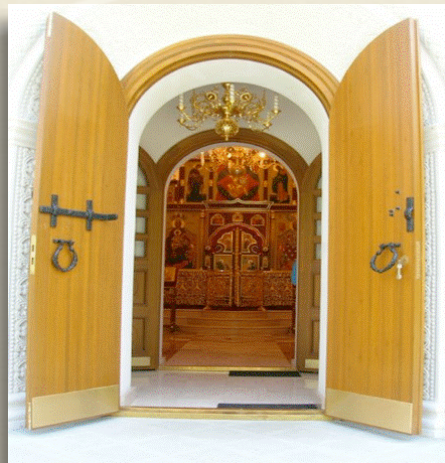


*Welcome*

*to*

*St Elizabeth Orthodox Christian Church.*

St Elizabeth Orthodox Christian Church, a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America - "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (*Acts 11:26*) - strives to "continue in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers" (*Acts 2:42*).



## Service Schedule

### **Great Vespers** - Saturdays, 6:00pm

Through the prayerful singing of Holy Scripture, especially the Psalms, Great Vespers tells the story of the creation of the world, humanity's fall into sin, the Incarnation of Christ as the "gladsome Light" for all, and our preparation to one day depart to Him.

### **Matins** - Sundays, 9:00am

Matins is the morning service of prayer and song, lifting the body and soul from its sleepy state and carrying them upward toward the throne of grace.

### **Divine Liturgy** - Sundays, 10:00am

The Divine Liturgy, as the highest and fullest celebration of the Word of God, is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church. It's the joyful gathering of the faithful, the intercession for the world, and the presence of God in our midst in the most holy and sublime Eucharist.

### **Daily Vespers** - Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Daily Vespers is our mid-week service, reflective and quiet in tone. Slightly shorter than Great Vespers, this service provides a refreshing mid-week boost to those who attend.

Check our website - [www.stelizabethtn.org](http://www.stelizabethtn.org) - for other services and events and information.

St Elizabeth Orthodox Christian Church

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# WELCOME



St Elizabeth  
Orthodox Christian  
Church

## TO SEE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST, AND CHRIST IN ALL THINGS.



*Thank you for being with us today.  
You honor us with your presence.*

Orthodox," an ancient term, means "right belief" or "right praise." It describes that Church that understands itself to be the living continuity of the faith and life established by Jesus Christ, given to His apostles, described in the Bible, practiced by the early Church, defended with the blood of martyrs, and passed on by those Christians associated with the ancient centers and earliest centuries of Christian history.

This Church, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (*I Timothy 3:15*) that was "once and for all delivered to the saints" (*Jude 3*), is expressed as a life of constant mindfulness of God, and in a worship of Him that is biblical, liturgical, musical, peaceful, communal, vibrant, and transformative.

"What is the essence of Orthodoxy? It is Christ.

Everything that is Orthodox has a divine-human character. In all creation, God occupies the first place; we, the second. God leads, we follow; God acts, we cooperate. God became man and lived within the categories of our human existence while appearing everywhere as absolute holiness, goodness, wisdom, justice, and truth."

### SCRIPTURE COMES TO LIFE...

For Orthodox Christians, worshipping the true and living God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is an *experience*, engaging both the mind and the body with all its senses. You may notice, therefore, many Scriptural texts "come to life" during your visit. For example:

- **The *Altar***, to provide for the offering of the Eucharist (*Ex 20:24-26; Psalm 45:3-4; Heb 13:10; Rev 8:5*)
- ***Candles***, to remember that Christ is the "Light of the world" (*Psalm 18:28; John 8:12, Eph 5:14*)
- ***Holy Communion***, to participate in the Body and Blood of Christ (*Luke 22:19-20; John 6:51-58; I Cor 10:14; 11:17-29; Rev 19:9*)
- ***Icons***, to proclaim the Incarnation of the Word of God "in the flesh" as Jesus Christ and to reveal the potential of holiness for each human being (*Gen 1:27; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:5; II Peter 1:4*)
- ***Incense***, to facilitate prayer (*Ex 40:26-27; Psalm 141:2; Eph 5:2; Rev 5:8*)
- ***Liturgy***, to follow Christ our High Priest (*Isaiah 6:1-7; Acts 2:42; Heb 7:17; I Tim 2:5; Heb 8:1-2*)

### ...AND LIFE IS TRANSFORMED.

The riches of Orthodox Christian worship are, as the book of Hebrews explains, not substitutes for, but "copies of the true" worship in heaven (*Hebrews 9:24; Isaiah 6:1-8; Daniel 7; Revelation 4-5*). We strive to come to God not as we, or popular opinion, assume Him to be, but *as He genuinely Is*.

A life given to such prayer and humility leads, gradually, toward a "sacramental vision" of the whole of life itself: *seeing all things in Christ and Christ in all things*. The worship we offer Our Lord on Sunday morning (and also throughout the week) is a big part of acquiring that vision, as are the daily repentance and sustained joy to which we are called.

Those encountering the Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, we welcome. Look around, listen, pray as you're able. Feel free to ask questions. And may "the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you" (*II Corinthians 13:14*).

Welcome to St Elizabeth's.