ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 28, 2025
16th Sunday After Pentecost. Tone 7. 1st Sunday of Luke.
Venerable Chariton the Confessor

Schedule

Sat Sept 27, 4:30 pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Sept 28, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Oct 4 – *No Vespers*
Sun Oct 5, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Oct 11, 2:00 pm – Children & Youth "Super Saturday" *(youth project, fellowship, education)*
Sat Oct 11, 4:30 pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Oct 12, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Looking ahead:
Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19 – Ss. Constantine & Helen Festival
Sat Oct 18, 10am-3pm – Fall Retreat @ Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg
Sun Nov 9, following Liturgy – St Herman's Harvest Dinner

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for Sunday (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion for St Chariton (Tone 7)

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe. // Our holy Father Chariton, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Glory ... Kontakion for Sunday (Tone 7)

The dominion of death / can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Now & ever ... For the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Protection of Christians never failing, / Mediatress before the Creator, ever constant. / Do not despise the voice of prayer of sinners, / but in your goodness come to help us who faithfully call upon you. / Hasten to entreat, hurry to pray, O Theotokos, // interceding always for those who honor you.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Brethren: Working together with Christ, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says: *"At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation."*

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will

be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Prayers

For the health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Archbishop Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Rebecca Ream.

For the repose of: Apr. Michael Zaparyniuk (9/22). Molly Kramer (9/27).

Announcements

The next Youth Saturday is **Saturday Oct 11**, **2:00pm through Vespers**. All children and teens are invited, including from neighboring parishes.

All are welcome at a Retreat at our sister parish of Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg, on **Sat Oct 18**: *"Am I praying right? Good vs. Bad Prayer"* with Fr. Paul Trubenbach. A few of our parish family are planning on going, so you may wish to coordinate with each other for rides. *There may be major construction or closures that weekend at the Rte 30/222 bridge in Lancaster, in case you would be driving from that area.* **The retreat is free, but please register at `ctshbg.org/trubenbach-retreat` .**

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, please reach out to Fr. John at any time. *We love you and 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 are ***prepared*** *to receive it (through* ***prayer***, ***fasting***, *and a recent* ***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.*

"People often ask about the end times. The end of the world begins in the heart of a person who forgets God. Do not look for signs in the sky. Look for them in your soul. Is there love? Is there faith? Or has coldness taken over?"

- Elder Ilie Nozdrin of Optina

Attendance

Sun Aug 24 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 13 adults, 1 children)
Sat Aug 29 (St John the Baptist) Liturgy: 6 adults, 1 children
Sun Aug 31 Liturgy: 29 adults, 3 children (Communion: 18 adults, 3 children)
Sun Sep 7 Liturgy: 24 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 2 children)

(Excerpts from)
Forgiveness Sunday Vespers
Met. Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh
February 1999

... To forgive **does not mean to forget** what has happened between us, but **to shoulder the weight of another person's frailty**, or at times of another person's evil. St. Paul says, *"Learn to carry one another's burdens."* And these burdens are very often the failure of each of us to be worthy of our calling; our incapacity to love one another, to accept one another, to serve one another, to help one another on the way that leads to God. And so let us, each of us, pass a judgement on our whole soul, on our whole life; judge ourselves justly and honestly, and ask forgiveness not only from God – this in a sense seems to us so often much easier than to ask forgiveness from our neighbour. But let us ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended in one way or another, but also from all those to whom we have not been a help on their journey to God. **We are all frail, we are all in need of support.** Do we give this support to one another? **Or do we choose those whom we want to support because we like them**, because supporting them is a joy, because supporting them means that they also respond to us by gratitude, by friendship?

... Let us begin now our road to Calvary, so that when we stand face to face with Christ **we should not be like those in the crowd, who hoped** that Christ would come down from the cross and **that it would be easy** to be His disciples. Let us not stand in the crowd otherwise than the Mother of God and St. John. And **let us not find good reasons not to forgive**.

I remember a man who said to me, *"I can forgive every person who has sinned against me, I can even love them, but I hate the enemies of God."* And I thought of something which is told to us in the life of one of the saints, in which a priest was praying to God to punish those who betrayed Him by their lives if not by their words. And Christ appeared to him and said, *"**Never pray for the punishment or the rejection of any one**. If there was only one sinner in the world, I would choose to be incarnate again, and again **to die upon the cross for this only sinner**."*

Is that our attitude to each other? Is that our attitude to the vast world, so tragic, so evil, and so full of pain in its search for completeness, for fullness? God will forgive it – and let ourselves forgive one another. And remember, that if we do not forgive our brother, it is not only he who goes away with pain and tears in his heart, but **we are wounded, because if we do not forgive, we are ourselves not healed**. The evil that occurred to us at the hands of another person remains with us, damaging our soul, destroying us.

Let us learn to forgive, so that others may be healed; but also that we may be healed ourselves. Let us pray now together, with one soul, with one mind; and when we come and bow down before the icon of Christ and of the Mother of God, turn to one another with the readiness to be forgiven and to forgive, whatever the cost to us. Amen.