

Zacchaeus Sunday

Luke 19:1-10

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
(KJV)

The Church of St. Sava proclaims the Gospel message about Zacchaeus today in parishes everywhere. Zacchaeus experienced Jesus Christ coming to his house. Jesus said salvation came to Zacchaeus' house.

Orthodox churches around the world hear about Zacchaeus today. The Church proclaims this message as a step in moving toward Great Lent. Zacchaeus' experience with Jesus Christ has lasting value.

Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus Christ into his home. Zacchaeus changed his life to correct any wrongs he committed. Attentive believers take to heart Zacchaeus' example of changing his life.

Attentive believers cherish Jesus' message that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Each person is a sinner. Each person willing to receive and be attentive to Jesus Christ experiences newness in life.

Zacchaeus was convincing in his willingness to change and prove that he wanted to correct wrongs he committed. He was willing to restore fourfold to everyone he had defrauded.

Followers of Jesus Christ are expected to take convincing action as did Zaccheus. Initiative is necessary to learn about and to grow in Christ. Effort is required to experience Christ and to be with Christ.

Definitive actions are necessary for believers to repent of sins. Zacchaeus took action to make things right with people he defrauded. Contemporary believers are to take corrective actions of their sinful and irresponsible behavior.

Prayer, fasting and reading the Holy Scriptures will guide believers in making good on the desire to repent. The Divine services of the Church will guide and encourage believers to repent and follow Christ.

The arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday alerts the heart, mind and soul to ready the self for change and renewal in Christ. Renewal and growing in Christ requires careful thought, concentration and action.

The Church Year is structured for believers to grow and to celebrate the life in Christ. Being mindful of the structure of the Church Year is beneficial. Structuring life according to the Church Year enhances growth in Christ.

The Church provides the calendar to guide, nourish and educate believers for each day of the year. Living according to the calendar unites believers around the world and through the centuries.

Being a part of the Church unites the living and the departed. Believers are never alone when being a part of the Church. Believers are recipients of prayers from around the world and at all times of the day and night.

The saints and martyrs serve as intercessors before the Lord. Guardian angels look out for each individual believer. Parish churches and monasteries provide love, comfort and hope for each person.

Healing takes place in God's Holy Church. Zacchaeus' life became new in Christ. Zacchaeus experienced a form of healing. Taking action to reach out and to experience Jesus Christ has lasting benefits.

Today offers a turning point in life. Believers benefit by looking within themselves to determine actions to take to draw nearer to Christ. Self-assessment will reveal corrective actions to take to repair any troublesome relationships.

Definitive change is necessary among believers to reveal repentance is authentic. Zacchaeus was convincing in his actions with Jesus. Jesus knows whether a person sincerely repents and desires to begin anew.

The Church encourages renewal in Christ throughout the year. The Church encourages repentance throughout earthly life. Confession and Communion enable newness and unity with Christ.

St. Sava is on the minds of Serbian Orthodox Christians at this time of the year. St. Sava's efforts to experience Christ and to lead others to Christ remain vivid down through the centuries.

The current Gospel lesson on Zacchaeus is consistently proclaimed each year in the churches of St. Sava. St. Sava valued the Gospel and valued learning. Followers of St. Sava do well to exert effort as did St. Sava to grow in Christ.

Zacchaeus Sunday is just a beginning. Good beginnings in life make for good endings. Believers baptized into Christ are to follow Christ throughout life until departure from life.

Today is an opportunity to turn the mind completely to Christ. Repentance and definitive actions to follow Christ are possible today. May today's Gospel about Zacchaeus be life-changing for the heart, mind and soul.

Zacchaeus Sunday. Veneration of the Precious Chains of St. Peter.

Venerable Romilus of Ravanica. January 16/29, 2023.

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic