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Resurrection of Christ  
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**Sunday, 18 February 2024  
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30 AM  
Confessions 8:45-9:15 AM**

**Sunday 37<sup>th</sup> from Pentecost**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus. From this Sunday we  
begin our preparation for Great Lent**

### **Мытарь Закхей**

Должность Закхея – главного сборщика податей – была очень важной в миру. Но евреям он был ненавистен, как слуга римлян, поработителей Израиля. В Израильском обществе мытарь причислялся к грешникам. Но сердце Закхея почти никто не знал. Желание увидеть Иисуса настолько было сильным в Закхее, что он не только пришел туда, где проходил Иисус, но и влез на смоковницу, отбросив при этом все внешние приличия. Сердцеведец Иисус тотчас приметил, что не простое любопытство было в сердце этого человека. Поэтому Он и говорит ему: *Сегодня надобно Мне быть у тебя в доме.* Так велика была радость Закхея, что он обещает отдать половину своего имущества нищим. Он сознает, что совесть его нечиста в способах приобретения имущества. На что Господь отвечает: *Ныне пришло спасение дому сему, потому что и он сын Авраамов.* Это величайшая похвала, какую мог сказать Господь Закхею, так как быть сыном Авраама значит истинно принадлежать к дому отца верующих. (Рим.4,11). *(Толковое Евангелие)*

### **Lenten Alert**

The reading of the gospel today about Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10 alerts us that Great Lent will soon be here. Like Zacchaeus we want to “see who Jesus was.” To accomplish this we must climb higher in a life of fasting, prayer and repentance. The Church helps us toward this goal. It gently leads us through several weeks of gradual change until Great Lent is here and then our dream of “meeting the Resurrection” as it is said in Slavonic.

Zacchaeus takes us to the Sunday dedicated to the Publican and Pharisee, about whom we read in Luke 8:10-14. They were both religious men but they prayed differently. There are many lessons we can learn from this brief story, one of which is that we should not brag about how good we are. We leave this to God. To remind us of this, the church instructs us not to fast even on Wednesday and Friday, for the Pharisee bragged about it. Instead, we should pray the words uttered by the Publican: “God be merciful to me a sinner.”

Then we learn that we are not perfect, and have to take action as did the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32 who realized that he had made the wrong decision in leaving home. He swallowed his pride and returned to his father’s house and begged for forgiveness. Following this we have two more preparatory Sundays, the Sunday of the Last Judgment, and Forgiveness Sunday. *(from The Orthodox Herald)*

### **Peace of soul**

We all strive to be peaceful in the sense of having peace in our soul. Those who have acquired peace of soul can be in constant motion or busyness or in pain, but their souls, being united closely to God, remain in unshakeable peace.

St. Seraphim of Sarov teaches: “we must endeavor by every means to keep peace of soul.” Do not be troubled by the insults or slights of other people. It is necessary at all costs to restrain oneself from anger and by watchfulness over oneself to keep the mind and heart from vain movement... For the guarding of peace of our souls, it is also necessary to restrain ourselves and flee from judging others. By being non-judgmental and being silent, our peace of soul will be preserved. When a person attains this state of mind, he receives divine revelation.. We must keep our hearts from vain thoughts and impressions (Prov. 4:23). By constant watchfulness over the heart, a purity of heart is born in which God is seen, according to the words of eternal truth given in Matthew 5:8: “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” *(St. Nikolai Velimirovich)*

“Do not be irritated either with those who sin or those who offend; do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor, and for judging him, as we are in the habit of doing. Everyone shall give an answer to God for himself. Everyone has a conscience; everyone hears God’s Word, and knows God’s Will either from books or from conversation with other people. Especially do not look with evil intention upon the sins of your elders, which do not regard you; “to his own master he stands or falls.” Correct your own sins; amend your own life.”  
*(Saint John of Kronstadt)*