

*Venerable Paul of Thebes
John "The Hut Dweller"*

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 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.*

Music Rehearsals, *Saturday at 6:00pm*

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 the Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion for Ss. Paul and John – Tone 4

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Your mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace
through the prayers of venerable Paul and John!

Kontakion for St. John – Tone 2

Longing for poverty in imitation of Christ,
you abandoned your parents’ wealth, wise Father John;
grasping the Gospel in your hands, you followed Christ God,
unceasingly praying for us all.

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

Kontakion for St. Paul – Tone 3

Today we gather and praise you with hymns
as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun;
for you shine on those in the darkness of ignorance,
leading all ^mankind to the heights,
venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm foundation of the fathers and
ascetics.

now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen.

Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 5

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Epistle: (258) Colossians 3:12-16

Prokeimenon, Tone 5

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 5th Tone: You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Choir: You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Choir: You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Reader: You, O Lord, shall protect us ...

Choir: ... and preserve us from this generation forever.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: Brethren, as God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Priest: Peace be to you.

Alleluia: Tone 5

Reader: **And to Your spirit.** In the 5th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: (91) Luke 18:18-27

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

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

At that time, A certain ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus asked him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one – God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

The ruler replied, “I have observed all these things from my youth.”

When Jesus heard these things, he said, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have, distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the man heard these things, he became very distressed because he was very rich.

Jesus, seeing that he had become very distressed, said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter into the Kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone who is wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

Those who heard this exclaimed, “Then who can be saved?”

But Jesus replied, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

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

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

House blessings:

If you would like a home blessing, please sign up on the list in the back. There are also copies of a one-page service that you may use to bless your own home, if you prefer.

Thinking points:

Consider Jesus’ words that where your treasurer is there your heart will be as well. Our treasures are not always our “material wealth” or “prosperity.” Sometimes the things we treasure in our hearts are our anger against someone, the unwillingness to forgive, our sexual lust, our greed, our self willfulness. We treasure our time in front of our TVs and computers, pornography, alcohol, drugs, sex. All of these things are our “riches” because we are determined to hold onto them and never give them up.

We can try to get around Jesus’ words by being exactly literal – I too have not committed adultery or stolen or committed murder. But like the rich ruler, I may have stored up these other treasures in my heart. And indeed holding a grudge and keeping your hatred is making that a treasure. So sometimes the things we value and refuse to give up are obviously spiritually harmful too, yet we cling to them, our anger and lust, every bit as much as the ruler clung to his gold – to his detriment and to our own.

– Fr. Ted Bobosh

Fr. Alexander Men in writing about self-righteousness, describes the Pharisees at the time of Jesus: “The idea that there is some “list of deeds” by performance of which it is possible to gain absolute righteousness gave these lawyers no peace. They competed with one another in striving for the punctual observance of all customs sanctified by the centuries. And thus, as has often happened in the history of religion, piety became a gloomy grotesque.

“The people called some of the Pharisees *shikma*—“strong-shouldered” because they always walked around hunched over, showing what an enormous weight of soul-saving feats they had to bear. Entering the temple Jesus could see that the Pharisees were gathering across the square, constantly stumbling into passersby. They were afraid to lift their eyes lest they should accidentally look upon a woman. They were called in jest *Khitsay*, “don’t-hit-your-head.”

“It is natural that Christ’s freedom should have irritated and frightened such people; they saw in it temptation and threat to their good morals. In that era, according to the commentary of a Hebrew historian, the Pharisee-Shammaites steadfastly preached a flight from the world and asceticism. To say, for example, on looking up from a theological treatise, “What a beautiful tree!” was considered a mortal sin. The Pharisees also reserved a large place for fasting. Jesus, although He recognized these external exhibitions of faith, did not make them the center of religious life.”

- (Fr Alexander Men, *Son of Man*, pgs 93-94)