

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

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27 April / 10 May 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – TONE III – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THISWEEK

4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Paralytic

Saturday, 9 May (26 April, n.s)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 10 May (27 April, n.s)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

Apostle James, Brother of John the Theologian

Tuesday, 12 May (129 April, n.s)

6:00 PM Vespers & Matins;
Confessions

Wednesday, 13 May (30 April, n.s)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Samaritan Woman

Saturday, 16 May (3 May, n.s)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 17 May (4 May, n.s)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

At the direction of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, we are to observe the restrictions of the civil authority which require us to have a gathering of no more than ten (10) persons who are able to space themselves six (6) feet apart. Parishioners are asked to take turns attending the services offered in church. Those unable to go to church are asked to pray at home.

FASTING DAYS Week of 10 May

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	13 May (30 April, o.s.)	Mid-Pentecost; Apostle James Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	15 May (2 May, o.s.)	St Athanasius the Great Fast: wine & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 10 May

FOURTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	Fourth Sunday of Pascha: The Paralytic	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)</i>	
	Acts §23 (9:32-42)	John §14 (5:1-15)
<i>M</i>	Acts §24 (10:1-16)	John §24 (6:56-69)
<i>Tu</i>	Acts §25 (10:21-33)	John §25 (7:1-13)
<i>W</i>	Feast of Mid-Pentecost	
	<i>Vespers Paramia: (1) Micah 4:2-3, 5; 5:2-5, 8 • (2) Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11</i>	
	Acts §34 (14:6b-18)	John §26 (7:14-30)
<i>Th</i>	Acts §26 (10:34-43)	John §29 (8:12-20)
<i>F</i>	Acts §27 (10:44-11:10)	John §30 (8:21-30)
<i>Sa</i>	Acts §29 (12:1-11)	John §31 (8:31-42a)
FIFTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	Fifth Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman	
	<i>7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §63 (20:1-10)</i>	
	Acts §28 (11:19-26, 29-30)	John §12 (4:5-42)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Wednesday, the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, the fast is mitigated, with fish, wine and oil being permitted. On Friday, as on all the fast days of the Paschal season, wine and oil are allowed.

Wednesday is the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. It is twenty-five days after the Sunday of Pascha, the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and the Sunday of Pentecost. The services of Vespers and Matins for the Feast will be served in our church on Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock. On Wednesday morning, the Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30r.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is celebrated for eight days, from this Wednesday through the Apodosia (Leave-taking) of the Feast on the following Wednesday. The troparion and kontakion of Mid-Pentecost are chanted or read at all the services of the Church during this period. The texts of these hymns can be found in *The Jordanville Prayer Book*. It is most appropriate that we add the troparion and kontakion of the Feast to our morning and evening prayers at home also.

The Paschal time of 50 Days (Pentecost) is a period of festive joy. Throughout the entire period of 50 days, from the Sunday of Pascha until the Day of Pentecost,

this joy is expressed liturgically in the following manner:

- The Prayer ‘O Heavenly King...’ is omitted during the entire period of 50 days.
- We do not kneel or make prostrations during the entire period of 50 days.

Pascha is not celebrated for merely one day, or even a week like other Great Feasts of the Church, but it a 40 day Feast. Throughout the entire period of 40 days, from the Sunday of Pascha until the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we celebrate the Feast in the following manner:

- We use the greeting ‘Christ is risen!’ and the response ‘Truly He is risen’ throughout the entire 40 days of Pascha.
- The Paschal Troparion, ‘Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life’ is sung or said three times at the beginning of all Services and personal prayers for the entire 40 days of Pascha.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

Mid-Pentecost celebrates the midpoint between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost, falling on the 25th day of Pascha.

Mid-Pentecost is a one-week feast which begins on the Fourth Wednesday of Pascha, and continues until the following Wednesday. Throughout these eight days (including the day of the feast) hymns of Mid-Pentecost are joined to those of the Paschal season.

The theme of the feast is Christ as Teacher, based upon the words from the Gospel of the day (St John 7:14-30): “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught... Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

The icon of the feast depicts the young Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem speaking with the Elders (St Luke 2:46-47), the first biblical example of Jesus as teacher (Rabbi). In traditional Orthodox icons of this subject, the figure of Jesus is depicted larger than those of the Elders, showing his superior spiritual status.

The Troparion of the Feast hints at the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan Woman, which will be celebrated on the following Sunday:

In the midst of the Feast, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Saviour, didst cry out to all: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of life, Christ, our God, Glory be to Thee.
The scripture verse from St John 7:37, quoted by the Troparion, will be read on the day of Pentecost.

COVID-19 and PARISH LIFE

Parishioners who would like to go to Confession may do so over the telephone, and so should contact Father David by email or text in order to set up at a mutually acceptable time. At the appointed time, dress as though going to church, stand or kneel in an icon corner that provides the necessary privacy, and call Father on the telephone. He will listen to the Confession, give counsel, and absolve you.

Parishioners desiring to receive Holy Communion should contact Father David who will arrange a time and place to make this possible.

Parishioners who are ill should contact Fr David. A Moleben for the Sick can be served in the rectory. The Mystery of Confession can be received over the telephone, as described above. The reception of Unction and Holy Communion can be arranged in a manner in keeping with the safety restrictions of the civil and medical authorities.

We are unable to ‘live stream’ the services at St Elizabeth’s during the state of emergency because there is no internet service in our church building. But there are some very good Orthodox Service ‘live streams’ that follow the Church (Julian) Calendar. We urge you to consult the list of live-stream services available from parishes and monasteries in our Diocese:

https://eadiocese.org/news_200404_1

For those who would like to do Reader’s Services at home rather than watch the services on livestream, Archpriest John Whiteford has prepared Reader’s Services for the Sunday Services through Ascension Day on his Blog that you can download, print out, and use. You can find them at:

<https://fatherjohn.blogspot.com/2020/04/reader-services-through-ascension.html>