	4	1	25		
19	1	12	22	1	20	9	15	14		8	1	19		3	15	13	5		20	15		20	8	9	19
8	15	21	19	5		2	5	3	1	21	19	5		20	8	9	19		13	1	14				
20	15	15		9	19	1		19	15	14		15	6		1	2	18	1	8	1	13				
6	15	18		20	8	5		19	15	14		15	6		13	1	14		3	1	13	5		20	15
19	5	5	11		1	14	4		20	15		19	1	22	5		20	8	5		12	15	19	20	

LUKE 19:9 (NIV)

Reminder: Blessing of Homes

If you would like to have your home blessed, which is our custom after Theophany, please list your name and contact information on the sign-in sheet in the Narthex or Center.

Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts Today Following Liturgy

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served in the Center.



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

One of the most ancient parts of the Eucharistic Liturgy - and one that is in all of the major liturgical traditions of apostolic origin - is the **Triumphal Hymn** (sometimes called the **Sanctus**). While the entire Divine Liturgy is chock-full of Scriptural references and allusions, the Hymn of Victory is one of those places where Holy Scripture is quoted explicitly. The words of the Bible become the words of God's people in praise. The first part of the Sanctus comes from the vision of the Prophet Isaiah:

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of his glory. Around him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6.1-3)

The word "Hosannah" is both an exclamation of praise *and* a plea for aid. It is both a celebration and a prayer for help. On Palm Sunday, when Christ made his "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem on a humble colt, those who followed him shouted out: "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**" (Matthew 21.9) And then they quoted from Psalm 117: "**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.**" (Psalm 117:26; Matthew 21.9).

By using this Psalm when Jesus was entering Jerusalem, they were affirming their belief that Jesus himself is "he who comes in the Name of the Lord;" the one who fulfills the Psalm in a prophetic way. When we sing these words we are, like the children who placed palm branches on Jesus' path, affirming that we believe he is *once again* coming in the Name of the Lord. This time he is coming not on a donkey, but in a mystical way in the Sacrament of the Altar.

And so these sacred Scriptures - Isaiah, Psalm 117, the Gospel of Matthew - blend together in a perfect harmony as we sing his hymn. It's a hymn of Angels; it's a hymn of the saints in heaven.

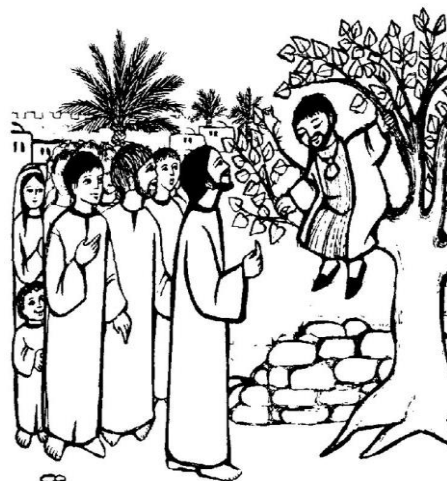
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.

It is a "Triumphal Hymn" because it is our exclamation of Christ's victory over sin, death, and hell. He is our conquering King of Peace. And we are his faithful and humble subjects whom he visits in his mercy and feeds with the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

Yours in the Kingdom of God,
Fr. Geoff

Sunday of Zacchaeus

This Sunday we hear the gospel account of Zacchaeus the tax collector. Careful attention should be paid to Christ's instructions to Zacchaeus, for in them we can all find the way to see Jesus. "Make haste ..." Jesus was passing through Jericho. Now was the time to seek Him. He might not pass this way again. Zacchaeus needed to seize the opportunity to meet Christ. In exhorting the Church at Corinth, Saint Paul declares, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). In the hustle and bustle of life, how easy it is to ignore "the one thing needful" because of all life's little emergencies. But in the midst of the laundry, the carpooling, the commute to work, all the activities that comprise our lives, Jesus is passing by. We must "make haste" to meet Him; we must not let life get in the way of the Source of Life. Right now, today, we must seek Him. And we must do it every day.



"Come down..." Zacchaeus had ascended into a tree to see the Truth (Jesus). From his lofty perch he thought he could see. And though from the height of the tree he could see Jesus at a distance, he had to come back down to meet Him. Oftentimes we attempt, through our own strength, to ascend to truth and happiness. Some climb the corporate ladder; others acquire knowledge in ivory towers. But it is not through lofty positions, through knowledge, or through power that we encounter the Prince of Peace. We come to know Him by coming down from our lofty perches of arrogance, pride and self-assurance. It is His presence we must seek, not simply knowledge through observation and study from afar. "I must stay at your house ..."

For Zacchaeus, meeting Jesus did not simply entail a casual introduction or handshake on the road. Jesus was, in effect, saying to Zacchaeus, "You want to know me really? Then you must open up your personal life to Me. Take Me where you live." For us truly to know Jesus, we must bring Him into our homes; that is, our day-to-day existence.

It is not enough to attend an occasional liturgy, or give thought to Him on the great occasion of His birth or Resurrection. To know Him truly we must allow Him into every "room" of our heart. He must abide with us. If we keep certain "rooms" closed to Him, then those aspects of our lives are denied His presence and therefore His peace, mercy and blessing. Many of us claim we want to know Jesus and know Him intimately. But in truth, we want to know Him at a distance. We are perfectly happy to climb up a tree and watch Him pass by.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

We can feel good about ourselves — after all, didn't we make the effort to climb the tree? Yes, we can simply watch Him pass by. But if that is all we seek, then our lives remain unchanged. That wasn't good enough for Zacchaeus. He responded as Christ encouraged him: "Make haste ... come down ... I must stay at your house."

What was the result of Zacchaeus's response to Christ's bidding? Jesus Himself tells us in the closing verses of the Gospel passage: "Today salvation has come to this house ... for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost." "Make haste ... come down ... let Me stay at your house ..." If we respond as Zacchaeus did, then nothing short of the eternal salvation of our souls is given us. What more could we possibly want?

By Very Rev. Stephen Rogers

We Begin our Preparation for Repentance and Renewal

During the year, there are two cycles of feasts that we celebrate. The fixed feasts, that is, those like the Nativity and Theophany of Christ, which we have recently celebrated are commemorated on the same date each year. And the movable feasts, such as the Resurrection, the Ascension and Pentecost which fall on different dates each year based on the spring equinox.

If we look more deeply at these feasts, we come to realize that the fixed feasts tell us more about the content of our faith, what we believe about the Incarnation, about the Holy Trinity, about our Transfiguration into god-like people.

The movable feasts tell us more about how we get there. During the Great Lenten journey, we are presented with the themes of repentance and renewal, asceticism and fasting, conversion and change of heart.

Today, we come to the Sunday of Zacchaeus, the last of the Sundays after Pentecost and the opening to the new season of repentance and renewal. The goal of this journey is to help us move from the periphery of life where we are often immersed and to come closer to the center, that is, to Christ who is the Truth and Life.

Various models are offered to us along the way. As we make our journey up to Jerusalem and to a deeper commitment to our baptismal life, we look at the different models that are presented to us.

Zacchaeus is a rich man, a tax collector, a Jew hired by the Roman authorities to collect taxes from his fellow countrymen. He did not realize that he was much of a sinner until he met Jesus. Then his life changed dramatically!

Jesus said: I must stay at your house tonight. When we allow the Lord to come this close to us personally, something happens, and we can change much like Zacchaeus.

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be! ~ Christos posred'i nas! Jest' i budet!