



Patriarch Tikhon

**ST. MARY'S
SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST**

Including a Reflection
on the Life and Witness of

TIKHON

**PATRIARCH OF RUSSIA,
CONFESSOR AND ECUMENIST
(1925 CE)**

from *Holy Women, Holy Men*

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

7:00-7:30 am Service of Holy Eucharist

7:30-8:00 Fellowship and Conversation

<https://zoom.us/j/584949088>

Meeting ID (recurring): 584 949 088

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and mighty, who has called us together into one communion and fellowship: Open our eyes, we pray, as you opened the eyes of your servant Tikhon, that we may see the faithfulness of others as we strive to be steadfast in the faith delivered to us, that the world may see and know you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise to the ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 72:1-8

St. Helena's Psalter

- ¹ Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son,
- ² That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
- ³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ⁸ He shall rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:3-16

A reading from Matthew.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

REMEMBERING TIKHON

Vasily Ivanovich Belavin (Tikhon's given name) was born January 19, 1865. He grew up in a rural area among peasants in a village where his father was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. Even as a child, he loved religion, and by age thirteen began his seminary training, where his classmates nicknamed him "Patriarch." At 23, he graduated as a layman and began to teach moral theology. Three years later, he became a monk and was given the name Tikhon.

By 1897, he was ordained Bishop of Lublin, and in 1898 became Archbishop of the Aleutians and Alaska, the leader of Slavic Orthodoxy in North America. Tikhon was held in such esteem that the United States made him an honorary citizen. While in this country, he established many new cathedrals and churches, and participated in ecumenical events with other denominations, in particular the Episcopal Church. In 1900, at the ordination of Bishop Reginald Weller as coadjutor of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, the diocesan, Bishop Grafton, invited Tikhon to sit on his own cathedral. The Archbishop would have participated in the laying-on-of-hands if the Episcopal House of Bishops had not forbidden it. Tikhon later established warm relations with the Diocese of California.

In 1907, Tikhon returned to Russia and a decade later was elected Patriarch of Moscow. The outbreak of the Russian Revolution threw the Church into disarray. When a severe famine caused many peasants to starve in 1921, the Patriarch ordered the sale of many church treasures to purchase food for the hungry. Soon the government began seizing church property for itself, and many believers were killed in defense of their faith. The Communists tried to wrest control of the Church from Tikhon, while he, in turn, attempted to shelter his people. To this end, he discouraged the clergy from making political statements that might antagonize the government. He prayed, "May God teach every one of us to strive for His truth, and for the good of the Holy Church, rather than something for our sake." Imprisoned by the Soviets for more than a year, he was criticized both by the Communist Party and by those Orthodox bishops who believed he had compromised too much with the government. On April 7, 1925, he died, worn out by his struggles. In 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon, numbering him among the saints of the Church.

PRAYERS

Prayers may be offered, silently or aloud.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Form A (*Enriching Our Worship*, p. 65)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by [Christ], and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

The Celebrant then continues

We now celebrate, O God, the memorial of Christ our Savior. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of Christ's death, and proclaim the resurrection, until Christ comes in glory. Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in the Risen One, and make us a living sacrifice of praise. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, in the words Christ taught us, we are bold to pray, saying, ***Our Father...***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Eternal and Life-Giving God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,*

*and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

BLESSING

May the peace with passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may the blessing of the loving God, and God's son, risen for us, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.