



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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May 31, 2020

Volume V

7th Sunday of Pascha: The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 20: 16– 18, 28– 36; Gospel: John 17: 1– 13

Additional collection for our Community Outreach (Ancient Faith Ministries this month)

THE CHURCH IS OPEN WITH A 25-PERSON LIMIT. RESERVATION DETAILS BELOW...

ONLINE SERVICES, SAINTS, & READINGS FOR THE WEEK

(At this time, we will ONLY have Sunday morning services on the North Side.)

Here Is Our Cathedral's Online Schedule Of Services (www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/):

Sunday: 9 am Divine Liturgy; **Saturday: 8 am** All Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy; **6 pm** Feast Day Vespers

Monday	Venerable Cornelius, abbot of Komel (1537)	Acts 21:8–14	John 14:27-15:7
Tuesday	Martyr Thalelaeus at Aegae in Cilicia and companions (284)	Acts 21:26-32	John 16:2–13
* Wednesday	Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine (337) & Helen (327)	Acts 23:1–11	John 16:15–23
Thursday	St. John-Vladimir, martyr and ruler of Serbia (1015)	Acts 25:13–19	John 16:23–33
* Friday	Venerable Michael the Confessor (818)	Acts 27: 1– 44	John 17:18–26
Saturday	Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Younger) (596)	Acts 28: 1– 31	John 21:15–25

** Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

No Kneeling in Prayer till after Pentecost Sunday's Liturgy;

Replace "O Heavenly King" with the Ascension Prokimen

June 7 – Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit; Pentecost; *Rusalka*; "Green Sunday"

9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Acts 2: 1– 11; Gospel: John 7: 37– 52; 8: 12

Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following the Divine Liturgy

THE CHURCH IS OPEN WITH A 25-PERSON LIMIT. RESERVATION DETAILS BELOW...

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory be forever!*)

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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This Bulletin Is Offered:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please do so by contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or call*). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

A LONG AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT

Church Reopen Sunday, May 24, 2020 – Following His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory's guidelines along with our Parish Council:

- ✓ Sunday Divine Liturgy Services Will Return With A 25-Person Limit.
- ✓ For Now, "Reservations" Can Be Made By Contacting Father Between Monday And Friday At NOON Via A Phone Call Or Text Message To 412-748-0148. (*Do not email for this.*) Father will send out a confirmation email when 25 is reached.
- ✓ If You Are Not Comfortable At This Time To Return To Church, We Understand But Please Let Father Know.
- ✓ A Facemask must be worn in the church.
- ✓ 6-feet distancing will be maintained (Certain pews are roped off, markings on the floor, etc...)
- ✓ The "curator desk" has been moved from the vestibule to the hall to allow for more room.

- ✓ Veneration of icons and the Holy Cross needs to be done with a reverent bow. (*No kissing or touching*)
- ✓ Candles should be lit with a lighter that you bring from home. (*It is a pious Orthodox tradition to say your prayer (intention) when lighting your candle for the living and your candle for the departed.*)
- ✓ For the time being, we will only have Sunday morning services.
- ✓ "Youth Sunday", Coffee Social, and Church School will resume at a future date.

Our approach is fluid in that we are flexible to adjusting things as they are needed. Please also continue to pray along with the cathedral services when it is not your week. Through God's strength and guidance we will get through this together!

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Acts 20:16–18, 28–36

¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders

¹⁷And from Mile'tus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ²⁸Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" ³⁶And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

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Gospel: John 17:1–13

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

¹⁷When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, ²since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. ⁴I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; ⁵and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made. ⁶"I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. ⁷Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; ⁸for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. ⁹I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; ¹⁰all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.



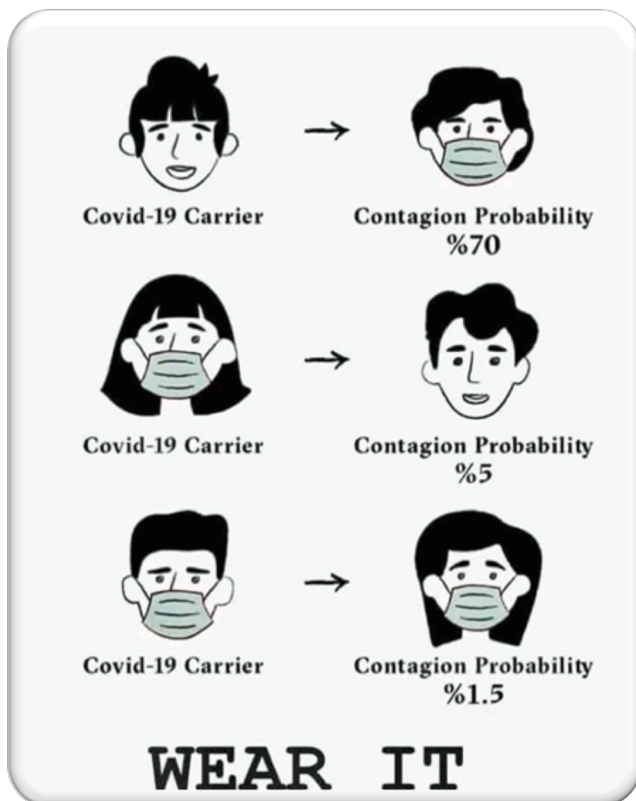
PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



(Please have submissions for this section to Father Dave by Wednesday.)

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Wearing Your Mask – Here are reminders about WHY we are wearing a mask and HOW to wear it:



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Coronavirus

How To Properly Wear A Face Mask

Last updated: April 24



Always wash hands before and after wearing your mask and clean reusable masks after use. Avoid touching the mask at all times and only use the bands or ties to put on and remove.



DON'T
wear your mask
below your nose



DON'T
wear your mask
low on your nose



DON'T
leave your chin
exposed



DON'T
wear your mask
under your chin or
temporarily remove
it in public



DON'T
let your mask hang
loosely with gaps
around your face



DO
wear your mask up
to the top of your nose
and under your chin;
snug and without gaps

Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health

(In case the print is too small...)

Please wear your mask up to the top of your nose and under your chin, snug, and without gaps.

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Having flu-like symptoms? PLEASE KEEP FR. DAVE POSTED OF ANY ILLNESSES SO TO BE ADDED TO OUR PRAYER LIST!

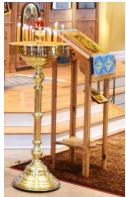
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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Viola Peifer; Tim Martin; Matthew Peifer; Olga Radick; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- John 8:12

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Theresa Sharpless, In Memory of Father, Nick Buhonick. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Candles in Church – During this time of COVID-19, if you wish for Father to light your weekly candles, please text, email, or call him with your intentions (*for the living, departed, or other specific*) by Saturday evening. Your candle donation should be mailed to Tim Martin.

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Praying with online services from your domestic-church - Sunday Liturgies at St. John's are now celebrated with a 25-person limit. This comes from the Protocol from our Metropolitan. We will pray for our parish and the world. PLEASE watch services online! Here are the words of Fr. Matthew Dutko concerning watching services online:

- *"Wake up at the normal time that you always do on a Sunday. If you have kids, wake them up. Shower, get dressed in your Sunday finest and gather together in front of a computer screen.*

- *Light a candle and burn some incense [if you do not have any, contact Fr. Dave who can recommend online sites to order from]. When the Liturgy begins, pray and sing as you always do.*

- *Even though you will be in your home-church, don't let the distractions of being in your own home get in the way. For that hour or so, you will be with your parish family in prayer. I know it's not the same, but we will still be praying to our Lord, all together, all at the same time; just like we always do."*

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Cathedral Live-Broadcast - Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am (*and other services*). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but with these current limitations, please take the time Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and throughout the week to pray with our brothers and sisters via the *live broadcast* on the web. www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Assembly of Bishops USA Announces COVID-19 Resource Center for Orthodox Christians - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA announces a resource center for clergy and faithful during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Resource Center includes updated news from the various jurisdictions as well as practical guidelines and resources for families, ministry leaders, parish leadership, and everyone. The Center can be accessed at www.assemblyofbishops.org/covid19 and will be updated regularly with new materials and expanded selections.

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Pysanky in June! Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie has rescheduled their 53rd Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale to **Saturday, June 6** from 11am to 4pm. Pysanky, folk arts, food, basket raffles, food, door prizes and, of course, more food! It is not too early to put this on your calendar!

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 275
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 89
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 2245
Community Outreach:	\$ 20
Total Collections:	\$ 2624
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 25
Relocation Fund:	\$ 200

Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin
2225 McAleer Road
Sewickley, PA 15143

For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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Weekly Bulletin Email – If you are not receiving the bulletin in an email at the beginning of each week, please email Father Dave at: fr.sleepless@gmail.com

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Third Hour to Return – As we are leaving Paschaltide (the time from Pascha to Pentecost), we will now return to having the Third Hour read or chanted prior to the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

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COVID-19 Relief Fund – Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has established a COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist **individuals** who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please go to www.goarch.org/covid19relief to apply. If you would like to donate to the Relief Fund, please visit www.goarch.org/covid19/donate

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"20 seconds" of Prayer – Following the CDC recommendations, as you wash your hands, instead of singing your ABCs, pray! It takes roughly 20-seconds to pray *The Lord's Prayer*, sing pray *Hail Mary* (*twice*), sing *You are truly deserving*, or say the *Jesus Prayer* (5 times).

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✧ *Please Continue to Pray (and wash your hands)*
- ✧ Mon. thru Sat., June 8-13 – Fast Free Week
- ✧ Monday, June 15 – Apostles' (Saints Peter & Paul) Fast Begins

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Many More Details To Come On The Following:

- VIRTUAL Altar Boy Retreat will be June 28 – July 1
- VIRTUAL Young Women's Encounter will be June 28 – July 1
- 55 Days Till VIRTUAL Camp! – Our Deanery Camping week is July 14-20.
- VIRTUAL Science & Nature Week will be Aug. 9-15

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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Anonymous Feelings of Gratitude:

[Please share with Fr. Dave something that you are surprised that you became grateful for during our quarantine time. Anonymous inspirations will be shared in the bulletin. (Please see the: Fear Zone → Learning Zone → Growing Zone: "Where am I during COVID-19?" in the Pascha Bulletin.)]

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-
translator Fr. S. Janos

The Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysios, Andrew, Paul, Christina

Commemorated on May 18

The Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysios, Andrew, Paul, Christina suffered under emperor Decius (249-251). The first of them, the youth Peter, suffered in the city of Lampsaka (Hellispontum). Brought to trial before the governor Optimines, he bravely confessed his faith in Christ. They tried to force the youth to recant from the Lord and worship the idol-goddess Venus, but the martyr refused to do their bidding, and declared for everyone to hear, that a Christian would not bow to the idol of a lecherous woman. Saint Peter was subjected to fierce tortures, but he courageously endured the tortures, giving thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for having bestowed upon him His all-powerful help, and he was then beheaded. Also at this time there were brought to trial Dionysios, Nicomakhos and two soldiers, transferred from Mesopotamia, and also Andrew and Paul. They all confessed their faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols, for which reason they were given over to torture. To the great sorrow of all the Christians Nicomakhos did not hold out and he apostacised from the Lord Jesus Christ; he went into



[calendar/orthodox-calendar](#) © 1996-2001 by

the pagan temple and offered sacrifice. He immediately fell down in a terrible frenzy and died among the frightened torturers. The renunciation of Nicomakhos was heard by the 16 year old girl Christina, standing in the crowd, who shouted: "Thou cursed and lost man! Here instead of only one hour thou hast obtained for thyself eternal and ineffable torment!" The governor heard these words. He gave orders to seize the holy virgin and, learning from her that she was a Christian, he gave her over to shameless profligates. At the house, where they had taken the holy virgin, there appeared an Angel. Frightened by his terrible visage, the youths with tears began to beg forgiveness of the holy virgin and besought her to pray for them, so that the Lord's chastisement might not befall them.

On the following morning, Saints Dionysios, Andrew and Paul were again brought before the governor. For confessing faith in Christ they were given over to the throng of pagans for rending asunder. They bound the saints by the feet, dragged them to the place of execution and there stoned them to death. During the time of execution, Saint Christina came running up so as to die together with the martyrs, but by order of the governor she was beheaded.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Contemplatives in Confinement: 3 Lessons Learned While Battling Coronavirus

written May 22, 2020 by Lynnette Horner

I recently achieved the dubious honor of being the only person I know to contract Covid-19. Although mine would be classified a "mild" case—clear lungs, no ER visits, no hospitalization required—I wouldn't recommend the experience to anyone. If the flu is an uninvited guest that hangs around for three to five days, the coronavirus is a squatter that moves into your home and decides to ransack the place during an extended staycation of, oh, two or three weeks. I mostly sat around like a slug.

My coronavirus experience occurred during the first two weeks of May, when most folks were sheltering at home in order to avoid people like me. Before the fever hit, I had been thinking about the lessons we're all learning during this pseudo-monastic experience of social isolation. My two weeks of Slug Life gave me time, in my more lucid moments, to think about a few of them.

1. Gathering For Worship Is A Privilege... (Continued from last week)

2. Mysteries (Sacraments) are a necessity.

During the first 45 years of my life as an Evangelical, I never would have written these words. I didn't have anything against the sacraments; I just didn't think about them much. They weren't central to my Christian life—they were barely even on the periphery. Baptism was important for believers (although its method and meaning varied from one church to the next), and the communion service was special (although its method, meaning, and frequency were always up for debate). Ten years of walking this ancient path in the Orthodox Church has changed my perspective radically. The Eucharist is central to every single Divine Liturgy, and participating in an online service without receiving it is



an unnatural experience.

Next Sunday I plan to receive Holy Communion for the first time in many weeks. I have missed it deeply. Not only is the Liturgy incomplete without Communion, my life feels incomplete without it, in ways I can't quite articulate. Sure, I can discuss the theology, that the bread and wine mystically become the Body and Blood of Christ, and the Eucharist is the medicine of immortality. But the Eucharist, and confession, and the baptisms and chrismations that have been postponed are more than theological propositions. As the page on "Holy Mysteries" on OrthodoxWiki.org states, "*The Mysteries (Sacraments), like the Church, are both visible and invisible. In every Mystery there is a combination of an outward visible sign with an inward spiritual grace.*"

I have missed these specific Gifts of Grace that the Church offers.

3. God's love for us doesn't depend on our "usefulness."

The day after my battle with the coronavirus began, Fr. Stephen Freeman published a blog post with the provocative title, "The Useless God." His thoughts on the utilitarian value system of modernity gave me much food for thought, at least during my occasional moments of clarity.

Fr. Stephen wrote, "*The useful thing (or person) gains its value from something other than itself. It is a tool. I value the tool because it allows me to do something else. In many cases, when the usefulness of the tool is expired, it is simply thrown away. In a throw-away society we slowly drown in a sea of obsolescence, surrounded by things for which we no longer have any use.*"

That sort of utilitarian thinking can infect our spiritual

Of course it's true that we cooperate with God's grace in our salvation. But it's easy to fall into the trap of giving and serving out of a desire to prove ourselves useful, rather than *simply giving back to God* out of a heart of love and serving others out of our love for Him and for those created in His image.

I made some attempts to feed my spirit. While spending the first three days in bed with a fever hovering around 101°, I would recite the Jesus Prayer for a while until my mind wandered. I may have lasted a few minutes, or most of an hour. Who knows? It was all a blur.

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Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs

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<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/walkinganancientpath/2020/05/22/contemplatives-in-confinement-3-lessons-learned-while-battling-coronavirus/>

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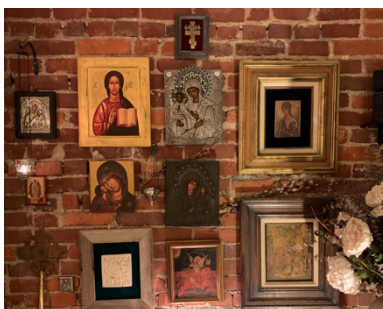
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Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth.
Voznesisija na nebesa Bože, i po vsej ze mi slava tvoja.