



**Holy Transfiguration
Orthodox Church**

a mission parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Thirty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, February 24, 2019

*The Sunday of the Prodigal Son
1st and 2nd Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner*

Fr. Martin D. Watt, Priest-in-Charge

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“Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

(Peter, an Apostle, on Mount Tabor at the Transfiguration of our Lord, Gospel of St. Matthew 17:4)

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 and notes for the Divine Liturgy – if you find it useful, please ask to take one of those with you, with our compliments. Please leave the hardback versions for future parishioners to use.

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 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 captured Hades,
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

(Troparion for St. John – Tone 6)

The head of the Forerunner has shone from the earth,
sending forth rays of incorruption and healings to the faithful.
It gathers together a multitude of Angels above
and summons the human race below//

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

(Kontakion for the Forerunner – Tone 2)

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace,
we have found your head as a sacred rose.
Therefore we always receive healings from it,
and, as in times past, now you preach repentance to the world.

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

(Kontakion from the Triodion – Tone 3)

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me a penitent,
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

(then, p. 83)

Epistle: (135) – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and (176) – 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (*Forerunner*)

Prokeimenon, Tone 6

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 6th Tone: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!

Reader: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!

Reader: In the 7th Tone, The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his hope in Him.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brothers and sisters, You say: “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be brought under the power of anything. “Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food,” but God will bring to nothing both of these. However, the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is made for the body. Now God raised up the Lord, and he will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that whoever is

joined to a prostitute is one body? For God says, “The two will become one flesh.” But whoever who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee sexual immorality! “Every sin that a person can do is outside the body,” but whoever commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit which dwells in you, and which you have from God? You are not your own! You were bought with a price! Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.

Brothers and sisters, it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in vessels of clay, so that the amazing power may be from God and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet we are not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to the point of despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. Still, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

Priest: † Peace be to you.

Alleluia: Tone 6

*Reader: **And to Your spirit.*** In the 6th Tone: Alleluia! He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: In the 4th Tone, The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: (79) – Luke 15:11-32 (Page 176) and (40) – Matthew 11:2-15 (*Forerunner*)

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

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

Priest: The Lord said this parable, “A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.’ So the father divided his livelihood between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property, living immorally. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son! Make me as one of your hired servants.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance,

his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. Then the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and now he is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.'

However, the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him. But he answered his father, 'Look, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. Yet, you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!'"

At that time, when John heard about the works of Christ from his prison, he sent two of his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who comes or should we look for another?" Jesus replied to them, "Go and tell John about the things you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have Good News preached to them. Blessed is he who finds no occasion for stumbling in me."

As they went their way, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses! But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet! Indeed, he is the one of whom it is written: *Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I tell you: among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer! Yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came. If you are willing to accept it, this John is Elijah who was to come. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!

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

Sermon

(then p. 89)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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