

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 47

20 July / 2 August 2020

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone VII*) COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THISWEEK

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*)

HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

Saturday, 1 August (19 July, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 2 August (20 July, o.s.)

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

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

HOLY GREAT-MARTYR PANTELEIMON

Saturday, 8 August (26 July, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 9 August (27 July, o.s.)

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

St Elizabeth's Church is observing the restrictions of the civil authority which currently require us to have a gathering of no more the 25% of normal capacity, which we conservatively estimate at this time to be twenty (20) persons, who can space themselves six (6) feet apart, with the wearing of face coverings strongly encouraged. Parishioners are asked to take turns attending the services offered in church. The Parish is using an internet service called 'Sign-Up Genius'. With this tool we allow the first 20 who register to attend a service inside. All others will participate in the services from the pavilion, where we have a live video and audio feed of the service as it happens inside the church. The link for the St Elizabeth's Sign-Up Genius page is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054aaaa82ba0f58-service>

FASTING DAYS

Week of 2 August

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	5 August (23 July, o.s.)	Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	7 August (25 July, o.s.)	Dormition of St Anna Fast: wine & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 2 August

Su	8th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §64 (20:11-18)</i>	
	1 Cor. §124 (1:10-18)	Mt §58 (14:14-22)
9TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	1 Cor. §150 (11:31-12:6)	Mt §74 (18:1-11)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Cor. §152 (12:12-26)	Mt §76 (18:18-22; 19:1-2, 13-15)
<i>W</i>	1 Cor. §154 (13:4-14:5)	Mt §80 (20:1-16)
<i>Th</i>	1 Cor. §155 (14:6-19)	Mt §81 (20:17-28)
<i>F</i>	1 Cor. §157 (14:26-40)	Mt §83a (21:12-14, 17-20)
<i>Sa</i>	Rom. §113 (14:6-9)	Mt §64 (15:32-39)
Su	9th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §65 (20:19-31)</i>	
	1 Cor. §128 (3:9-17)	Mt §59 (14:22-34)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the Feast of the Prophet Elias, who is much venerated by the various Orthodox peoples. Many incidents in his life from the Books of Kings were recounted in the Old Testament Readings last night at Vespers. You can read about the Prophet Elias yourself in the Old Testament: III Kingdoms (I Kings) 17-21 and IV Kingdoms (II Kings) 1-2. It is some of the most dramatic and edifying narrative in the Old Testament

The Prophet Elias is often invoked in time of drought to beseech the Lord for much needed rain.. The origin of this is the Prophet was given authority by God to bring Israel to repentance by shutting up the heavens for three years so that no rain fell until he finally prayed for the devastating drought to end. The prophet Elias is also mentioned in the Prayer for the Blessing of Vehicles since he was conveyed to heaven by the Lord in a fiery chariot.

There will be a blessing of vehicles today following the Prayers of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion. After the Dismissal, if you would like your car blessed, go to the parking lot and open the doors and hood of your car. Father David will serve a short Moleben and bless each open car with Holy water.

FROM THE PROLOGUE OF OHRID By Saint Nikolai of Ohrid and Zhicha

20 July / 2 August

1. The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah)

Saint Elias--the God-seer, miracle-worker and zealot for faith in God--was born of the tribe of Aaron in the town Tishba, for which he was called the Tishbite. When Elias was born, his father Sabbas saw angels of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and feeding him flames. That was a foreshadowing of Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in divine contemplation and prayer, withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and pray in tranquility. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes--the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with their capital in Jerusalem; and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes, with their capital in Samaria. The former was governed by the descendants of Solomon, and the latter was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elias had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel, for they worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One Living God. In addition Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and appointed many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God. He closed up the heavens, so that there was no rain for three years and six months; he called fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice to God, which the pagan priests were unable to do for the false god, Baal; he brought rain by his prayer; he miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zarephath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs would lick up his blood, and to Jezebel that the dogs would consume her flesh -- all of which came to pass; and he performed many other miracles, and prophesied other events as well. He spoke with God, and heard the voice of God in the calm after the wind, earthquake and fire on Mount Horeb. Before his death, he designated Elisha as his successor in the prophetic calling; and, with his mantle, he divided the waters of the Jordan. Finally, he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. On Mount Tabor he appeared together with Moses beside our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the world, St. Elias will appear again, to put an end to the power of the Antichrist [Revelation 11].

In the Greek Synaxarion the following miracle of the holy Prophet Elias is recorded: 'A certain Paisius, Abbot of the Monastery of the holy Prophet Elias in Jerusalem, came to Constantinople, and from Constantinople went to Belgrade, at the time that Patriarch Paisius was there. At that time there lived in Belgrade an Orthodox Christian who had a Roman Catholic wife. On St. Elias's day his wife was going to knead bread, but her husband said to her, 'Today is the Feast of the Prophet Elias, and you shouldn't work.' His wife replied that this feast had passed ten days earlier (according to the papal calendar). And so a quarrel arose between them. The stubborn woman kneaded the dough, but lo the wonder! The dough turned to stone in her hands. All the neighbors gathered to see the miracle and each one took a piece of the stone. Paisius also happened to be there, and he likewise took a piece of the stone as evidence of the miracle of God and took it with him to Jerusalem. Paisius placed the stone before an icon of the holy Prophet Elias in his monastery.'

14 / 27 June

1. The Holy Prophet Elisha (Eliseus)

Elisha lived nine hundred years before Christ. When the Lord willed to take the aged Prophet Elias (Elijah) to Himself, He revealed to him that He had designated Elisha, the son of Shaphat, of the tribe of Reuben from the town of Abel-Meholah, as his successor in the prophetic service. Elias informed Elisha of God's will and draped him with his mantle, imploring God for a two-fold portion of grace of prophecy for him. Elisha immediately left his home and family and followed Elias. When the Lord took Elias in a fiery chariot, Elisha remained to continue the prophetic service with yet greater power than Elias. By his purity and zeal, Elisha was equal to the greatest prophets, and by the miraculous power that was given to him by God, Elisha exceeded them all. He parted the waters of the Jordan as Moses once parted the Red Sea; he made drinkable the bitter waters in Jericho; he brought forth water into the excavated trenches during the war with the Moabites; he multiplied the oil in the pots of the poor widow; he resurrected the dead son of the Shunammite woman; he fed a hundred people with twenty small loaves of bread; he healed commander Naaman of leprosy; he called down leprosy upon his servant Gehazi because of the latter's greed; he blinded the entire Syrian army and also forced another army to flee; he foretold many events to the nation as well as to individuals. Elisha died at a very old age.

From *The Prologue of Ohrid* by Saint Nikolai of Ohrid
and Zhicha
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