

The Sunday after Theophany

Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is hand. ~~✠~~

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 los.t (KJV)

This Sunday the Church is asking believers to focus on repentance. St. Matthew's Gospel reminds believers and clearly states that the Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the example of Zacchaeus as a person practicing repentance. The arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday in the Church signals the forthcoming approach of Great Lent.

Repentance is a major theme during Great Lent. Believers benefit from repenting throughout life. Repentance enables believers to cast aside all that is in life that is not of Jesus Christ.

Believers commit to following Christ at their Baptism. Repentance is the opportunity to move from darkness toward the Light of Jesus Christ. St. Matthew's Gospel references the connection between Jesus and light.

Sinful thoughts and practices cause believers to experience darkness. Sinful thoughts and actions inhibit the full growth possible in Jesus Christ. Repentance fosters growth in Jesus Christ.

Confession and Communion unite and reunite believers with Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus experienced salvation through Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus took action to change his life in ways pleasing to Jesus Christ.

Change is always possible for each person with Jesus Christ. While there is life in the body and the mind functions, repenting and uniting with Jesus Christ is possible.

The richness of the life in Jesus Christ is experienced in Communion. Communion strengthens the believer. Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ renews the person completely.

Each Divine Liturgy believers have the opportunity to unite with Jesus Christ. The Church guides the believer from birth to the Heavenly Kingdom and Eternal Life. The Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of the Kingdom.

Attentive believers value the Holy Gospel proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy. The Gospel reveals the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Gospel tells of the life and miracles of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel brings the Light of Christ to receptive hearts minds and souls. Each person benefits from following the example of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus took action to correct the wrongs he committed in his life.

Believers correcting wrongs committed in life move toward unity with Jesus Christ. Each day of life is a blessing from God. Each day of life is to be used wisely and for the glory of God.

Thank God for the Church proclaiming the Gospel for the benefit of believers. Thank God for the opportunity to repent in life. Jesus's love for each person is verified in the forgiveness of sins at the time of repentance.

Now is the time to direct the heart, mind and soul toward the Light of Christ. Today is the day to move forward in the brightness of the life in Christ.

Joy springs forth in the heart, mind and soul when unity with Christ takes place. Imagine the joy Zacchaeus experienced when Jesus came to his house. Zacchaeus holds a special and lasting place in history.

The same Jesus that visited Zacchaeus enters receptive hearts, minds and souls today. Repentance opens the door for Jesus to enter and become first and foremost in life. Repentance is the proven path to God's Kingdom.

The Sunday after Theophany. Zacchaeus Sunday. Holy Martyr Tatiana of Rome. Akathistos Icon of Chilandar. January 12/25.2026.

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