

## In the Beginning was the Word



## On the Second Day of Holy Pascha

By St. Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol and All Crimea (1877-1961)

Only once a year is the first chapter of the Gospel of John read, and it is read solemnly, by many priests, in different languages. Why was this passage chosen? Because it contains the deepest and most important mysteries of theology for us.

The Holy Apostle John the Theologian was a simple fisherman, he did not study anywhere, but the grace of God completely regenerated him and made him one of the wisest people in the world. He is called the Theologian, and none of the theologians can compare with him. From beginning to end, his Gospel amazes with the depth of understanding of the teachings of Christ. It differs from the other Gospels - from Matthew, Mark and Luke - because these evangelists present mainly what concerns the life and deeds of the Lord Jesus Christ after His incarnation. None of them speaks with such miraculous power as Saint John, about the

eternal existence of God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. No one has so convincingly confirmed our faith in His Divinity, no one has expounded His most secret teachings and most important revelations and deeds so deeply as Saint John.

At the very beginning of his Gospel, the Holy Apostle John calls the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word. What does this name mean? The most varied words live in the human mind and heart and come from them - words of truth and falsehood, words of good and evil. The human word is that which comes from the human being; that which reveals to us the spiritual essence of man. Our Lord Jesus Christ is called the Word because through Him the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was revealed and proclaimed to the world. From the mind of God poured out the word of the preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was the

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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS
May 7	Russian Ladies Group A	M. & T. Chambers	H. Torbic & B. Haupt
May 14	A. Stickle & Mka. K. Oleynik	A. Stickle & Mka. K. Oleynik	K. Cattell & M. Fedkin
May 21	L. Georgiou & M. Leathers	M. Fedkin & K. Bazilevskaya	G. Cattell & M. Stickle
May 28	H. Torbic & A.T. Pelikan	J. Houser & D. Swisher	M. Fiori & B. Haupt
June 4	Pentecost - Potluck	M. & T. Chambers	M. Fedkin & H. Torbic
June 11	Russian Ladies Group B	J. Johnson & A. Stickle	K. Cattell & M. Stickle

# Second Day (con’t)

verbal spokesman for the mysteries of God and the will of God.

The world was created by the Word of God, so says the Holy Prophet David: "By the Word of the Lord the heavens are established, and by the Spirit of His mouth all their strength" (Ps. 32:6). All the Powers of Heaven are created by the Word of God. It was the Lord Jesus Christ , the Word of God, who was the direct Agent of the creation of the world: He is the Almighty and Creator of the world. That is why He is called in the Gospel of John "the Word".

That's how Saint John affirms the eternal existence of God the Word and the consubstantiality of God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). In the very beginning, when the world did not yet exist, then the Word already existed, eternally. "And the Word was with God" (John 1:1). This Most Holy Word, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, has always, from the beginning, been with God, He has been inherent in God. And just as the human word is born from the human mind, so God the Word is eternally born from God the Father. "And the Word was God" (John 1:1). What more definite statement about the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ can we expect?

"He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:2). He has always existed with God, in the mind of God. "Everything came into being through Him, and without Him nothing came into being that came into being" (John 1:3). Nothing that received a beginning, received existence, did not begin to be without Him, from Him it received its being. How can we imagine such a mysterious and wondrous union of God the Word with the Beginningless Father and the Holy Spirit? This is explained to us by the Holy Apostle Paul, who in the Epistle to the Corinthians calls the Lord Jesus Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God (see 1 Corinthians 1:24). Is it possible that God's Power and God's Wisdom were not one with the very essence of God? Was there a time when He didn't exist?

The Holy Apostle Paul also calls the Lord Jesus Christ the Radiance of the Father (see Heb. 1:3). The sun shines in the sky and pours out its wondrous light on everything under heaven. How can it shine, but not pour light on the earth? If the Lord Jesus Christ is called the Radiance of the Glory of the Father, this undoubtedly means that He always existed, was always inherent in the Father and consubstantial with Him, for the Divine Radiance always emanated from the being of the Holy Trinity, and this Radiance was our Lord Jesus Christ.

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men; and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:4-5). He was for all of us the Source of life - eternal, true life, which was a light for people. This Divine Light still shines in the darkness of human life, and no power of the devil can extinguish it.

"There was a man sent from God: his name was John" (John 1:6). Which John is the apostle talking about here? Of course, about the great Forerunner of the Lord. "He came for a witness, to testify of the Light, so that all might believe through Him" (John 1:7). He came according to God's command in order to prepare the way for the Lord, to make His paths straight (see Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4). He shone the world with the light of his heart and prepared people for the perception of the true Light of Christ, "which enlightens every person who comes into the world" (John 1:9). We Christians receive this illumination in the great Mystery of Baptism.

"He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and the world did not know Him" (John 1:10). Most of humanity did not recognize Him, rejected Him. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11). "And to those who received Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the power to become children of God" (John 1:12). He descended from heaven into the earthly world, created by Him, took on human flesh from the Blessed Virgin

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## 2025 Mortgage Pledge Campaign

To the glory of God and with sincere gratitude to our parishioners and friends, we are happy to announce that the first-month total of the funds pledged for our mortgage payoff drive is \$79,210. It is also our pleasure to be able to pass along the news that while we initially presented the figure of \$345,000 as our payoff target, we have been informed that the true figure we need to aim for is quite a bit lower: \$305,000. This reflects the fact that we will in any scenario be paying the parish mortgage out of the main budget until our rate lock arrangement expires in mid-2025. Thank you to those who are already pledging and those who are already contributing. And if you are not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging and lending your support!

## Lenten Drive: The Lion’s Pantry

At its initial ending, our lenten charitable drive to benefit the Lion's Pantry raised \$3317 and an additional 168 lbs of food and toiletries. Thank you so much for your generosity and care for those in need! However, it is also our joy to announce today that a set of additional donors coordinated amongst themselves and contributed an additional \$1683 just after we had ended the drive. Thus, by God's grace we were able to present the Lion's Pantry with a full \$5000 towards their work!

## New Panel Icon Blessed

The holy and unending task of temple beautification continued in the month of April with the delivery, installation, and consecration of a new panel icon of Ss. Elizabeth the New Martyr and Maria of Paris. The next panel icon scheduled for production will feature Ss. Katherine of Alexandria and Anastasia of Rome.

## Parish Refrigerator

Many thanks to Ellen George for her donation of an "emergency refrigerator" after our old refrigerator "gave up the ghost" just before the end of Great Lent. As this refrigerator is a normal household refrigerator, it isn't quite spacious enough to be a long-term solution for the parish hall. The council will look to address this issue further in the months ahead.

## Adult Ed: Types of Baptism in the OT

Please join us after vespers on Saturday, May 13 for another study of Old Testament typology with Rdr. Alex Koropsak from Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg. In this presentation, Rdr. Alex will focus on various ways that the Mystery of Holy Baptism is prefigured in the Law and the Prophets and how these prefigurations impact our understanding of what baptism is in the life of Christ and in our lives as well.

## Congratulations Graduates!

We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to our university graduates this year! May God bless them as they begin their new adventures!

- Reader Vladimer Kellachow – B.S. Mathematics, Penn State
- Kosta Hionis – B.A. Supply Chain Management, Penn State
- John Senos – B.A. Marketing, Penn State
- Nathanael Kovscek – B.S. Applied Data Science, Penn State
- Samuel Oleynik – B.A. Telecommunications and Media Industries, Penn State
- Jesse Torbic – Masters in Occupational Therapy from Thomas Jefferson University

■ PATRISTIC HOMILIES

Ascension (con’t)

Whom the Widow Anna saw at the breast, and knew Omnipotent. Thou Who hast hungered because of us, suffered thirst for us, grown weary on the way (but did the Bread of Life hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Way grow weary?). Thou Who hast borne all these things for us. Thou Who hast slept, yet unsleeping watches over Israel. And lastly, Thou Who wast seized, bound, scourged, crowned with thorns, hung upon the Tree, pierced with a lance, died, and was buried. Be Thou exalted, O God!

“Be Thou exalted,” he cries, “exalted above the heavens:” for thou art God. Take Thou Thy seat in heaven Who hung from the Cross. As Judge to come Thou art awaited Who awaited and received judgement. Who could believe this without His help Who raised the needy from the earth, and uplifted the poor from the dunghill? He has raised up His own needy flesh, and placed it with the Princes of His people (Ps. 111:2-7), with whom He shall judge the living and the

dead. He has placed this needy flesh with those to whom He said, “You shall sit on twelve seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Mt. 19:28).

“Be Thou therefore exalted above the heavens, O God!” This has come to pass. It is now fulfilled. Yet we also say of that which was proclaimed of the future: Be thou exalted above the heavens, O God!” We have not seen it, but we believe. For lo! Before our eyes is now fulfilled that which follows: “Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth.” He cannot believe the first who does not see this. For what does, “And thy glory above all the earth,” mean but Thy Church which is spread over all the earth, Thy Spouse spread over all the earth, Thy Bride over all the earth? Thy Beloved, Thy Dove, Thy Consort! She is Thy glory. And the Apostle teaches us this. “The man indeed,” he says, “ought not to cover his head; because he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of man” (1 Cor. 11:7). If the woman is the glory of man, then the Church is the glory of Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns unto ages of ages. Amen. ■

*And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. – The Gospel According to St. Luke, 24:36-53.*

■ PATRISTIC HOMILIES

Second Day (con’t)

Mary, came to His chosen people, Israel, but was not accepted by the majority of them, and to the minority that received Him and loved Him with all their hearts - for He said: "I no longer call you servants ... I called you friends" (John 15:15), - gave the power to be children of God, having mysteriously given birth to them a second time, not according to the will of the flesh, not according to the will of the husband, but by an incomprehensible birth from God (see John 1:13).

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we have seen His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father" (John 1:14). God the Word took on human flesh and lived with us for thirty-three years, full of grace and truth. His Forerunner said about Him that although He was born

■ PATRISTIC HOMILIES

On the Ascension

*Augustine of Hippo is an Algerian saint of the 5<sup>th</sup> century (354-430), the eldest son of St. Monica. His corpus is extensive and shows great theological development over time, making some of his works and thought controversial in the Orthodox Church. The following is an excerpt from his homily on the Ascension of Christ.*

On this day therefore, that is, the fortieth after His Resurrection, the Lord ascended into heaven. We have not seen, but we believe. They who beheld Him proclaimed what they saw, and they have filled the whole earth, “There are no speeches nor languages where their voices are not heard. Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth: and their words unto the ends of the world” (Ps. 18:4-5). And so they have reached even unto us, and awakened us from sleep. And lo! this death is celebrated throughout the world.

Remember the psalm. To whom was it said: “Be thou exalted, O God”? To whom was it said? Was “Be thou exalted” said to the Father, Who never was

according to the flesh later, He was ahead of him, as the Pre-eternal Son of God (see John 1:15).

From the divine fullness of His omniscience and love, God's grace and all-perfect truth poured out over the entire human race in an inexhaustible stream. For through the prophet Moses, a law was given about what gross sins people should avoid, and from the Lord Jesus Christ the world learned about a much higher moral perfection and about all the fullness of higher truth. And we not only learned, but also received grace-filled strength to fulfill the will of God.

May we all be worthy of this great work of the Lord - the salvation of the human race. May our hearts be opened to receive the light of the gospel, the light of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. ■













made lowly? Be Thou exalted: Thou Who wast enclosed in the womb of a mother. Thou Who wast formed in Her whom Thou made. Thou Who hast lain in a manger. Thou Who as a true Child in the flesh drank milk from the breast. Thou who while borne in Thy Mother’s arms sustained the world. Thou whom the venerable Simeon beheld a child, and extolled as Mighty. Thou

*(continued, see ASCENSION, following page)*

Holy Trinity Calendar

LIVE

Please note that at this time, all services at Holy Trinity are being live-streamed. To watch them online, please visit [holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube](https://holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 <b>Holy Myrrhbearers</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	May 1	2	 3  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	4	 5  Divine Liturgy for the Ordination of Evan Kerstetter – Chapel of the Holy Spirit (145 N. Kern St., Beavertown, PA), 10am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	6
7 <b>Paralytic</b> Sunday School, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	8	9	 10  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	11	 12  Great Vespers, 6pm Adult Ed, “Types of Baptism in the OT,” 7pm	13
14 <b>Samaritan Woman</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	15	16	 17  Vespers, 6pm	18	 19  Great Vespers, 6pm	20
21 <b>Blind Man</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	22	23	 24  Confessions, 4pm Vigil for Ascension, 6pm	25	 26  Great Vespers, 6pm Confession, following	27
28 <b>Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	29	30	 31  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	June 1	 2  Vespers, 6pm	3
4 <b>HOLY PENTECOST</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Kneeling Vespers, 11:45 Annual Parish Picnic, Holmes-Foster Park, 1pm	5 <b>Day of the Holy Spirit</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am  Vespers, 6pm	6 Divine Liturgy, 8am	7  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	8	9	10  Great Vespers, 6pm Confession, following

## Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown, unless where noted.

- 5/2/23

6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 5/6/23

10:00 a.m.Divine Liturgy with the Ordination of Rdr. John to the Holy Diaconate; Hours 9:40 a.m.; Reception to follow
- 5/6/23

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 5/7/23

10:00 a.m.Sunday of the Paralytic Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m. (TBD)
- 5/9/23

6:00 p.m. Midfeast of Pentecost Great Vespers
- 5/13/23

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 5/14/23

10:00 a.m.Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m. (TBD)
- 5/16/23

6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 5/20/23

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 5/21/23

10:00 a.m. Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m. (TBD)
- 5/22/23

6:30 p.m. “Hats and Blankets for Babies” Knitting/Crocheting
- 5/23/23

6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 5/24/23

6:00 p.m. Ascension of our Lord Vesperal Divine Liturgy
- 5/27/23

6:00 p.m. Reader’s Vespers
- 5/28/23

10:00 a.m.Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; Catechesis @ 1:30 p.m. (TBD)
- 5/30/23

6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 6/3/23

10:00 a.m.Pentecost Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy (Provide names of those departed you wish remembered)
- 6/3/23

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers with Litya
- 6/4/23

10:00 a.m.Pentecost Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.
- 6/4/23

12:00 p.m. Pentecost Kneeling Prayers
- 6/4/23

1:00 p.m. Patronal Feast Picnic @ the Rectory (CHS provides meat/beverages; bring covered dishes to share as well as a chair)

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.  
Events listed at **Trinity House** take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

May 2023