Christian – an encounter of awe and judgment and overwhelming divine love. Just like Peter, James, and John who *climbed the mountain* to behold Christ's transfiguration, we also prepare in advance for our meeting with Christ: by striving to be at peace with self and others; coming to Jesus with simple love and childlike need; observing the fasting discipline; attending any services the evening before a Divine Liturgy; praying the PreCommunion prayers; making a recent confession; and trying to be the hands and feet of Christ to the poor and needy.

❖ Connect ❖

Parish Priest: Fr. John Oliver

- *Calendly* meetings and appointments:

Church Office:

- Office Email: info@stelizabethtn.org
- Office phone: 615-785-5285

❖ Giving ❖

- Year-to-Date Pledging:

Budgeted: $291,400
Actual: $184,700

Donate:

Pledge:

❖ From the Synaxarion ❖

Quotations from St Hilarion of Optina

"We cannot live in such a way that no one grieves or offends us, for the Apostle Luke writes: *we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God* (Acts 14:22), and *bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ* (Gal. 6:2). Let us therefore ask that we may bear sorrows with self-reproach and humility and not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good, and with the Prophet say: *With them that hate peace I was peaceable* (Ps. 119:6)."

St Elizabeth Orthodox Church ❖ 7004 Burnt Knob Road Murfreesboro, TN 37129
❖ www.stelizabethtn.org ❖
Fr John Oliver, Parish Priest
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Metropolitan SABA ❖ Bishop NICHOLAS

✣ St Elizabeth Orthodox Church ✣

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

18 October 2026

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke; Martyr Marinos the Elder; Venerable Theodore, Simeon, and Euphrosyne

❖ WELCOME! ❖

Peace be to all who gather at St Elizabeth's this morning,
and a special welcome to our visitors and guests!
Please join us for refreshment immediately following the service.

❖ Liturgical Notes ❖

DIVINE LITURGY SERVICE BOOK

A word-for-word service book of The Divine Liturgy, with biblical and explanatory notes, is available on the table in the Narthex.

- *The Apolytikion of the Resurrection - Tone 3*

  Let the heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The firstborn of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

- *The Apolytikion to St Elizabeth the New Martyr*

  Concealing the rank of a princess with humility, O divinely-wise Elizabeth, thou didst honor Christ with the two-fold service of Mary and Martha, having purified thyself by charitable works, patience, and love, thou wast brought to God as an offering of righteousness; as we venerate thy virtuous way of life and thy sufferings, we earnestly ask thee as our true teacher: O holy martyr and grand duchess Elizabeth, entreat Christ our God to save and enlighten our souls.

- *The Kontakion - Tone 2*

  O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

❖ *The EPISTLE of St Paul to the Colossians (4:5-11, 14-18)*

"Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen."

❖ *The PRAYER before the Reading of the HOLY GOSPEL*

Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy Gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

❖ *The HOLY GOSPEL according to St Luke (10:16-21)*

"The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.'"

❖ *The KISS of PEACE*

The Kiss of Peace happens this way: 1) we turn only to those only on our left or right, never turning our backs toward the Holy Altar; 2) one quietly says, "Christ is in our midst!," while the other quietly replies, "He is and ever shall be!" It should be kind, but also quiet and orderly.

❖ *The Megalynarion*

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, True Theotokos: we magnify thee.

❖ On Receiving Holy Communion ❖

For Orthodox Christians, Holy Communion is not only a bridge toward unity but also the expression of unity already achieved - the seal of a common baptism, common belief, common practice, essentially a common Church. For this reason, only Orthodox Christians, properly prepared, may receive Holy Communion

❖ Calendar ❖

This Week

❖ *Tuesday, 10am* - Divine Liturgy
❖ *Wednesday, 6pm* - Daily Vespers
❖ *Thursday, 10am* - Supplication Service to St. Elizabeth before her relics
❖ *Saturday*
5pm - Great Vespers
6pm - ToSE Class
6:15pm - Foundations Class (An Overview of the Orthodox Christian Faith: required for catechumens, open to all).
❖ *Sunday*
9am - Matins
10am - Divine Liturgy followed by our Agape Meal

Looking Ahead

❖ *November 1st* - Annual All Saints' Day Celebration following Divine Liturgy

❖ Simple Seeds ❖

Simple Seeds for Holy Growth: A Series for How to Worship as a Spiritual Family

❖ *Seed 2 – Concerning Preparation for Holy Communion*

Every invitation to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ calls for a serious response.

❖ *Reflection* – Receiving Holy Communion is *the* defining moment in the life of the