



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

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### Sunday of Zacchaeus

January 21, 2018

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs: all-wise Father Maximus, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things.// Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Thy holy martyr Neophytus, O Lord, through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.// Through his intercessions save our souls!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 8**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 6**

The Thrice-radiant Light took up abode in thy soul, O all-blissful father, and displayed it as an elect vessel, manifest to the ends of the earth. O blessed Maximus, thou didst explain hard-to-grasp doctrines with brilliance and clarity,// proclaiming the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity to all.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Thou didst shine forth from the mount like lightning, glorifying Christ through thy struggles and death as a martyr.// Therefore, thou hast received an unfading crown, O Great-martyr Neophytus.

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

*v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.*

#### **Sunday of Zacchaeus**

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

### **Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### **Gospel: Luke 19:1-10**

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

### **Service Schedule for the week of January 21**

**Today** – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

**Saturday January 27** - 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 28** – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

### **Weekly Giving**

January 14 – 37 adults, 14 youth, \$7,722

### **Parish Announcements**

If you would like your house blessed, please sign the sheet on the table across from the candle desk and Father Volodymyr will contact you to schedule a time.

Blessed holy water is available in the vessel at the front of the church.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday January 28, 2018. Several documents will be emailed/mailed prior to the meeting.

The Senior R Club will sell chicken parmigiana sandwiches on Sunday January 28 prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. A sign-up sheet is on the table across from the candle desk.

There will be a Senior R Club meeting today during coffee hour.

Our parish will host a Mission Service and Lenten meal for NJ and PA parishes on Sunday March 11 at 4:00 PM. More information will be forthcoming.

FREE – If interested please see Father Volodymyr, Melody, or Dottie K.:

Wooden padded office chairs

Two double-size wooden file cabinets

Oak student desks and chairs

Please remember to turn in your blue Stewardship card as soon as possible to Nina Laushell, Ludwig Koerte, or Herman Meyer. Thank you for your continuing support of St. Vladimir Orthodox Church.

Visit our Book Garden Library in Daria Hall! There is a new section which includes books written in Slavic. Simply sign out a book and return it when you are finished. Also check out the primitive painting "The Speckled Hen", based on the Russian fairytale.