

# St. Matthew Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the Midwest



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**August 2, 2020**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gospel Reading - Matthew 14:14-22**

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

**Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord** (First of the three "Feasts of the Savior" in August) August 1

The origin of this Feast is explained in the Greek *Horologion* of 1897: "Because of the illnesses which occur during the month of August, it was customary at Constantinople to carry the Precious Wood of the Cross in procession throughout the city for its sanctification, and to deliver it from sickness."

On the eve (July 31), the Cross was removed from the imperial treasury and placed it upon the Holy Table of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (which is dedicated to Christ, the Wisdom of God). From August 1 until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there was a procession throughout the entire the city, and then the Cross was placed where all the people could venerate it.

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus on August 1, 988. In the "The order of services for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," which was compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret, there is a similar explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Precious Cross there is a Cross Procession with the Sanctification of Water, for the enlightenment of the people, in all the towns and places."

\*\*Masks are required in the church building at all times, particularly during worship services. Please remember to maintain physical/social distancing inside the church proper. Please do not congregate in the narthex before and after worship, rather do visiting in the church parking lot.

\*\*Coffee Hour will resume outside after worship and is limited to beverages only.

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen**

**Troparion (TONE 7) Resurrection**

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

**Troparion: St Matthew (TONE 3)**

From the tax desk you eagerly followed the call of Christ the master  
Who of His goodness, revealed Himself on earth to man.  
You appear as a chosen apostle and eloquent proclaimer of the Gospel to the universe!  
Wherefore, we revere your honorable memory, O Divinely speaking Matthew//  
Pray to the merciful God that He will grant remission of sins to our souls.

**Kontakion (TONE 7) Resurrection**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

**Glory....Kontakion (TONE 4) St. Matthew**

Turning away from the tax collector’s scales  
You assumed the yoke of righteousness  
You appear like a most talented merchant  
Offering the riches of that wisdom which is from on high  
Whence you preached the true word  
And roused up slothful souls//  
By describing the hour of judgment.

**Now and Ever...(TONE 6) Theotokion**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians  
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 Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Ministry Team: August is House of Hope Month**

House of Hope provides emergency shelter with a safe and stable environment for young homeless moms and their children. Their intensive case management program supports residents by focusing on areas such as employment, positive parenting skills, financial literacy and debt management to name a few.

By donating needed items and/or making a financial contribution, we help support the positive support system for those they serve during the challenges and celebrations of their journeys to independent stability. Please consider picking up an extra item when you are shopping.

Suggestions: alarm clock, brooms/dust pans, body wash (adult), children’s underwear- toddler to 6 years old, dryer sheets, African American hair products, laundry baskets, laundry soap, new stuffed animals, towels, paper towels, zip lock bags - all sizes

Thank you for your generosity.