# ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

**sthermanshillington.org**

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Shillington, PA 19607

*Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.*
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**October 19, 2025**

*19th Sunday After Pentecost. 4th Sunday of Luke. Holy Prophet Joel.*

## Schedule

*Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19 – Ss. Constantine & Helen Festival*
Sat Oct 18, 10am-3pm – **Fall Retreat** @ Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg

Sat Oct 18 – No Vespers *(Fr John returning from Harrisburg)*
Sun Oct 19, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.
*Inquirers' & Visitors' Fellowship* after Coffee Hour (at the Rectory)

Sat Oct 25, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Oct 26, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

*Looking ahead:*
***Sun Nov 9, following Liturgy – St Herman's Harvest Dinner***
November 15 – Nativity Fast Begins

## Hymns of the Day

*Troparion for Sunday (Tone 2)*

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

*Troparion for St. Herman (Tone 4, Valaam melody)*

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / North Star of Christ's holy Church, / the light of your holy life and great deeds / guides those who follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the Holy Cross / you planted firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, // singing His holy Resurrection.

*Glory ... Kontakion for Sunday (Tone 2)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

*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 11:31-12:9 (19th SAP)*

*Brethren:* The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

*Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (4th Luke)*

*The Lord spoke this parable:* "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold."

... Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." ... When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

## Prayers

***For the health of:*** Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Archbishop Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Rebecca Ream. ***For our catechumens:*** Stephanie Selis.

***For the repose of:*** Archpriest Michael Zaparyniuk (9/22). Priest Theodore Gregory (9/29). Molly Kramer (9/27).

## Announcements

Our first **Inquirers' Fellowship** is today, at the end of Coffee Hour, at the Rectory next door (122 Church St). Visitors, catechumens, and anyone interested in learning about or joining the Orthodox Faith are welcome. Open discussion, learning, and coffee! Notebooks will be provided.

**Sunday, Nov. 9** is our annual **Harvest Potluck Dinner** and Basket Raffle, following the Divine Liturgy. *All are welcome including visitors! Invite a friend!* **Basket Raffle sales have begun!**

*Attendance*

Sun Sep 7 Liturgy: 24 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 2 children)
Sun Sep 21 Liturgy: 35
Sun Sep 28 Liturgy: 26 adults, 2 children (Communion: 13 adults, 1 children)
Sun Oct 5 Liturgy: 30 adults, 2 children (Communion: 16 adults, 2 children)
Sun Oct 12 Liturgy: 27 adults, 2 children (Communion: 17 adults, 1 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, 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.*