

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being. The holy emperor Constantine convened an Ecumenical Council in the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea. Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Reflection adapted from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, May 20th, 2018

*Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council; After-
feast of Ascension*

7th Sunday of Pascha

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Readings

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

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured, that Thou art the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

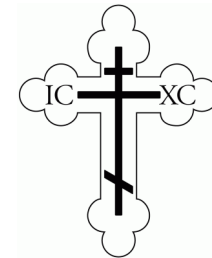
Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith.// O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and united earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying:// "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, May 20th - *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy
- Coffee Hour in the parish hall

Wednesday, May 23rd - *St. Michael the Confessor* **Wine & Oil**

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

Thursday, May 24th - *Ven Symeon the Stylite (the younger)*

- 6:00 PM - Greek Class in Port Townsend

Saturday, May 26th - *Apostle Carpus of the Seventy*

- 7:00 PM - Vigil for Pentecost