ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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July 13, 2025: 5th Sunday After Pentecost
Fathers of the 1st–6th Ecumenical Councils. Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.

This Week

Sat July 12, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun July 13, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

(July 14–18 – OCA All-American Council)

Sat July 19, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun July 20, 9am – *Prophet Elijah.* Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat July 26, 4:30pm – **No Vespers**.
Sun July 27, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Fr Edward Hughes)

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

Fathers of the Councils (Tone 8)

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God, / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Resurrection (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Fathers of the Councils (Tone 8)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren: My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Prayers

For health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Marcia Lutz, Bernard Kusior, Julia Jay, Nina Fatula. *Especially remember in prayer Rebecca Ream, who is acutely ill, together with her family (Dave, Jesika, and Justin).*

The newly-departed: Apr. Jason Kappanadze (6/14). Apr. Paul Kucynda (7/9). Pdn. Stephen Sweet (5/30). Zophia Kowalczyk (6/13). Jeffrey Moeller (6/14). All those departed in the attacks in Damascus, Syria, and all victims of natural disasters.

It is true that [the aesthetical side of the Liturgy, the splendour of the service, and the fine singing], reflecting the heavenly glory of God, have their own value, but only as a framework for the content of the Eucharist. They must not become ends in themselves. The early Church lacked any outward splendour; Eucharistic solemnity was found in the joyous encounter with the Risen Christ. Christ himself is the celebrant of the Liturgy. This is made clear in the prayer read by the priest before the Cherubic Hymn. This prayer differs from other prayers in the Liturgy in that it is the personal prayer of the celebrating priest, in which he asks for strength to perform the sacrament. By praying in this way the priest acknowledges that it is Christ himself who offers the liturgical and bloodless sacrifice which has been committed to the priest: *For Thou art the Offerer and the Offered, the Receiver and the Received, O Christ our God.*

Christ acts through the priest, however. Just as Christ celebrated Communion, gave thanks, blessed, broke, and gave to His disciples, so too in the Liturgy the celebrant always performs the holy sacrament, but he does it as the voice of the whole people of God and with them. He gives thanks, reading the Eucharistic prayers of thanksgiving, blesses, breaks and gives to the people; all the others are his co-celebrants, each in his own place: the other priests and deacons standing around the altar and all the other members of the people of God in the church.

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 49.

Attendance

Sun May 25 Liturgy: 28, 0 children (Communion: 22)
Sun Jun 1 Liturgy: 30 adults, 4 children (Communion: 25 adults, 4 children)
Sun Jun 8 Liturgy: 24, 0 children (Communion: 17)
Sun Jun 29 Liturgy: 21 adults, 2 children (Communion: 12 adults, 2 children)
Sun Jul 6 Liturgy: 27 adults, 2 children (Communion: 23 adults, 2 children)

Welcome to all visitors who have prayed and celebrated the Divine Liturgy with us this morning! We invite all of you downstairs for fellowship after the conclusion of the Liturgy. If you have any questions at all, please reach out to Fr. John at any time. *We hope to see you again!*

Please note: In the Orthodox Church, the receiving of Holy Communion is the sign of one's full participation in the mystery of the Faith, and all Orthodox Christians should receive it frequently.

For this reason, Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive it (through prayer, fasting, and confession) and are at peace with each other. Those who partake of the Eucharist normally fast from food and drink in the morning before the Divine Liturgy, if they are able.