

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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APRIL 11, 2021
ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER
FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Epistle Readings
Hebrews 6:13-20
Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel Readings
Mark 9:17-31
Matthew 4:25-5:12

*Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!*

Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Troparion (St. John of the Ladder)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

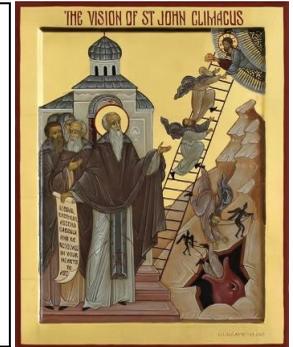
Kontakion (St. John of the Ladder)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

Communion Hymns Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings!

The Ladder of Divine Ascent is most likely the foremost ascetical text in the Orthodox Church. The ascetical life, as given to us by St. John, is indeed focused on our interior struggle against the flesh, the world, and the devil. However, the ascetical life is not an end itself. The highest rung is love, and love primarily is about our neighbor. That is the end to which the ascetical life is given to us, so that we might overcome ourselves to better love God and our neighbor.

--Excerpt of IOCC reflection by Fr. Gregory Hohnholt



Welcome to everyone praying with us today in person. Thank you for following our safety guidelines. May all who are in the Church and those livestreaming experience the great joy of the Divine Liturgy. Coffee Hour follows each gathering

Memory Eternal

May God grant rest eternal in blessed repose to the souls of the departed on the anniversaries of their falling asleep: John Vitko, Sr.; Hossana Aberra's father, Haile; Sue Mezines' father, Basil; Helene Watts' father, Sam Tatalovich; Neda Mastilovic; and Karin Beachy. Večnaja pamjat +

Sacrament of Confession

Please contact Fr. John to schedule a time for Confession: 925-667-6451 or john.vitko@gmail.com preferably in the next two weeks before Holy Week.

Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts – Wednesday, April 14 at 7PM – In Person/Online

Contact Fr. John if you plan to attend. Fasting begins after the midday meal.

Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA – Statement on Equality Act

A statement was released by the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Bishops on the proposed Equality Act. (Excerpt) "As Orthodox Christian bishops, charged by our Savior Jesus Christ to shepherd His flock, we will continue to uphold and proclaim the moral teachings of the Church. We call upon all Orthodox Christians to remain firm in the Orthodox Faith. We also call upon our nation's civic leaders to uphold, and not infringe upon, the religious freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, and to continue to extend the protections afforded by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act." Read the full statement [here](#).

God Grant You Many Years!

May God bless Selamawit Abebe Kassaye as she celebrates her birthday.