



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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PROPHET EZEKIEL

July 21, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

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 4

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Thy mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace// through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John!

Troparion – Tone 2

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Ezekiel, O Lord; through him we beseech Thee:// “Save our souls!”

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

Let us praise the venerable Simeon as an equal to the angels, for he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel shining forth to all as an example of the virtues; and with him let us honor his companion, the ever memorable and God-bearing Father John// for they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love!

Kontakion – Tone 4

Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God, wondrous Ezekiel, proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb and Creator// the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

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!*

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Prophet Ezekiel

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had

the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

Saint Demetrius of Rostov (October 28 and September 21) explains to believers the following concepts in the book of the Prophet Ezekiel: if a righteous man turns from righteousness to sin, he shall die for his sin, and his righteousness will not be remembered. If a sinner repents, and keeps God's commandments, he will not die. His former sins will not be held against him, because now he follows the path of righteousness (Ez. 3:20; 18:21-24).

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 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.

Gospel: 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Carmine (6/30)	Matushka Mary (7/14)
Marianne (6/30)	Father Paul (7/14)
Serge (7/7)	Alexandra (7/14)
Melody (7/7)	Bill (7/14)
Michael (7/7)	Fr. Paul Kucynda (7/14)
Charlotte (7/7)	Dale (7/14)
Athena (7/7)	Kelly (7/21)
Lynne (7/14)	Liam (7/21)

For the Deceased

Pauline (7/14)
Olga (7/14)
Katherine (7/14)
Edmund (7/14)
Arthur (7/14)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of July 21

Sunday July 21 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday July 27 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday July 28 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

July 14 – 106 adults, 22 youth, \$2,285

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Father Volodymyr will be away Sunday July 21 and Sunday July 28. Father Bohdan will serve Vespers and Divine Liturgy both weekends. If you are in need of a priest while Father Volodymyr is away, please contact Father Bohdan at 732-486-9460.

If you are in need of a box of Offering Envelopes, please see Alex Brasowski or someone at the candle desk.

Many of you may not be aware that the church has two cemeteries located in Hamilton, NJ, not far from the church. If you are interested in purchasing a plot (cost is \$1,000 including perpetual care) please speak with Father Volodymyr, Michael Toth, or a member of the Parish Council. Our parishioner and Altar Server, Logan Berck, along with other members of his Boy Scouts of America/New Egypt Troop, will beautify one side of our smaller cemetery where it adjoins with another cemetery. They will plant new shrubs and also install a bench near the Cross in the larger cemetery. This is Logan's Eagle Scout project, and the Parish thanks him and his fellow Scouts for volunteering to help beautify our cemetery grounds!

There will be a Men's Orthodox Fellowship Group meeting at 9:00 AM on Saturday July 27 in the church basement. All men of the parish are welcome!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Seth Kilgore – July 21

Marianne Guagenti – July 26

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services.** If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) **with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event.** The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

July 21 Chris Kasmer, Herman & Francine Meyer
July 28 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
Aug. 4 **FAST** Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
Aug. 11 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes
Aug. 18 Ladies Assumption Altar Society
Aug. 25 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore
Sept. 1 Tyler Burger, Awet Tesfa
Sept. 8 Olga & James Bates, Tanya & Walter Tribbey
Sept. 15 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock
Sept. 22 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Sept. 29 Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab
Oct. 6 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
Oct. 13 **ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Oct. 20 Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Alan & Mimi Berck
Oct. 27 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun
Nov. 3 Matthew Anderson, Jeremy Salmon
Nov. 10 Galina Shubina, Amber Touch
Nov. 17 Fiyori Habtesillasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
Nov. 24 **FAST** Peter Abdallah, Jim Galcik
Dec. 1 **FAST** Natalia Kolomatskaia, Trudy Ellmore
Dec. 8 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty
Dec. 15 **FAST** Vera Pschenyczny, Amleset Gebrekvistas
Dec. 29 Valeria & Timothy Srock, Guy Radcliffe
Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Alex & Brittani Brasowski

Have a healthy, blessed week!