



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

July 13, 2014

**Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,
Cantors**

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ Next Sunday is the simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet. Traditionally we bless vehicles of travel on this day. Please be certain you are with us so your vehicle may be blessed. Prayers for the intention of travelers and drivers will be offered. Invite neighbors and friends to join us.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Maria, Pani Anna Marie and Andrea.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$296.00; Candles, \$29.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Holyday, \$30.00, for a total of \$675.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1809.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5750 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

+++ We invite all pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.

+++ Work is about to begin on the exterior of our building with the soffit being replaced completely so that new gutters and down spouts may be installed. Plans are being made to have the dome refurbished and reinstalled on the roof.

LORD



TEACH
US

God Is Faithful

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made Psalms 145: 13.

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never abandoned anyone who searches for you Psalms 9: 10.

Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens Psalms 89: 2.

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart Psalms 91: 4.

"They will try, but they will fail. For I am with you," says the Lord. "I will deliver you" Jeremiah 1: 19.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them, for the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you Deuteronomy 31: 6.

But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins 1 John 1: 9.

Even if my mother and father abandon me, the Lord will hold me close Psalms 27: 10.

I will never fail you. I will never forsake you Hebrews 13: 5.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death, Christ our God is risen giving great mercy to the world" Troparion, Resurrection Tone Four.

O my Saviour and Redeemer, being God, You raised from the grave men who were in chains and destroyed the gates of the Abyss; being the Lord, You arose on the third day Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Four.

How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have made them all Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Four.

O Saviour, You have absolved the penalty of disobedience, committed through the tree of Eden, by willingly being nailed to the tree of the Cross. As Almighty God, You descended into the Abyss and broke asunder the bonds of death. We, therefore, venerate Your Resurrection from the dead, and joyfully cry out to You: Almighty Lord, glory to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

O Lord, Your Nativity from the Father is timeless and eternal; Your Incarnation from the Virgin is beyond the understanding of all, and beyond the expression of our words. Your descent into the Abyss and victory over death caused satan and his angels to tremble with fear. Your Resurrection on the third day brought to mankind incorruption and great mercy Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

I have sinned against You, O Lover of mankind. May I ask forgiveness, and even more than forgiveness? Do not grant me this because of Your nature as man, but because You are more than man and higher than nature. O Saviour, beyond the laws of nature and beyond my understanding You became man. You love mankind more than the mind can grasp. Have mercy on me who have turned to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

You are glorified in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God. Through their intercession, send upon us great mercy Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

Jewish Sects

PHARISEES

Their roots can be traced to the second century B.C.—to the Hasidim.

1. Along with the Torah, they accepted as equally inspired and authoritative, all material contained within the oral tradition.
2. On free will and determination, they held to a mediating view that made it impossible for either free will or the sovereignty of God to cancel out the other.
3. They accepted a rather developed hierarchy of angels and demons.
4. They taught that there was a future for the dead.
5. They believed in the immortality of the soul and in reward and retribution after death.
6. They were champions of human equality.
7. The emphasis of their teaching was ethical rather than theological.



ZEALOTS

They originated during the reign of Herod the Great c. 6 B.C. and ceased to exist in A.D. 73 at Masada.

1. They opposed payment of tribute for taxes to a pagan emperor, saying that allegiance was due only to God.
2. They held a fierce loyalty to the Jewish traditions.
3. They were opposed to the use of the Greek language in Palestine.
4. They prophesied the coming of the time of salvation.



SADDUCEES

They probably had their beginning during the Hasmonean period (166-63 B.C.). Their demise occurred c. A.D. 70 with the fall of Jerusalem.

1. They denied that the oral law was authoritative and binding.
2. They interpreted Mosaic law more literally than did the Pharisees.
3. They were very exacting in Levitical purity.
4. They attributed all to free will.
5. They argued there is neither resurrection of the dead nor a future life.
6. They rejected a belief in angels and demons.
7. They rejected the idea of a spiritual world.
8. Only the books of Moses were canonical Scripture.



ESSENES

They probably originated among the Hasidim, along with the Pharisees, from whom they later separated (I Maccabees 2:42; 7:13). They were a group of very strict and zealous Jews who took part with the Maccabees in a revolt against the Syrians, c. 165-155 B.C.

1. They followed a strict observance of the purity laws of the Torah.
2. They were notable for their communal ownership of property.
3. They had a strong sense of mutual responsibility.
4. Daily worship was an important feature along with a daily study of their sacred scriptures.
5. Solemn oaths of piety and obedience had to be taken.
6. Sacrifices were offered on holy days and during sacred seasons.
7. Marriage was not condemned in principle but was avoided.
8. They attributed all that happened to fate.

Wisdom Of
The

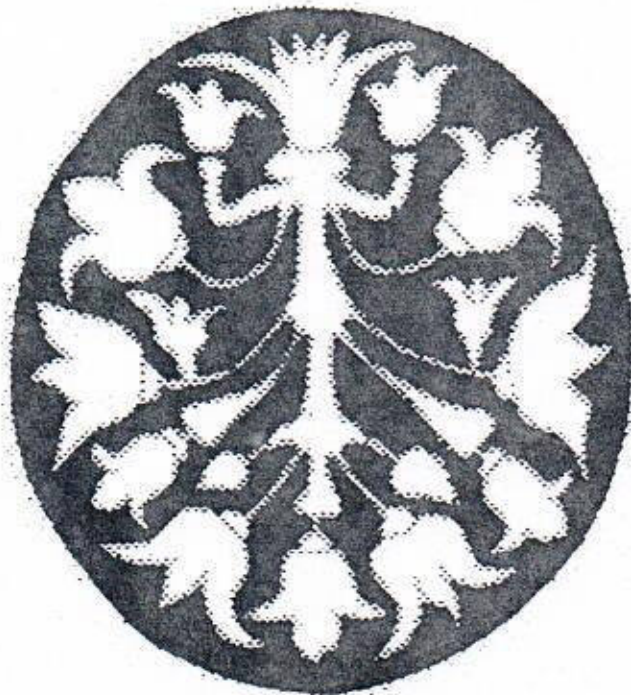


Byzantine
Fathers

The symbols which existed before the ministry of grace were fearful and awe-inspiring : for example, the bells, the pomegranates, the stones on the breastplate, the stones on the ephod, the mitre, the diadem, the long robe, the golden crown, the Holy of Holies, the deep silence within. But if you consider the ministry of grace, you will find that those fearful and awe-inspiring symbols are only trivial. The statement about the Law is true here also : "The splendour that once was is now no splendour at all; it is outshone by a splendour greater still."¹ When you see the Lord sacrificed and lying before you, and the High Priest standing over the sacrifice and praying, and all who partake being tintured with that precious blood, can you think that you are still among men and still standing on earth? Are you not at once transported to heaven, and, having driven out of your soul every carnal thought, do you not with soul naked and mind pure look round upon heavenly things? Oh, the wonder of it! Oh, the loving-kindness of God to men! He who sits above with the Father is at that moment held in our hands, and gives himself to those who wish to clasp and embrace him—which they do, all of them, with their eyes. Do you think this could be despised? or that it is the kind of thing anyone can be superior about? St. John Chrysostom

Dante
in the
Middle Ages
wisely observed:.

*The hottest place in hell is
reserved for those
who in time of
moral crisis
preserve their neutrality.*



Introducing Love into Love

Among the paths the Church covers in her travels, the family is the first and most important. The commitment to family ministry is a central part of our vocation as believers. We still must integrate Christian doctrine into the lives of young married couples so they can grasp and understand and so live their Christian vocation. We must be able to grasp Orthodox moral teaching beyond what worldly couples perceive as simply negative. The role of the Church, as Body and Bride of Christ is not merely to command or forbid, but also to explain and justify because our lifestyle must be founded on a firm basis that is positive.

Priests of the Church must devote themselves to helping married couples fulfill their responsibility of what is described as introducing love into love by which is meant that the love between husband and wife should be incorporated into the love of the Eternal Father as revealed to us in his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. This way of thinking about marriage has an important place in the lives of believers because love is the defining characteristic of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. The Lord calls man into existence through love and at the same time, calls him to be loving. God is love and in himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion. Creating the human race in his own image, our heavenly Father inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation and thus the capacity and responsibility of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.

Ancient philosophers defined man as a rational animal, the being that thinks. Our blessed Church challenges us to see ourselves as much more, as beings defined by love. To understand the person in this way does not undermine reason, for love and truth are inseparable. We are called to live in way that is truly and authentically human, to live in ways that are eminently reasonable and Christ-like. The Church has always challenged believers to live life on a higher plane, but many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born in friendship with Jesus Christ. In this light we recognize that the crisis affecting Christian family life today is linked to a lack of genuine friendship with Christ. We are determined, however, to face this challenge with an ever greater urgency. We must continue to labor to so heal our wounded culture by introducing love into love. Created out of love, we must be loving people.

A Priest's Prayer for all Priests

I come before You, Eternal Father of wondrous majesty and infinite power, yet still more, God of fatherly kindness, not presuming on the awesome dignity of my office, but as a poor reprobate sinner and as witness against myself. What penalty shall I ask that I do not deserve? Indeed, more earnestly should I own my sin before the Forgiveness of sin! I accuse, not excuse myself, as before eye-witnesses, as it were, confess my wrong-doing before You, my Lord, my God and Creator.

**Although I know my faults, I delay in making amends.
Merciful Father, with the encouraging smile of Christ your Divine Son,
look upon me for I seek the safety of your pity.
Grant whatever grace is necessary that my unworthy life be corrected,
in Christ Your Son who called me to service at his altar.**

**Father of all, Beginning and End, Light eternal and Source of all blessings,
who calls man in his weakness from dust and raises him up from
corruption, call us once again, through your beloved Son to the liberty and
dignity of children of your household. Grant us to be saintly servants, that
we be not in your sight unworthy of our title, but perfectly fulfill, by the
blamelessness of our lives, our calling.
May we do all with purity of heart and clean minds.**

**O Lord our God, at whose will each age runs its course, look kindly upon
me, your unworthy servant, whom you have deigned to raise to priestly
dignity that our service may please You, that it may be mercifully
preserved in your gift.
Let souls become holy because of my example to them.**

Communion Prayer

O Lord, I believe and profess that You are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first.

Accept me as a partaker of Your mystical supper, O Son of God; for I will not reveal Your mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess to You:

Remember me, O Lord, when You shall come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Master, when You shall come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Holy One, when You shall come into Your kingdom.

May the partaking of Your holy mysteries, O Lord, be not for my judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of soul and body.

O Lord, I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly Your most precious body, and Your life-giving blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

O God, be merciful to me a sinner.

O God, cleanse me of my sins, and have mercy on me.

O Lord, forgive me for I have sinned without number.

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO CHRIST?



In our daily life, week after week we spend most of our time working diligently to conquer primarily the material problems of life which we continually encounter. As Orthodox Christians we are influenced by the world and fail to recognize these are not of God. In our worldly preoccupation, we so frequently forget the words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Who said, "...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you" Matthew 6: 33.

As believers, we must come to see with the eyes of our soul, to fully perceive the entire and whole spiritual perspective even in all material things and worldly problems which cannot be divorced from our God. Our Lord desires that we ought to seek primarily spiritual things and values because with them we will be equipped and happy in life here on earth and it will enable us to inherit life everlasting.

We who are baptized and become communicants of His holy Church can enjoy the fruits of our new life in Christ if we live according to His will and commandments and participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, a life which the saints, the martyrs and countless good Christians experienced before us. They witness the life of Christ is possible for us too because there must be a direct correlation between what we believe and how we live. They must be one and the same.

As we grow after baptism to adulthood, we must always think of reaffirming our baptismal pledge, "...that we belong to Him" Baptismal Ritual, by actively becoming aware of the will of Christ, and by proving, affirming and reinforcing our faith commitment with good deeds. This personal response to God's will is a necessary fundamental important religious commitment and expression.

FAITH AND GOOD WORKS

A genuine personal response to God's will requires faith in Him and obedience to His teachings, believing that His Son and our Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Redeemer. Obedience to His will and teachings will help us to exercise our spiritual powers building up a life worthy of our dignity as followers of Christ.

With the privilege of being members of Christ's Body, come commensurate responsibilities. Whatever good we possess, and whatever talents we have been endowed with must be recognized as gifts from God, and we have the free responsibility before Him to develop them and use them in His service for the benefit of His holy Church and our fellow man. Every day we must prove our faith with our good works because, "...as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without good works is dead also" James 2: 26.

Faith is belief in living vibrant, zealous action. It is a way of life sustained by our

belief. To believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour is to give Him first place, complete control and direction of one's life. Orthodox Christianity is the power of God, molding the lives of believers. It is a spiritual life which functioning in experience, brings man in total relation with the eternal God. "Let your faith stand not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" 1 Corinthians 2: 5.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

If the Eternal Father through Christ has granted man new life and brought salvation to the world by the grace of the Holy Spirit, why then are so many baptized believers living unhappy and unfulfilled spiritual lives? They simply are not calling upon and using God's redemptive grace. Lives marked by fear, disappointment, sin and human conflicts characterize all too many. Orthodox believers so many times short-change themselves!

The answer is that we go astray from God's will and commandments, His revelation to us in the Scripture and life of His Body, the Church, following the desires of our own hearts to conquer the secular world, without reaffirming our baptismal pledge: "Yes, I am all Yours Lord." Spiritual renewal emerges from this commitment to Christ, constant and regular sharing in the sacramental Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and with a sincere effort to live the kind of life Christ lived and preached because it is

altogether possible for us too, with the coming and strengthening of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We certainly can be what our God created and intended us to be: brothers and sisters of His Son, our Redeemer and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Believers must grow within the life of the Body of Christ, not outside it as so many attempt, on their own, adrift from the very Source of Life itself. We cannot change the Church through personal confused perceptions of her Founder and Head as so many try. Christ is God, Saviour and Redeemer, therefore perfect. It is we who are in need of constant renewing, rebirth and revitalization in the Spirit of Christ. In spiritual renewal, Christ is the Center of the believer and the Source of whatever thoughts, feelings, motivations and decisions that arise within us, they must have their root in Him; we must trust in Him. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and depend not on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path" Proverbs 3: 5, 6.

A LOVING FATHER

If in our efforts for spiritual renewal we stumble and fall, we should not become discouraged because we have in heaven a loving and merciful Father Who is ready to forgive our sins and to give us a helping hand. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1: 9.

What does matter is that we turn to Christ as often as we fall, because it is Him Whom we have offended above all, separating ourselves from Him in sin. Then we confess our sins, asking for forgiveness, strength and guidance and with the power of the Holy Spirit with which we are equipped, we will regenerate our lives in the course of our daily tasks, if we are but faithful and persevering in keeping our eyes and focusing our thoughts on our spiritual goals.

If we want to correct our unhappy and unfulfilled lives, if we truly desire to be what God created us to be, we must repent with the conversion of heart, soul and mind. Then by reconciliation with our heavenly Father and by asking Christ to enter our hearts by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we will develop a personal relationship with Christ, as real as that between two good friends, and the believer will then trust in Him with all his mind, heart and soul as expressed through the physical body by good works. "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly" John 10: 10.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT

Hence, what is important to us, is to hold on to our faith commitment in a deep, interior way, to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, and to continue to grow in the new life of Christ, allowing spiritual gifts we received through Baptism and Chrismation,

fortified by regular and consistent reception of the Holy Eucharist, to be fulfilled for the glory of God.

Let us never forget that Christ is near to us and He is standing, knocking at the door of our hearts and souls, waiting for us to open that door, that He might enter in with all His transforming love and mercy. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him and he with me" Revelation 3: 20.

PRAYER

Christ our God, Who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified; Who are long-suffering, merciful and compassionate, Who loves the just and has mercy on sinners, and Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessing to come; Lord, in this hour, receive my unworthy prayer, and direct my life according to Your commandments. Sanctify my soul, purify my body, correct my thinking, cleanse my mind, deliver me from all tribulation, evil and distress. Surround me graciously with Your holy angels that guided and guarded by them, I may attain to the unity of faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

GOD'S WORD

"Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" 2 Corinthians 9: 15.

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me..." Luke 4: 18.

"Receive the Holy Spirit..." John 20: 23.

HOW WE ARE TO BE RECOGNIZED

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faith, gentleness, self-control or chastity" Galatians 5: 22, 23. The text contrasts these with the "...works of the flesh..." Galatians 5: 19, and points to them as the result of sanctifying grace that makes us holy.

They represent the ways grace is manifested in the life of a believer in which he finds spiritual delight. The enumeration is not exhaustive of all the ways in which the grace of the Holy Spirit is made known, but simply some of the fruits to salient movements of charity toward God (good) and away from the devil (evil). "Since we live by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's lead..." Galatians 5: 25.

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 4

1. We bow in worship to your life-giving cross,
O Christ our God;
We glorify your resurrection on the third day.
By it you renewed our fallen nature, Almighty
Lord.
You gave us the assurance of heaven;
You are gracious and the Lover of mankind.
2. Freely accepting crucifixion on the tree of the
cross,
You destroyed the penalty of the tree of sin.
You descended into the Abyss, Almighty
Lord.
Being God, You broke the bonds of death.
Therefore, we bow in worship to your resur-
rection;
In joy we cry out to You
“ Almighty Lord : glory be to You! ”
3. O Lord, You shattered the gate of the Abyss;
By your death you destroyed the power of
death.
You freed the human race from corruption;
You gave life and great mercy to the world.
4. Come, all you nations and people,
Let us praise the Savior's resurrection!
It has freed us from the bonds of the Abyss.
We have received life and incorruption :
Let us cry out :

“ O Lord crucified, buried, and now risen :
Save us by your resurrection,
For you alone love mankind. ”

5. Angels and men glorify your resurrection,
O Savior :

By it you have enlightened all the earth.
You redeemed us from slavery to our enemy.
Let us cry out in song :
O Savior, you are the mighty Giver of Life.
Save us by your resurrection,
For you alone love mankind.

6. You shattered the gates of the Abyss,
You broke it's bonds, O Christ our God!
You raised our fallen human race.
We cry to you in song :
O Lord risen from the dead : glory be to You!

7. O Lord, your birth from the Father is eternal
and before all ages;
Your incarnation from the Virgin is beyond
explanation :

No language can tell it properly.
Your descent into the Abyss is fearful
Both to Satan and to his angels.
You conquered death; You arose on the third
day;
You gave great mercy and life to the world.

8. Glory be to the Father ✚, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Because of you, O Mother of God,
David the prophet became an ancestor of God.
Praising Him who worked wonders in you,
He foretold you in joyous song :
The Queen stood at your right hand.
You are revealed as the mother of Life.

Without a father, God chose to become
incarnate of you.
He renewed in man his image corrupted by sin.
Finding the lost sheep on the mountain, He
put it on his shoulder;
He carried it to the Father and to his will;
He numbered it among the heavenly powers.
He has saved the whole world :
He is the Christ of great and rich mercy.

At the Apostichon

1. O Lord lifted upon the Cross,
You wiped away our ancestral curse.
In the Abyss, You freed those bound for ages;
You granted incorruption to the human race.
Because of this we sing our praise to You
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resurrection.
2. Raised upon the cross, O Mighty Lord,
You shook the whole earth.
Buried in your tomb, You raised the dead;
You granted life and incorruption to the world.
Because of this, we sing our praise to You,
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resurrection.
3. Evil people delivered You to Pilate, O Christ
our God.
He condemned You to crucifixion.
They proved themselves ungrateful to their
Benefactor.
Your freely accepted suffering and death.
Being God you rose by your own power on
the third day.
You gave us eternal life and great mercy.
4. In tears, the faithful women came to your tomb:
They were seeking You.

Not finding You, sighing and lamenting, they
cried out :

“ O Savior and King of all, how were you
stolen?

Where does your life-giving Body lie now? ”

An angel appeared and said to them :

“ Do not cry but go proclaim the news :

The Lord is risen giving us joy :

He alone loves mankind. ”

5. Glory be to the Father ✙, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

O Virgin most pure,

Listen to the supplication of your servants;

Protect us from our enemy;

Deliver us from sorrow.

You are our safe and secure haven;

We have you as our advocate.

Let those who call upon you never be put to
shame.

Quickly answer those who call to you :

Hail Virgin, help of all,

Our joy, our protection, and salvation of our
souls!

What Am I?

Read the story below by changing its letters and pictures into words. Then read Matthew 5:13-16.



ST. VLADIMIR, PRINCE OF KIEV

It was in the ninth and tenth centuries that the great missionary movement of the Christian Church among the Slavs was accomplished. Certainly one of the most prominent figures in this historic expansion of the Gospel was Prince Vladimir of Kiev, called "Equal to the Apostles."

Vladimir was the grandson of St. Olga, the beloved and pious Christian who had a profound influence on him. Vladimir was brought up in heathenism, came to solidify the throne at Kiev in 980, and embrace the Christian faith in the year 988. As Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle, so now Vladimir the fearful pagan became the zealous follower of the Gospel at his rebirth in Christ. Both Royalty and common people flocked to the waters of the Dnieper for baptism at the hands of Greek priests from Byzantium.

Then began the era of Christian growth and enlightenment for the Slavs. From town to town, over vast areas, the monuments and idols of heathenism were overthrown. Churches and schools were built, with priests and teachers to staff them. The rich Byzantine culture came to the land, bringing a new civilization with it.

And so the seed of the Gospel, planted by St. Andrew the Apostle long before, watered and nursed by early missionaries, St. Cyril, St. Methodios and St. Olga, came now to bring forth great fruit at the direction of Prince Vladimir. He died in July of 1015. The people mourned the falling asleep of one who was born and grew up in darkness, but who came to see the "Light of the world."

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.