

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN APR 9 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - PASCHA

Acts 1:1-8 Jn 1:1-17 Festal Tone

10:00 Resurrection Matins

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and visitors followed by blessing of Easter Baskets

Bright Mon Apr 10 8:30 For Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex

Bright Tue Apr 11 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Mary Sullivan by Fr Alex

5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bright Wed Apr 12 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Mrs. Mary Faith West and Mrs. June Mathews by Fr. Alex

Bright Thu Apr 13 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Paul Piszko by Dennis Piszko

6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

SUN APR 16 THOMAS SUNDAY

Acts 5:12-20 Jn 20:19-31 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Muriel Messick Millar by Dr. MJ Sotack and Nicholas Couch

After – Hospitality- POT LUCK

1:00pm Young Adult meeting St. John Hall

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has given us the gift of reconciliation with God. May we never take this gift for granted and strive to live in a way that honors His sacrifice.

Easter is a time of joy and celebration, as we remember the victory that Jesus Christ has won for us. May this joy fill your heart and inspire you to live with purpose and passion. **Happy Easter!**

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus" [Ephesians 2:4-6](#).

Young Adult will meet at 1pm on these Sundays: April 16; April 30

St Gregory of Palamas Philokalia Vol 4. Adithia Kusno, Reader

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please made sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. **Also, please place your chair on top of the table.** Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

Let's be prepared and proactive for any event that may happen on church property during our Sunday Divine Liturgy and every day.

May 14, after Divine Liturgy will be Security Team meeting - training. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Fr. Alex

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Thomas McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

It's not too late to join the Bible Study for 2023! Come and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ by diving deep in the life of Christ according to the beloved disciple John (and eat some great food as well!). We meet on the **2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:15 PM** in St. Philip Hall.

Respectfully, Michael Jack Bracelin

Children's formation is held regularly at 10 am on Sundays. If you would like to enroll a school-age student to learn more about God and faith, please reach out to Sasha or Fr. Alex. Upcoming classes will be on April 16, 23 & 30. Give your child the opportunity to ask questions and grow in community with others!

Sasha Kusno 660-287-1003 (Eastern Standard Time)

FINANCIALS, April 2, 2023

Monthly Dues –1,195.00; Offertory –1,173.00; Candles-16.00; ESL-0.00; Flowers-Easter-20.00; Special Gifts-250.00;
In – 2,654.00; Out –2,875.40

Candles for March:

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
Theotokos & Child... HGB Kyra Noonan by Christine Noonan
John Baptist... +Michael T. Bross by Angela Bross
St Nicholas... HGB Dr. Ronald & Joan Ruszkowski by David Efimetz
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... For Our Parishioners

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.

Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps, local honey.

God bless America!!!

BISHOP'S APPEAL: The 2022 Bishop's Appeal is underway. Pledge cards have been mailed out. Please consider giving something. Even a small amount helps Bishop Kurt help parishes in need. Please see David Efimetz if you did not receive a card in your mailbox and you wanted to give.

Speak 5 lines to yourself every morning:

- 1. I'm the best**
- 2. I can do it**
- 3. God is always with me**
- 4. I'm a winner**
- 5. Today is my DAY**

Kolache and Pierogi sale after Liturgy today. Amount limited. Come get them while they last.

Lee Alexander

Happy APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley; 5th Anya Bobrinskaya
Hunter; 22nd Jim Hoolan; 22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter;
28th Betta Labanish

Prayer to Guardian Angel

ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR, TO WHOM HIS LOVE COMMITS ME HERE: EVER THIS DAY BE AT MY SIDE, TO LIGHT AND GUARD, TO RULE AND GUIDE. AMEN

We will still collect donations for the **Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause. You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex**

To Be a Saint – A Meditation on Two Gardens.

The Bible is the story of God’s love for man, and God’s Divine Plan for mankind. Like all stories, there are certain ideas that are built upon throughout, you might say literary hinges that develops an idea. Let us use one of these hinges to link the Old Testament’s struggle and promise to the New Testament’s realization of deliverance?

There are several “hinges” or focal points that are useful. During this Lenten observance let’s consider one of these focal points appropriate for the season. The word “garden” in Hebrew is translated as Gan or gannah. It comes from the root ganan, which means to surround or to defend, indicating that the Hebrew concept of a garden was an enclosed area. A place of peace, solitude and protection.

The story of the Bible is focused primarily on the decisions and actions that take place in two gardens. The first is the Garden of Eden, the second is the Garden of Gethsemane. The Garden of Eden was given to Adam and Eve by God to tend, to take care of. Everything was provided for their needs. But in this setting, Adam fell to sin by his own free will. The Garden of Gethsemane is where Christ faced His first and perhaps severest challenge within His passion. He had to give up His own free will, and with that, man’s strongest instinct, that of survival, in obedience to God’s Will. A decisive moment. One that would lead to Christ’s passion and death on the Cross, and in that Cross, man’s means of salvation.

In the first garden I see Adam’s direct disobedience toward God’s Will. What was Adam’s reasoning before he ate of the fruit? Was he merely careless, or impetuous, or did he consider his actions well? Whatever the circumstances, it was a clear disobedience, a prioritization of man’s will over God’s. I must take heed of this in my own life.

In the second garden I see Jesus’ obedience to His Father with the words, “Thy Will be done”. Whereas Adam acted out of selfish desire, Jesus acted out of selfless love. As true God, Jesus knew what ordeal awaited Him, but in His human nature he wanted to avoid it, but only with His Father’s blessing.

In the Garden of Eden, after they had sinned, Adam and Eve wished to hide from God as they heard Him walking through the Garden. For the knowledge they sought by eating the fruit of the tree, brought only feelings of shame. On the other hand, in the Garden of Gethsemane, we find Jesus Christ, rather than hiding, seeking out His Father for consolation, for guidance. There is wisdom here. I should not hesitate to come to God, my Father, for guidance in life.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were forced out of the sustaining garden, to live in a hostile, cruel world, where they would have to fend for themselves, and where they had to face a hard life of toil and struggle, along with death without the promise of salvation. Jesus was also forced out of the Garden of Gethsemane. He was forced out by those who could not abide His message of hope and salvation. Consider now, Jesus could see those who were coming to forcibly take Him. He would face the jealousy of the Sanhedrin, the hostile passion of the Jewish mob, and the ruthless justice of the Roman authorities. He did this willingly, peacefully. For He had already fought and won the mental battle.

What would I do? Run? Hide? No, wait, that is what Adam and Eve did. Would I call down the heavenly host to defend me from harm? No, that was not His way. For it would not be God’s way. That would have been the way Satan had wanted it, as he did when he tempted Jesus Christ for the second time in the desert. Mt. 4:5-6. If that temptation was rejected, so would this one, for “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” Mt 4:7. No, Jesus chose to stay in the Garden and await His trial out of obedience and love of His Father—and out of love for us.

Two Gardens, two different outcomes, One of condemnation and exile, the other leading to forgiveness and reconciliation. Adam and Eve lost their garden and the promise of salvation, Jesus Christ restored that which was broken.

I (we) live in a garden also. For in Eastern thought we cultivate a garden within ourselves. A protective enclave. Within our garden we grow and cultivate according to our will. How do I tend my garden? Which garden in the story above is my garden most like? Do I tend it with selfishness, according to my own desires, only to run and hide, afraid to face my Lord and my God; or do I tend it with selflessness, with compassion and truth? Do I tend it according to my Father’s will? In which Garden do I live?

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Psalm 1

Nothing but a Number

Japanese mountain climber Yuichiro Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70. George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.

If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.

That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.

Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.

In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultra-experienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.

Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?

To Take Away

- *How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?*
- *Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?*
- *What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?*

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Blessed the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked
Nor walks in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the company of the insolent,
But delights in the law of the LORD
and meditates on his law day and night.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

He is like a tree
planted near running water,
That yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves never fade.
Whatever he does, prospers.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Not so, the wicked, not so;
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 95

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Messiah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 23

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

Psalm 16

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Psalm 138

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,

for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple,
and give thanks to your name.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Because of your kindness and your truth,
you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Psalm 113

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Praise, you servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.
Blessed be the name of the LORD
both now and forever.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

From the rising to the setting of the sun
is the name of the LORD to be praised.
High above all nations is the LORD;
above the heavens is his glory.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor
To seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Psalm 104

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 11

The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven.
His eyes behold,
his searching glance is on mankind.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;
the lover of violence he hates.
For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;
the upright shall see his face.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

Psalm 103

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Psalm 15

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
By whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things
shall never be disturbed.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Exodus 15

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

Psalms 69

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp
where there is no foothold;
I have reached the watery depths;
the flood overwhelms me.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I pray to you, O LORD,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me
with your constant help.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I am afflicted and in pain;
let your saving help, O God, protect me;
I will praise the name of God in song,
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the LORD hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.”

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Psalm 106

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb
and adored a molten image;
They exchanged their glory
for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Psalm 99

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his footstool;
holy is he!

Holy is the Lord our God.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
and Samuel, among those who called upon his name;
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them;
they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for holy is the LORD, our God.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Where your fathers tested me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 95

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Psalm 106

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

We have sinned, we and our fathers;
we have committed crimes; we have done wrong.
Our fathers in Egypt
considered not your wonders.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

But soon they forgot his works;
they waited not for his counsel.
They gave way to craving in the desert
and tempted God in the wilderness.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,

Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Psalm 97

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace
To his people, and to his faithful ones,
and to those who put in him their hope.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.