

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

Deuteronomy 12:5

"But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called there; and you shall go and seek Him there." (OSB)

Moses speaks here in Deuteronomy 12 of what may be termed the "centralization" of worship in Israel. Looking ahead to after Israel conquers and settles the land, Moses tells the people that there will be only *one* acceptable place in which sacrifice to and worship of God can happen—that is, where God chooses to "set His Name." This is due, in part, to the fact that the Israelites will not be altogether successful in their conquest of Canaan, and thus remnants of pagan Ba'al worship will remain in the land threatening to corrupt the true worship of God if Israelites are allowed to worship "privately," independently from Jerusalem as the "Mother Church," as it were. In this way, this passage is actually a prophecy of the apostasy of Israel, who will do exactly what they were told not to do, and thus find themselves worshipping the false gods of the nations and eventually in exile because of it.

Positively, however, this is also a prophecy of both the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem ("Zion") and the preeminence of the Tribe of Judah (as seen already in Gen 49:10-12 and Exod 15:17-18), with David as Judah King and Solomon as Temple Builder being the focal point of both of these realities, all of which prefigure Christ. The "election" of Zion is at the same time the "election" of the Davidic King, for as the Psalmist says, "I was established as King by Him on Zion His holy mountain, declaring the Lord's decree: the Lord said to Me, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten You'" (Ps 2:6-7).

For the ancient Israelite, Zion was not just a sacred place where God had taken up residence, it was nothing less than the *center of the world*, precisely because heaven and earth met at the Jerusalem Temple. Zion was the new Garden of Eden, and the Davidic King was the New Adam, who through his own person and reign was reclaiming all of creation back to its original pattern, restoring the royal-priestly function of humanity made in God's Image. Jerusalem was thus the focus of the *future hope* for all the nations and all creation: "Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains and exalted above all the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it ... For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa 2:2-3).

In the words of a contemporary writer, "In the free election of Zion as an act of divine condescension lie the essence and the specifics of all Zion-theology, all Davidic theology, and finally, of the whole biblical theology of incarnation" (Othmar Keel, *The Symbolism of the Biblical World*, 120). That is, the theology of Zion in the Old Testament foreshadows the "scandal" of the Incarnation—that the God of the universe would become incarnate in a *particular* time, place, Person, and by means of a particular human person, the Virgin Mary. The "scandal" of the Incarnation continues in the life of the Church as we bear witness in our particular lives and parishes to the Kingdom of God, and find our identity, calling, and home in the Jerusalem above, the heavenly Zion (Heb 12:18-24; Gal 4:21-31).



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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November 24, 2019

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ROME
HIEROMARTYR PETER, BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA
HERMOGENES, BISHOP OF AGRIGENTUM
MARTYRS PHILOUMENOS AND CHRISTOPHER
MARTYR ALEXANDER OF CORINTH

Tone 6 - Eothinon 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

APOLYTIKION FOR THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS - Tone 4 - Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens
Coffee Hour after Liturgy

Advent Paraklesis, 2 pm

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:	Next Week (Dec 1):
PROSPHORA BREAD: Mary Lynne Black	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER: Rdr. Justin Gohl	Rdr. Nathan Jekel
USHERS: Peter C. & Dan M.	Colin M. & Justin G.
ALTAR CANDLES: Doris & Jim Eggers <small>In Memory of granddaughter, Cecilia-Marie</small>	Louise Shaheen <small>In Memory of Larry Shaheen</small>
ALTAR BOYS: "Archangel Gabriel"	"Archangel Michael"
GREETERS: Todd & Kristi Moore	Don & Maryann Reigle
CLEANING TEAM: Hyatt Family	Kim B.; Todd & Kristi M.
COFFEE HOUR: Potluck	Carpenters & Shaheen

EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

**YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERINGS benefit Ministries,
Monasteries, & Mission Situations.**

Mark Your Calendar:

St. Nicholas

Thurs, Dec 5 - Vespers & Artoklasia w/ Youth Choir 7 pm, Youth Activity 8 pm
Fri, Dec 6 - Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am

Advent Paraklesis & Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit
Friday, December 13, 7 pm

Holy Unction

Wednesday, December 18, 4 pm
Fast in preparation

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Tuesday, December 24
Royal Hours, 9 am
Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am
Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm
Divine Liturgy, 11 pm
Wednesday, December 25
Vespers for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 12 pm
Thursday, December 26
Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am
for the Synaxis of the Theotokos

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David	Laurence
Sarah & Child	Steven
Benjamin	Kh. Anastasia
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Zachary, Evan,
John	Tina, Robert,
Doris	Michael, Todd,
Louise-Ruth & family	Kendra, Liesel,
Zerfenesh	Todd, John
	Moses, Virginia,
	Conor
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Amika
	Michael
	Sheilagh
	Andrea
	Faith
	Sloane

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

"Invite Someone to Church"

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES ...

Church office closed Monday-Friday

Mon, Nov 25: Advent Paraklesis, 7 p.m.

Tues, Nov 26: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.

Wed, Nov 27: Akathist & Canon of Thanksgiving, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Nov 28: THANKSGIVING
Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Fri, Nov 29: Office closed.

Sat, Nov 30: Youth Choir Practice, 5 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.

Sun, Dec 1: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
40-Day Memorial for Larry Shaheen (Memory Eternal!)
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Advent Paraklesis, 2 p.m.

Please check the table in the Great Room for items marked with your name or free to take!

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship has come to an end! Have you returned your pledge card yet?

"Life-giving and merciful Trinity, receive my thanksgiving for all Thy goodness. Make us worthy of Thy blessings, so that, when we have brought to fruit the talents Thou hast entrusted to us, we may enter into the joy of our Lord, forever exulting in the shout of victory: Alleluia!"

— Kontakion 13, Akathist of Thanksgiving

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Nov 16: 62 Divine Services on Nov 17: 178
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$509. Collections, \$1,276.47. Youth, \$7. Book Shelf Ministry, \$18. Camping Fund, \$250. Choir Fund, \$375. Conshohocken Fellowship, \$100. Needy Fund, \$120. Stewardship, \$8,486.63. Total received: \$11,142.10.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!