

ST JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

376 Route 12
P.O. Box 353
Northfield Falls, VT 05664
www.stjacobofalaska.org

Fr. Mark Korban, Priest
802-485-4719



MAY 28 TONE 6

*Holy Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of Ascension*

8:00am Matin (Reader's Service)
9:10am Hours
9:30am Divine Liturgy

Upcoming:

Wednesday, May 31st

6:00pm – Vespers

Saturday, June 3rd

5:00pm – Vigil for Pentecost

Sunday, June 4th PENTECOST

12:00pm – Kneeling Vespers Service

Service Texts

(These are the texts appointed by the Typikon for today, however only a selection may be used.)

Tone 6 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell,//
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion *(Ascension)*

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured,
that You are the Son of God,//
the Redeemer of the world!

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 *(Fathers)*

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established
one Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Ascension)*

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,
and united earth to heaven,

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love You,
but remaining with them and crying://
“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the

Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ’s Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)). He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in

battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.

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Welcome...

Welcome to all visiting Saint Jacob's Orthodox Church. We are glad you are here and warmly invite you to join us downstairs for a meal and fellowship following the service. Hopefully, we can point you to the right person to answer any questions you might have.

Prospora Baking Rotation

May 28 Catherine
June 4 Linda
June 11 Ann
June 18 M. Reba
June 25 Catherine

Coffee Hour:

May 28 Suzzana
June 4 Cuneos
June 11 Catherine
June 18 Anita
June 25 M. Nina