

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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**Sunday, July 10, 2022
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8 - 8:50 AM**

****Service This week:****

**Tuesday / Вторник 12 Jul 22
Sts. Peter & Paul // Свв Петра и Павла
Divine Liturgy / Лигтургия 9 ч.у.
Вечерня в Понедельник 6:30 ч. в
Vespers Monday Evening 6:30 PM.**

**Fr John asks us to thank all of you who remembered his namesday last weekend
and sent in their congratulations on Saturday and Sunday**



Церковь приближается к уникальному в ее литургической жизни событию: празднику Всехвальных и Всеславных Первоверховных апп. Петра и Павла. Среди великого множества святых, поющих славу Богу на небесах, они

занимают особое, несравнимое место. Это отражается в великолепии фраз, обращенных к ним в гимнографии:

«Киими похвальными венцы увязем Петра и Павла?» ... «Вы есте непобедимые столпы святяга Троицы» «Светильники великия церкви, Петра и Павла восхвалим: паче бо солнца возсияша на тверди веры»

Этих проповедников и лидеров Церкви Христовой объединяла общая цель и общее дело: нести свет Правды миру. Оба обладали различными видами апостольской благодати: даром проповеди, который позволял им проповедовать Слово Божие ясно, точно и с пастырской властью; лидерством, с помощью которого они организовали церковь и заботились о пастве и иерархии Церкви Христовой; трудами по обращению человеческих сердец — они затрагивали сердце каждого человека, встречавшегося на их пути,

так же, как Христос затронул и обратил их собственные сердца.

Их свидетельство произошло от власти, а власть — от любви. В случае св. Ап. Петра, это была любовь, подвергшаяся испытанию, оказавшаяся в его слабости недостаточной. Однако Христос, Человеколюбивый к Своему творению, исцелил и восполнил то, что потеряло целостность.

Нельзя сказать, что утверждение свв. апп. Петра и Павла произошло только благодаря тому, что они приняли Божию любовь — Он дарит ее всему мир — ни их внутренней реакцией на Его зов.

Их утверждение произошло благодаря преображению, которое произвела в их жизни любовь. Исполнившись благодатью Святого Духа, полученная от Господа любовь изливалась из них на весь мир; их жизнь стала жертвой, с тем, чтобы все их существо участвовало в «проведении в жизнь доброго» для последователей Господа.

Через них говорил, вел, учил, и обращал сердца всего мира Сам Христос. Церковь видит в свв. Петре и Павле истинное обращение человека: бывший рыбак и фарисей стали проповедниками Евангелия и миссионерами. Те, кто когда-то занимался ловлей рыбы и написанием томов о Законе, стали ловцами человеков и истинными участниками святых таинств.

Ликование об этих двух людях является зовом каждому Православному Христианину.



The holy apostles and ecumenical teachers converted thousands of people to Christ, they conquered and shook human hearts with their preaching. Therefore, the malice of the pagan world took up arms against them and led them to martyrdom today (July 12). On this day, they passed from earthly life to the life of Eternal Glory: the Apostle Paul was beheaded by the sword, and the Apostle Peter was crucified on the cross.

The Apostles Peter and Paul - these two people, the two pillars of the Church - were different in their character and in their lives ... Peter - a simple fisherman - was an ardent character, direct, carried away and at the same time faint-hearted, we know about his the sin of denying the Lord, but we also know about his repentance, how strong it was. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, he became a fearless preacher of the gospel. Walking around the entire universe of that time preaching about Christ, he accepted a martyr's death in Rome. At that time there was a terrible persecution of Christians, and tradition says that the Roman Christians persuaded the Apostle Peter to hide, to leave Rome for the benefit of the Church. Peter obeyed them and went to the city gates at night. Suddenly he saw that his beloved Teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ, with a cross on his shoulders, was coming towards him in the predawn darkness. "Lord, where are you going?" exclaimed the apostle. "I'm going to Rome to be crucified again." ... This vision so struck Peter that he returned to the city and after a few days was sentenced to death by crucifixion. The apostle asked his executioners to crucify him upside down, for he considered himself unworthy to be crucified in the image of his Master. He wanted his last breath to be at the feet of Christ, so that his dying lips would kiss the place where the most pure noses of the Lord, whom he selflessly loved, stood.

In contrast to Peter, the apostle Paul was a scholar, a theologian. In the preaching of Christianity, he worked harder than all the apostles. He was a man of firm purposeful character, alien to hesitation and compromise. Before his calling, he was a zealous Pharisee, a persecutor of Christianity. He imprisoned many holy Christians and gave them over to torment. When the Sanhedrin sent him from Jerusalem to Damascus to crush the Christian community there, he set off with great zeal to carry

out the order, because he believed that the persecution of Christians was the work of God. And then, on the road to Damascus, a bright heavenly Light suddenly shone on him, Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice: Saul, Saul! why are you persecuting me? He said: who are you, Lord? The Lord said: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. . . . (Acts 9:4-5). Saul's companions saw the light and heard the voice. Everyone stood as if struck by thunder. Finally Saul got up. He was blind. He lost his sight for the outer world, but he regained his sight inwardly. That heavenly Light (God's grace) entered into him, which his ardent, thirsty soul was looking for. And the Lord told him to go to the city, where he would be told what to do. In Damascus, the apostle Ananias met him and baptized him. A few days later in Jerusalem they learned that Saul had become a follower and zealous disciple of Christ and a preacher of Christianity. So the Lord captivated him and made him His chosen apostle, who repeatedly went around the universe and preached the Christian faith

The Apostle Paul, with his enlightened mind, studied the Holy Scriptures and convinced himself and convinced others that Christ is indeed the promised Messiah, who came from the Heavenly Father to save the entire human race. He understood that whoever is in Christ is a new creation of God. He realized that in Christ all people are saved from sin, damnation and death. In his epistle, the apostle Paul says: "To me life is Christ, and death is gain" (Phil. 1:21). These apostolic words are holy truth for us believers. Unbelieving people cannot understand that death is gain! For them, death is the loss of everything. They think that there is nothing behind the grave. But we believers know that there is no death, that death is a transition from earthly life to another, eternal life. "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9) — this is how the Apostle Paul writes in the Epistle to the Corinthians. For him, death is a gain; for him, death is the gate to eternal life. But let us not forget that two roads go through these gates of death: one is to the eternal joy of living with God, and the other is to the eternal sorrow of living with the devil. Such is the teaching of the apostles. (*Слово протоиерея Тихона Пелых*)