

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

Genesis 49:10

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from his loins, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the expectation of the nations." (OSB)

Genesis 49 presents Jacob's final, prophetic blessing of his sons just before his death, anticipating much of the Scriptural story to come. In particular, the Apostles and Fathers of the Church perceived in the blessing of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12)—who is Jacob's fourth son born from Leah (Gen 29:31-35)—a striking prophetic picture of Christ. In the immediate context of Genesis, though, what is particularly surprising is how Judah displaces Joseph as the preeminent son of Jacob and bearer of the promise (compare Gen 49:8 and Gen 37:5-11). How can this be?

In Genesis 37, we are introduced to Joseph, to his prophetic dreams and favored status with Jacob, and soon thereafter to the brothers' conspiracy to be rid of Joseph (compare Gen 37:18-20 with Matt 21:38-39). Judah emerges as the ring-leader of the group, concocting a plan to *profit* from Joseph's demise (see the other "Judah" in Jn 12:4-6) by selling Joseph into Egyptian slavery. This sets the stage for Joseph's rise to power in Egypt under Pharaoh, the protection of Israel from the famine, and the descent of all Israel (Jacob's family) to Egypt.

Later, in the brothers' second trip to Egypt to acquire food from Joseph—who is incognito—Joseph hatches his own plot for his dramatic self-reveal to them. Joseph has his regal chalice hidden in Benjamin's (Jacob's youngest son now) sack of grain, on which basis Joseph can charge his brothers with theft (Gen 44). As the story unfolds, Judah emerges again as the ring-leader (Gen 44:14ff), but this time *in defense of Jacob's youngest son*, Benjamin. Judah offers to *hand himself over in the place of Benjamin* so that all Israel might go free (Gen 44:33-34).

In the intervening years between Gen 37 and Gen 44, Judah has clearly undergone a great transformation, a great repentance. What happened to Judah to provoke this repentance? The key is in Genesis 38 which follows directly—and abruptly—upon the Judah-lead conspiracy against Joseph. Genesis 38 recounts the salacious story of Judah's encounter with his daughter-in-law Tamar. When Tamar's pregnancy becomes evident, Judah moves to have her stoned, not realizing that he is the father. Tamar produces the evidence of his paternity and Judah exclaims, "She has been more righteous than I ..." (Gen 38:26). The story-teller leaves it to us to connect the dots from this episode to Judah's transformed character in Genesis 44—what must have been going on in Judah's heart and mind as he witnessed the destruction and pain he had caused in his family?

And yet, God in His providence was working through all of this. From the illicit union of Judah and Tamar will come the line that will produce Boaz, Jesse, David, and ultimately our Lord according to the flesh (Ruth 4:18-22; Matt 1:2-6; Lk 3:31-34).

From Joseph will come two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who represent the leading tribes of the Northern Kingdom (Samaria) which will "disappear" into history after the Assyrian exile in 722 BC (2 Kgs 17). From Judah will come the Davidic Kingship, the grace of the election of Zion/Jerusalem (see Psalm 2), and the Southern Kingdom—which also will go into exile, in Babylon in 586 BC, but return under Ezra and Nehemiah. In one sense, Joseph's story "ends," Judah's becomes "eternal"—though Joseph, too, is a venerable prophetic type of Christ, as the Fathers discuss.

Gen 49:8-12 is a prophecy that invests Judah and his line with the Abrahamic promise, which means that Judah and his Seed are the answer to the problem that goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden: Judah's Seed is the Seed of the Woman who will crush the head of the Serpent; the Lion—who is also Lamb and Lawgiver—who will liberate God's people and all of creation from the Serpent's tyranny.



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

◇◇

His Grace Bishop THOMAS

◇◇

Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286

◇◇

Father James Thayer

215-692-0890

March 31, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR HYPATIUS, BISHOP OF
GANGRA
INNOCENT, ENLIGHTENER OF SIBERIA & ALASKA
AKAKIOS THE CONFESSOR
THEOPHILOS THE MARTYR AND THOSE WITH HIM

Tone 3 - Eothinon 11

Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS - Tone 1 - O Lord, save thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross, preserving Thy kingdom.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Procession w/ the Cross
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 pm

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00; Friday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Apr 7):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Mary Lynne B. & Anonymous	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Jack Morrash	Brian Fitzgerald
ALTAR CANDLES:	The Bushellis	----
USHERS:	Dan M. & Gabe Q.	Steve K. & John N.
GREETERS:	Michael & Helen Heveran	Angie Drăghici
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens & Nathan, Rebecca	Serge & Alex Kaminsky
COFFEE HOUR:	Moore's & Gohls	Mary Lynne & Naomi

EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature rack. Thank you!

Ministry Highlights

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“Beautification”

The purpose of the Beautification Team is to guide the ongoing illumination of the Church as well as the purchase of liturgical furnishings in order to create and maintain a holy place for the worship of the Holy Trinity.. This involves working closely with the iconographer and groups within our parish in order to keep each project moving forward. If anyone is interested in being a part of the Beautification Team, or has questions, please talk with Terry Kaminsky (215-256-9416 or TLK7558@netscape.net).

Mark Your Calendar:

Lazarus Saturday
Bp THOMAS visit
April 19-20, 2019

Holy Week & Paschal
April 21-28, 2019

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Baby Care Items

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:
Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
“Confess”

This Week:

GREAT LENT

- Monday, April 1:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Great Compline, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 2:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm
- Wed, April 3:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Churching of Ophelia Anne Morelli, 6:45 p.m.
Presanctified Liturgy w/ Youth Choir 7 p.m.,
Fasting Potluck to follow
- Thurs, April 4:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, April 5:** Presanctified Liturgy 10 a.m., w/ Fasting Potluck
Akathist 7 p.m.
- Sat, April 6:** VESPER 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, April 7:** Sunday of St. John Climacus
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.
Women of St. Philip, 12 noon
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm

Confession is available after most services & by appointment until Wednesday Morning of Holy Week.

No Confessions after Holy Unction.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Child Gregory & family	Marie Natella Hertanse
Mona-Rebekah Caroline Zerfenesh	
Michael & families	
Paul (H)	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Lasha B	Catechumens
Otari B	Zachary,
Daniel H	Tatiana (Sze),
Mebrat	Evan, Tina,
Aristidis	Robert,
Doris	Michael
Veronica	New & Expectant Mothers & children
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Mar 23: 77 Divine Services on Mar 24: 187
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$295.60. Collections, \$82. Youth, \$4. Flowers, \$100. Book Shelf Ministry, \$15. Camping Fund, \$50. Food for the Hungry, \$100. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$75. Stewardship, \$1,610. Total received: \$2,331.60.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!