St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"
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Important This Week

Sunday, 08Nov, **10AM** Divine Liturgy
Thursday, 12Nov, **7PM** Adult Study / Friday, 13Nov, **7PM** Enquirer's Class
Saturday, 14Nov, **6PM** Vespers

08Nov26 **23rd Sunday After Pentecost**

Preparing to Enter the Advent Fast

The following words of wisdom come from Saint Ephraim the Syrian. They are important for us to consider as we begin today to ponder our Lord's love for us in His condescending to take on our flesh, His Incarnation, the reason for God becoming man.

The facts themselves bear witness and His divine acts of power teach those who doubt that He is true God, and His sufferings show that He is true man. And if those who are feeble in understanding are not fully assured, they will pay the penalty on His dread day.

If He was not flesh, why was Mary introduced at all? And if He was not God, whom was Gabriel calling Lord?

If He was not flesh, who was lying in the manger? And if He was not God, whom did the Angels come down and glorify?

If He was not flesh, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? And if He was not God, whom did the shepherds worship?

If He was not flesh, whom did Joseph circumcise? And if He was not God, in whose honor did the star speed through the heavens?

If He was not flesh, whom did Mary suckle? And if He was not God, to whom did the Magi offer gifts?

If He was not flesh, whom did Symeon carry in his arms? And if He was not God, to whom did he say, "Let me depart in peace"?

If He was not flesh, whom did Joseph take and flee into Egypt? And if He was not God, in whom were words "Out of Egypt I have called My Son" fulfilled?

If He was not flesh, whom did John baptize? And if He was not God, to whom did the Father from heaven say, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased"?

If He was not flesh, who fasted and hungered in the desert? And if He was not God, whom did the Angels come down and serve?

If He was not flesh, who was invited to the wedding in Cana of Galilee? And if He was not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not flesh, in whose hands were the loaves? And if He was not God, who satisfied crowds and thousands in the desert, not counting women and children, from five loaves and two fishes?

If He was not flesh, who fell asleep in the boat? And if He was not God, who rebuked the winds and the sea?

If He was not flesh, with whom did Simon the Pharisee eat? And if He was not God, who pardoned the offences of the sinful woman?

If He was not flesh, who sat by the well, worn out by the journey? And if He was not God, who gave living water to the woman of Samaria and reprimanded her because she had had five husbands?

If He was not flesh, who wore human garments? And if He was not God, who did acts of power and wonders?

If He was not flesh, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He was not God, who through the clay compelled the blind eyes to see?

If He was not flesh, who wept at Lazarus' grave? And if He was not God, who by His command brought out one four days dead?

If He was not flesh, who sat on the foal? And if He was not God, whom did the crowds go out to meet with glory?

If He was not flesh, whom did the Jews arrest? And if He was not God, who gave an order to the earth and threw them onto their faces.

If He was not flesh, who was struck with a blow? And if He was not God, who cured the ear that had been cut off by Peter and restored it to its place?

If He was not flesh, who received spittings on his face? And if He was not God, who breathed the Holy Spirit into the faces of his Apostles?

If He was not flesh, who stood before Pilate at the judgement seat? And if He was not God, who made Pilate's wife afraid by a dream?

If He was not flesh, whose garments did the soldiers strip off and divide? And if He was not God, how was the sun darkened at the cross?

If He was not flesh, who was hung on the cross? And if He was not God, who shook the earth from its foundations?

If He was not flesh, whose hands and feet were transfixed by nails? And if He was not God, how was the veil of the temple rent, the rocks broken and the graves opened?

If He was not flesh, who cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me"? And if He was not God, who said "Father, forgive them"?

If He was not flesh, who was hung on a cross with the thieves? And if He was not God, how did He say to the thief, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise"?

If He was not flesh, to whom did they offer vinegar and gall? And if He was not God, on hearing whose voice did Hades tremble?

If He was not flesh, whose side did the lance pierce, and blood and water came out? And if He was not God, who smashed the gates of Hades to tear apart it bonds? And at whose command did the imprisoned dead come out?

If He was not flesh, whom did the Apostles see in the upper room? And if He was not God, how did He enter when the doors were shut?

If He was not flesh, the marks of the nails and the lance in whose hands and side did Thomas handle? And if He was not God, to whom did He cry out, "My Lord and my God"?

If He was not flesh, who ate by the sea of Tiberias? And if He was not God, at whose command was the net filled?

If He was not flesh, whom did the Apostles and Angels see being taken up into heaven? And if He was not God, to whom was heaven opened, whom did the Powers worship in fear and whom did the Father invite to "Sit at My right hand". As David said, "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, etc."

If He was not God and man, our salvation is a lie, and the words of the Prophets are lies. But the Prophets spoke the truth, and their testimonies were not lies. The Holy Spirit spoke through them what they had been commanded.

Prayer Requests

Health: Met Joseph, Pat, Richard, Judy, Sue, Nora, Loftyn, Alexandra. Jase

Departed: Matushka Elizabeth, Fr. Jerome

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Vespers	31Oct	CANCELLED
Sunday	Liturgy	01Nov	38 faithful 54views
Thursday	AdultStdy	05Nov	06 faithful

In the News

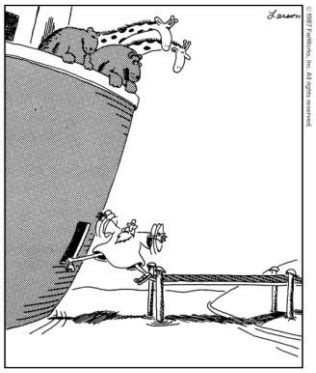
Videos of services can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH_-FlDe8SoWOw

Adult Study and Enquirer's Classes this coming Thursday and Friday!!
Adult Sessions are on Thursdays at 7PM.
Enquirer's meet on Fridays at 7PM.
See y'all then!

2027 Church Calendars are available in the Church Hall!!

I Noah Guy…..



"We're in trouble."



Nothing so provokes God to anger as the division of the Church.

(St. John Chrysostom)

Guarding Our Thoughts *[Abbot Tryphon]*

Our thoughts really do have an impact on our world. Negative thoughts about family members or fellow employees change our relationships. If we dislike someone at work and allow ourselves to think poorly of them, they are likely to fulfill our low expectations. If we pray for them and ask God to bless them, while asking the Lord to bless our interaction with them, they become changed for the good, and so do we.

We've all heard the image of one person whose cup is half empty, while another person's cup is half full. The former person is likely to go through life with unfulfilled goals, while the latter will see their world blossom as a beautiful garden. Even all the weeds in that garden will seem beautiful, if we keep negative thoughts at bay.

I've counseled depressed individuals over the years to take a brisk walk every day for at least forty minutes while saying the Jesus Prayer. Their depression subsides within days because the exercise, coupled with the prayer, pushes aside negative thoughts and sends depression into the abyss from which it originated.

Our negative thoughts keep us from the joy that is ours in Christ and keeps that joy from uplifting others. If we fight off negative thoughts we allow Christ to change us and those around us. Saint Seraphim of Sarov said that if we acquire peace, a thousand around us will be saved. Negative thoughts do not promote peace!

23rd Sunday After Pentecost/7th Luke *[Fr. Philip LeMasters, orthochristian.com]*

Even in a small parish like ours, it is not hard to see that people are different from another in many ways. We have different interests, personal backgrounds, and opinions on all kinds of things. We do not all look or dress alike. But what we have in common as Orthodox Christians is far more profound than any of that. Our salvation is not in any conventional human characteristic or endeavor, but in the healing mercy of Jesus Christ.

In today's gospel passage, two very different people approached Him in humble faith and received new life as a result. Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue, an upstanding man in the Jewish community. We do not know the name of the other person, but she had little in common with Jairus. She was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, and had spent all her money on treatments that did not help her. She was not only poor, but also considered unclean because of the flow of blood. As a result, she would have been alone, for anyone who had physical contact with her would also become unclean. She could not even enter the Temple or have a normal social life. For twelve years, she had lived as someone cut off from God and from everyone else.

Jairus sought out the Lord and asked Him to heal his daughter, who was dying. But the woman could not even do that. She knew how others viewed her and perhaps she even viewed herself as a miserable, isolated, unclean woman not worthy of the attention of the Messiah. She did not ask Him to lay hands on her for healing, for that would make Him unclean also. She may have thought that He would have refused to heal her for that very reason. She was understandably embarrassed to have a public discussion with Christ about her medical condition. But she had enough faith and hope in Him to reach out and touch the hem of His clothing in the middle of a large crowd. Perhaps she could get what she wanted without drawing attention to herself.

And when she did reach out to Him in that way, she was healed. She had not made Christ unclean or been refused or humiliated by Him; instead, He had made her well. Of course, she was terrified when the Savior asked, "Who touched me?" She kneeled before Him in humility, shaking with fear, and confessed to Him– and to everyone else–that she was the one. Who knows just what was going through her mind in that moment when the Lord said, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Did you notice that, before her healing, she had not said anything to Christ, not even identifying herself to Him? She never asked Him for anything, probably because she was too embarrassed and afraid to do those things. But she still did what little she could, at least reaching out to Him in faith. The Son of God knew who had touched Him, of course, but asked who it was in order to give her an opportunity to confess her faith, to make clear to herself and everyone else that His healing mercy extended even to her. In doing so, He showed that His abundant mercy extends even to those so broken and discouraged that they can just barely bring themselves to reach out to Him.

If we are honest, we will recognize ourselves in her humble example. Who is not embarrassed and discouraged due to some long-term struggle, some weakness or burden that we have virtually lost hope of overcoming? We may have experienced an embarrassment or humiliation so profound that we can barely acknowledge it to ourselves, much less to God or to other people. For whatever reason, we may have come to believe that we are unclean and unworthy of His mercy or of healthy relationships with others. It may seem impossible to find the words to express our sufferings either in conversations with those closest to us or in prayer. Like that poor woman, we may feel alone, unworthy, and ashamed.

When that is our situation, we must follow her example of touching the hem of His garment, of reaching out to Christ for help as best we can. Even as He did not embarrass or reject her, He will not turn us away. He will respond graciously, as He always does to humble, sincere people who come to Him with faith, love, and repentance. Instead of us somehow making Him unclean, He will work through our faith to bring healing, mercy, and strength.

Jairus approached the Savior differently, openly asking Him to heal his dying daughter. But his faith was then put to a very difficult test. The girl died, but the Lord said that she was only sleeping. Everyone ridiculed Christ for that statement, but Jairus somehow believed the astonishing word of the Lord: "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

How hard it must have been for Jairus and his wife to hear this news and to believe in the Lord's promise. Their daughter had just died and the mourning had already begun. It was time to get ready for the funeral, and here was Christ denying the obvious. Their faith was put to the test, but they somehow still believed. And the Lord did as He said: He brought the girl back to life.

This healing was not as simple as Jairus had hoped. He was probably the kind of person used to getting what he wanted. If anyone could expect the help of the Messiah, it was an upstanding leader of the synagogue. But just as Abraham's faith was tested by the command to sacrifice Isaac, his faith was tested when his daughter actually died. It is one thing to heal the sick, but quite another to believe that someone can raise the dead. But probably with great fear and doubt, Jairus still managed to believe. He trusted Christ as best he could. And through that little bit of faith, the Lord showed His power over the grave and His unfathomable mercy for His suffering sons and daughters.

The differences between Jairus and the bleeding woman in social standing and reputation were ultimately irrelevant for how they stood before the Lord. The key point is that they did not stand; instead, they kneeled before Him in humble faith. Human characteristics and differences are ultimately irrelevant when it comes to our ability to follow the example of these two people. Though we will all do it differently in some ways, we can all open the wounds and sorrows of our lives to Him for healing as best we can in humble faith. We may still doubt, but there is no doubt that He will hear us and respond as is best for our salvation, for the healing of our souls. We must not judge ourselves or others as though it were up to us to determine who is worthy of Christ's blessing. Let this sink in: None of us is worthy or deserves anything from Him. Our hope is not in ourselves or what anyone owes us, but in the gracious mercy which He gives to all who reach out to Him from the depths of their souls with even a small bit of humble faith.

If you ever despair of the possibility of being healed and transformed by our merciful Savior, remember the woman who merely touched the hem of His garment and the man who somehow trusted that Christ could bring his daughter back to life. If you ever think that sin and death will have the last word about you, turn to the One Who went to the Cross, the tomb, and Hades in order to bring us into the eternal joy of His resurrection. If we come to Him in humble faith, presenting all our wounds for His healing as best we can, He will not send us away. Instead, He will heal our souls by His gracious mercy and make us already participants in life eternal.

We welcome you to our humble church, and we pray that your experience here will be spiritually rewarding, calling you back to pray with us at our next scheduled service.

St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church is established with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH of New York, and is one of approximately 30 parishes or missions that are all part of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia, Bulgarian Patriarchate.

Our worship is exclusively in English, and we use "contemporary" English translations of liturgical texts wherever possible. Singing is congregational. The Divine Liturgy is literally "the work of the people", and as such your presence and participation in the service are essential parts of our worship. The worship of others here present is diminished when you are absent or unable to participate.

Participation in the Eucharist is important to us, and as such we ask you to recognize that it is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared for receiving the very Body and Blood of our Lord. Preparation includes fasting from the previous evening and recent confession. If you are not known to our priest, please let him know as you approach that you are Orthodox and prepared to receive! Please do not be offended if the priest so questions your approach—this is important, truly "our Life"!

Troparion for the Day: *(Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure Body. You have captured hell, not being tempted by it. You have come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord, Who arose from the dead, glory to You!*

Troparion to Saint Herman: *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 to the Father….

Kontakion of the Day: *(Tone 6) When Christ God the Giver of Life raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!*

Now and ever….

Kontakion to the Theotokos: *Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, but in your goodness speedily come to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.*

Epistle: *Eph 2:4-10* ***Gospel:*** *Luke 8:41-56*

Monthly Financial Tracker

Sept Total Income	$ 4,488
Sept Total Expenses	$ 1,784
Sept Net Income (Loss)	$ 2,704

Web Tracker

Web Searches	493	interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	262,472	Total Views
Web Site Views	21,502	Total Views
Facebook Views	1,583	views/28 days

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November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22nd Sunday 1 6th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 1Cor 12:27-31,13:1-8 T5	2 1Thes 1:1-5	3 1Thes 1:6-10	4 1Thes 2:1-8	5 Adult Study 7PM 1Thes 2:9-14	6 Enquirer's Class 7PM 1Thes 2:14-19	7 Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 8:1-5
23rd Sunday 8 7th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Heb 2:2-10 T6 Luke 8:41-56	9 1Thes 2:20-3:8 Luke 12:13-15, 22-31	10 1Thes 3:9-13 Luke 12:42-48	11 1Thes 4:1-12 Luke 12:48-59	12 Adult Study 7PM 1Thes 5:1-8 Luke 13:11-9	13 St. John Chrysostom Enquirer's Class 7PM Heb 7:26-8:2 John 10:9-16	14 Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 11:1-6 Luke 9:37-43
24th Sunday 15 8th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 2:14-22 T7 Luke 10:25-37	16 Evangelist Matthew 1Cor 4:9-16 Mat 9:9-13	17 2Thes 1:10-2:2 Luke 14:25-35	18 2Thes 2:1-12 Luke 15:1-10	19 Adult Study 7PM 2Thes 2:13-3:5 Luke 16:1-9	20 Forefeast Entry of Theotokos Vespers 6PM 2Thes 3:6-18 Luke 16:15-18,17:1-4	21 Entry Theotokos Divine Liturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 8:1-5 Luke 9:37-43
25th Sunday 22 9th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 4:1-7 T8 Luke 12:16-21	23 1Tim 1:1-7 Luke 17:20-25	24 Grt Martyr Catherine Eph 6:10-17 Luke 21:12-19	25 1Tim 1:18-20, 2:8-15 Luke 18:15-17, 26-30	26 THANKSGIVING! 1Tim 3:1-13 Luke 18:31-34	27 1Tim 4:4-8. 16 Luke 19:12-28	28 Vigil/Conf 6PM Gal 3:8-12 Luke 10:19-21
26th Sunday 29 10th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 5:8-19 T1 Luke 13:10-17	30 Apostle Andrew 1Cor 4:9-16 John 1:35-51					