



Српска Православна Црква
ЕПАРХИЈА ЗАПАДНОАМЕРИЧКА



Serbian Orthodox Church
WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE



SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED TWELVE APOSTLES;
HOLY CHILDREN MART. OF JASTREBARSKO AND SISAK**

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE FOUR:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy 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 TO THE HOLY APOSTLES – TONE FOUR:

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE FOUR:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

KONTAKION TO THE HOLY APOSTLES – TONE TWO:

Today Christ the Rock glorifies with highest honor Peter, the rock of faith and leader of the apostles, together with Paul and the company of the twelve, whose memory we celebrate with eagerness of faith, giving glory to the One Who gave glory to them.

HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE SIX:

Steadfast Protectress of Christians and constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners; but in your goodness come speedily 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 READINGS

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR:

O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.

ROMANS 10: 1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "'Who will descend

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into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

THE ALLELUIA VERSES:

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness. You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

GOSPEL READINGS

MATTHEW 8: 28 – 9: 1

At that time, when Jesus had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

FROM THE PROLOGUE:

JUNE 30/JULY 13, BY SAINT NIKOLAI VELIMIROVIC:

The Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious, and All-praised Twelve Apostles

Even though each of the Twelve Great Apostles has his own particular feast day during the year, the Church has set aside this day as a general feast of all the apostles together, and Paul with them. These are the names and the separate feast days of the Holy Twelve: Peter †June 29 and January 16 Andrew †November 30 James the Son of Zebedee †April 30 John the Theologian †September 26 and May 8 Philip †November 14 Bartholomew †June 11 and August 25 Thomas †October 6 Matthew the Evangelist †November 16 James the Son of Alphaeus †October 9 Thaddaeus or Jude the Brother of James †June 19 Simon the Zealot †May 10 Matthias †August 9 Paul †June 29

Let us also recall how each of these, the most holy and selfless men in the history of the world, ended his earthly life: Peter was crucified upside down. Andrew was crucified. James the son of Zebedee was beheaded. John the Theologian reposed in a miraculous manner. Philip was crucified. Bartholomew was crucified, flayed and beheaded. Thomas was pierced with five spears. Matthew the Evangelist was burned alive. James the son of Alphaeus was crucified. Thaddaeus or Jude the Brother of James was crucified. Simon the Zealot was crucified. Matthias was stoned and then beheaded after death. Paul was beheaded.

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Blessed Peter the Crown Prince, wonderworker of Rostov (1290)

Peter was a Tartar by descent and the nephew of the Tartar King Berkai. He heard a sermon on salvation from Bishop Cyril of Rostov and the words clung to his heart. When he further witnessed the miraculous healing of Berkai's son by the prayers of Bishop Cyril, he secretly left the Golden Horde and fled to Rostov, where he was baptized. He dedicated himself, with all his soul and heart, to asceticism and the study of the honorable Faith. On the shore of a lake Saints Peter and Paul once appeared to him at night in a dream and commanded him to build a church in their name on that spot, giving him the amount of money necessary for that purpose. Blessed Peter indeed built a beautiful church in that place, and was tonsured a monk there in old age, following the death of his wife. Blessed Peter reposed peacefully in deep old age on June 29, 1290, and his church became—and remains—a monastery called the Petrovski Monastery.

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Holy Apostles The whole world was like a dry desert; Across it the chariot of the Spirit flew— The holy apostles, a fiery vision. The All-holy Spirit, through them, rebuilt the universe. Rivers of wondrous grace flowed, And brought the dead desert to life. Wonderful apostles, water-bearing clouds, Simple ones, wise ones, fishermen, heroes! From the Ganges to the Thames, they carried the torch; From the Nile to Pontus, they proclaimed holiness. From variegated Persia to bronze Gaul, Wherever feet trod or galleys sailed: Everywhere they brought the miracle of the Incarnate God, Everywhere they proclaimed the name of the resurrected Christ, Without complaint and fear, without confusion...

REFLECTION

Concern for the good of all people! That concern filled the exalted spirits and noble hearts of the holy apostles. Writing about the Apostle Paul, St. John Chrysostom calls him “the universal father of the world.” “As though he had given birth to the entire world,” says Chrysostom, “he anxiously labored and tried to bring all into the Kingdom.” Indeed the title “universal father of the world” is most exalted, and if this title could be given to anyone other than God, it could only be to the apostles of Christ. By their paternal concern for the whole world, they in truth were “the universal fathers of the world.” There are many mothers in the world who care less about their own children than the apostles cared about the good of their persecutors and adversaries. The Apostle Peter twice saved his most bitter adversary, Simon the Magician, from death: once when the people wanted to burn him and another time when a dog wanted to tear him to pieces. Just think how the world repaid these their benefactors! As if they were the greatest robbers and criminals. Oh, how true are the words of St. Cyril, who said: “As long as we are in the body, we Christians seem the same as pagans; the difference is only in the spirit.”

HOMILY *on the power and the efficacy of good works For so is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (I Peter 2:15).*

Brethren, it is difficult to argue with an atheist; it is difficult to talk with a madman; it is difficult to persuade an embittered man. It is difficult to convince an atheist, a madman or an embittered man with words. You will convince them more easily by deeds. They may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation (I Peter 2:12). Do good to those who wish to argue with you, and you will win the argument. One deed of compassion will bring the madman to his senses and will pacify the embittered man more quickly than many hours of conversation. If atheism, madness and bitterness stem from ignorance, that ignorance is like a rage which can quickly be restrained by

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good works. If you argue with an atheist in his own rabid manner, you strengthen the rage of atheism. If you converse with a madman by derision, the darkness of his madness is increased. If you think you will overcome an embittered man with anger, you will stir up a greater fire of bitterness...