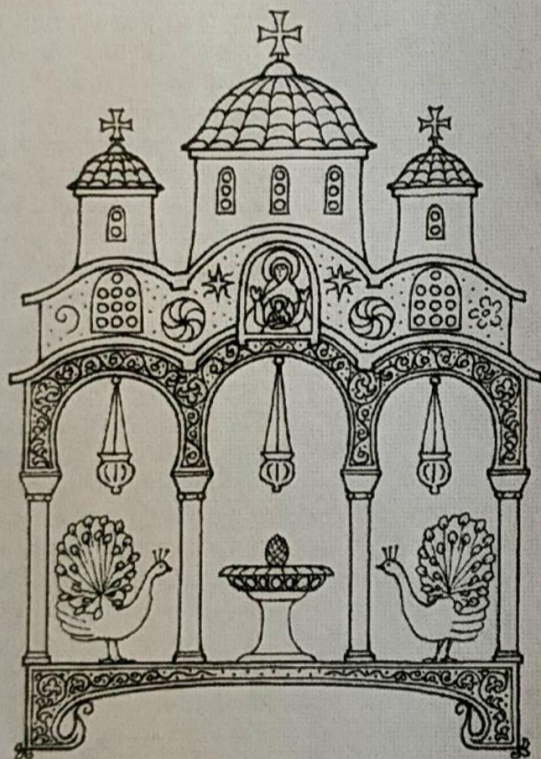


# Saint Paul Orthodox Cathedral

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Sunday, October 13, 2019  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



Today we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy  
of  
St. John Chrysostom

**Tone 8 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us  
from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

**Tone 8 Troparion** (*Fathers*)

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!  
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights  
on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true  
Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

**Tone 8 Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead  
and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,  
and the world celebrates Your rising from the  
dead, O greatly Merciful  
One!

**Tone 6 Kontakion** (*Fathers*)

The Son who shone forth from the Father  
was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a  
woman.

Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image  
of His form,

but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.

Thus, keeping the True Faith,//  
the Church venerates the icon of Christ  
Incarnate.

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon**  
(*Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our  
God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

*v: In Judah God is known; His name is  
great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)*

**Epistle - 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1**

Brothers and sisters, what agreement has the  
temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of  
the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and  
move among them, and I will be their God, and they  
shall be my people. Therefore come out from them,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord, and  
touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and  
I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons  
and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we  
have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse  
ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit,  
and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v : Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)*

*v : Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps 94/95:2)*

### **Gospel – Luke 8:5-15**

"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

### **What is Enlightenment? Where Can I See God?**

"Enlightenment is to see and touch the big mystery. The Big pattern. The Big Real. Jesus called it the Kingdom of God...Philosophers might call it Truth. Most of us just call it love. Here is a mantra you might want to repeat throughout your day:

*God's life is living itself in me. I am aware of life living itself in me.*

There's no answer, no problem solving, simply awareness. You cannot *not* live in the

presence of God. You are totally surrounded by God as you read this. St. Patrick said:

God beneath you,  
God in front of you,  
God behind you,  
God above you,  
God within you.

You cannot earn this God. You cannot prove yourself worthy of this God. Feeling God's presence is simply a matter of awareness. Of enjoying the now. Deepening one's presence. There are moments when it happens. Then life makes sense. Once I can see the Mystery here, and trust the Mystery even in this piece of clay that I am, in this moment of time that I am – then I can also see it in you. I am able to see the divine image in myself, in you, and eventually all things. Finally, the seeing is one. How you see anything is how you will see everything.

Jesus pushes seeing to the social edge. Can you see the image of Christ in the least of your brothers and sisters? He uses that as his only description of the final judgment. Nothing about commandments, nothing about church attendance...simply a matter of our ability to see. Can we see Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters? ...When we can see the image of God where we don't want to see the image of God, then we see with eyes not our own.

Finally Jesus says we have to love and recognize the divine image even in our enemies. He teaches what many thought a leader could never demand of his followers: love of the enemy. Logically that makes no sense.. But soulfully, it makes absolute sense, because in terms of the soul, it really is all or nothing. Either we see the divine image in all created things, or we don't see it at all." [Fr. Richard Rohr, *Everything Belongs*, 56-58.]