



**Holy Transfiguration
Orthodox Church**

a mission parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, December 24, 2017

Eve of the Nativity of Christ
Nun martyr Eugenia of Rome

Fr. Martin D. Watt, Priest-in-Charge
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Welcome! We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Marty, or with any parish member.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Marty and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread and wine offered after communion and the bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion.

This booklet contains the variable hymns and readings specific to today. Please feel free to take it with you. There are coil-bound booklets available with the text for the Divine Liturgy – if you find it useful, please feel free to take one of those as well, with our compliments.

We also hope you will stay and join us in our coffee and fellowship hour, which immediately follows the service. We want the opportunity to get to know you, and for you to get to know us. Again, welcome!

Regular services:

Great Vespers, *Saturday at 6:30pm*

Confession, *immediately following Great Vespers, other times by appointment.*

Third and Sixth Hour Prayers, *Sunday at 9:40am*

Divine Liturgy, *immediately following the hours.*

621 Kellogg Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010
(corner of 7th and Kellogg)

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel
the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion for the Fathers – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion of the Forefeast – Tone 4

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Kontakion for the Fathers – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for the Forefeast – Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Epistle: (328) Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone, the Song of the Fathers: Blessed are You,
O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Choir: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your
Name forever!

Reader: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

Choir: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your
Name forever!

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, ...

Choir: ... and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the **Hebrews**.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brothers and sisters, by faith Abraham lived as an alien in the land of the
promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who

were heirs with him of the same promise. Indeed, Abraham looked for the city which has foundations and whose architect and builder is God. By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac in sacrifice. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, "In Isaac will your seed be called." Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead.

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's sons and bowed down, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, the saints overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee.

Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise because God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

Priest: † Peace be to you.

Alleluia: Tone 4

*Reader: **And to Your spirit.*** In the 4th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: (1) – Matthew 1:1-25

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. **Matthew**

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Priest: The book of the origins of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron. Hezron became the father of Ram. Ram became the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon. Nahshon became the father of Salmon. Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of King David. David became the father of Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam became the father of Abijah. Abijah became the father of Asa. Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram. Joram became the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham. Jotham became the father of Ahaz. Ahaz became the

father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh. Manasseh became the father of Amon. Amon became the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim. Eliakim became the father of Azor. Azor became the father of Sadoc. Sadoc became the father of Achim. Achim became the father of Eliud. Eliud became the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan. Matthan became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. And so, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened like this: after his mother, Mary, was promised in marriage to Joseph but before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her betrothed, who was a righteous man did not want to make her a public spectacle and so intended to put her away quietly. But as he was thinking about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for what is conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you shall give him the name Jesus because he will be the one to save his people from their sins."

Now all this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son. They shall call his name Emmanuel; which means, 'with us is God.'

Joseph arose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him: he took his wife to live with him, and had no relations with her before she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he named him Jesus.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Please join us in our fellowship hour immediately following the dismissal!

Nativity of Our Lord through Theophany Service Schedule

Sunday, December 24: Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord, 4:00 PM
Monday, December 25: Third and Sixth Hours, 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 30: NO SERVICES

Sunday, December 31: NO SERVICES

Friday, January 5: Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Eve of Theophany and Great Blessing of Water, 6:30 PM

Saturday, January 6: Third and Sixth Hours, 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy for Holy Theophany, 10:00 AM
Great Blessing of Water, Squaw Creek footbridge, Stuart Smith Park, 1:00 PM
Great Vespers, 6:30 PM

Sunday, January 7: Third and Sixth Hours, 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 10:00 AM

Calendars: 2018 Liturgical Calendars are available in the narthex – please feel free to take one home!