

# Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church

Sunday, October 12, 2008~17th Sunday after Pentecost~tone 8

3rd of Luke

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Today the Church remembers the **350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council** under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25). The Council of 787, the second to meet at

Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine Porphyrogenitos.

The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (JN 1:18).

In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic MENAION, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.

**It is important to understand this 7th Council in light of the others. For this reason, I include here a summary:**

1) 325 Nicea I: formulated the first part of the creed,

defining the divinity of the Son of God  
(The Creed of Nicea-Constantinople, 325-381 C.E.)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one



baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

2) 381 Constantinople I: formulated the second part of the creed, defining the divinity of the Holy Spirit

3) 431 Ephesus: defined Christ as the Incarnate Word of God and Mary as Theotokos

4) 451 Chalcedon: defined Christ as perfect God and Perfect man in One person

(The Definition of the Council of Chalcedon, 451 C.E.)

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-

bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

5) 553 Constantinople II: reconfirmed the doctrines of the Trinity and of Christ

6) 680 Constantinople III: Affirmed the true humanity of Jesus by insisting upon the reality of His human will and action

7) 787 Nicea II: affirmed the propriety of icons as genuine expressions of the Christian Faith

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Hymns after the Little Entrance-  
TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 8:

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!

Fathers, **TONE 8:**

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!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection, tone 8:

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!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Fathers, tone 6:

The Son who shone forth from the Father was ineffably born, twofold 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.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion, tone 6:

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator: do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,  
for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon, tone 8:

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!  
vs. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

& another, tone 4 (Fathers):

Blessed are you, O Lord god of our Fathers and praised and glorified is your name forever!

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 & Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers)

Alleuia, tone 8:

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Saviour!

vs. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

& another, tone 1 (Fathers):

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

GOSPEL: Luke 7:11-16 & John 17: 1-13 (Fathers)

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the  
Heavens... Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!  
Praise befits the just! Alleluia...

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**Who receives Communion?** The Eucharist, the "Sacrament of sacraments," is received by those who . . . .

- embrace what the Eucharist *means* in the Orthodox church, in a manner appropriate to your age and level of understanding
  - have expressed that assent by being received as living members of the Orthodox Church through the sacraments of baptism and chrismation
  - are pursuing growth in the Orthodox Christian way of life, utilizing the tools and fellowship of parish life and spiritual discipline
- If you have questions about any of this, let's talk!

**Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!**

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR . . . WELCOME! Take a complimentary copy of the booklet, "Welcome to St. Gabriel Orthodox Church," at the chapel entrance. Please sign our guest book so that we can get to know you.** Please join us in our coffee-fellowship, which will either take place here, or at a nearby park.

**Regarding standing** in church: Please stand as far forward in the Church as possible, leaving doorway area uncongested. Please reserve seats for those who need them most.

**Sunday School, ages 3 and up,** the "Holy Innocents." They join Hala immediately following the Gospel reading in the room adjacent to the chapel for a lesson. They re-enter the chapel when we sing the Creed. Parents who wish to accompany their children may. Recital Verse: "Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to His people" (1 Kings 8:56). Sunday School Lesson: Old Testament Review: Genesis through 2 Kings.

**Schedule for this week:**

We will celebrate daily Vespers on Wednesday evening at 7 pm.

+++ GO IN PEACE +++