

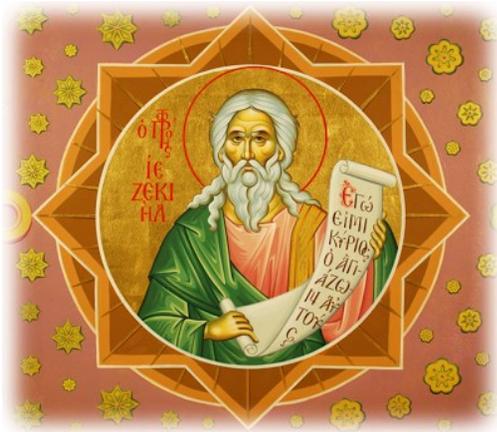
The Prophetic Ministry of the Prophet Ezekiel

The Prophet Ezekiel (July 21), whose name means "mighty God" or "God of might", was the son of Buzi, who belonged to a priestly family and was a descendant of Zadok. He was captured in 597 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar, during the second siege of Jerusalem, together with thousands of people, for which reason he lived and died in Babylon. There he was called to the prophetic office, which he exercised for twenty-two years. In Babylon Ezekiel lived the tragic moments of the destruction of Jerusalem.

His work was difficult, but grand. The Prophet said that the Jews suffered from two great passions of the soul, which prevented their repentance. The first was egoism, because they believed they were unfairly punished for the sins of their ancestors. The second was hopelessness, which led them to gravitate towards idolatry. The Prophet Ezekiel had many revelations from God and did various symbolic acts.

The two major visions he saw which he described in his book were of the Cherubic chariot and the new Temple.

We know of the prophecy of the Prophet Ezekiel regarding the restoration of the Israelites in Jerusalem, which is a prototype of the resurrection of the dead, and a prophecy we read in the Church on Good Friday evening, after returning to the church from processing the Epitaphios. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).



The Old Testament Prophets preached repentance for the people to repent and return to God. Many of their teachings were messianic, since they refer to the coming of Christ, and to the preparation of the Israelite people to receive the incarnate Christ. Of all the peoples the Jews were the best prepared, which is why Jesus was born among them. And this is due to the Prophets, among whom was the Prophet Ezekiel whom we celebrate today. For this reason we owe them great gratitude. That which they preached, we received to enjoy.

Taking cue from today's celebration and the vision of the Prophet Ezekiel, we should firmly believe in the resurrection of the dead, which will take place during the Second Coming of Christ, and prepare to stand at the right hand of God.

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



July 28, 2012

5th Sunday of Matthew

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July 28, 2012

5th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Sts. Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon, & Parmenas Apostles ;
St Irene the Righteous of Chrysovalantou

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

To Faidron tis Anastaseos (Hymn of the Day) Tone 4

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

Epi tou Orous Metemorfothis Tone 7

Today in the divine Transfiguration, the whole of human nature shines God-like, crying out in joy: "Christ is transfigured, saving all mankind."

Epistle Reading

Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) 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, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them.

And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

This Week

Fri - *Paraklesis* - 6:30 pm

CORRECTION: The July bulletin incorrectly lists the Feast of the Dormition as falling on August 14th - please note that the Dormition falls instead on August 15th.

One Hundred Percent

I know some people who think, "Ten percent is God's and the rest is mine to do with as I please."

They are nice people. They are also mistaken people.

One hundred percent of everything is God's. It has always been that way. It will always be that way. The profits of our work are to be used to glorify God. The best way to glorify and love God is to channel our abundance and best efforts toward God's favorite charity--other humans who are in need.

Our profits from the earth must be used to glorify God--one hundred percent of them, not just ten percent.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*