

**AUGUST 9, 2020**  
**AFTERFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**  
**GLORIFICATION OF VENERABLE HERMAN OF ALASKA**

St Herman is for many the Patron Saint of North America. He is the first Orthodox saint to be glorified in this land. He was the first saint glorified by the Orthodox Church in America. He was born near Moscow around 1756 to a pious merchant family, and entered monastic life at the age of sixteen, at the Trinity - St Sergius Lavra near St Petersburg. While there he was attacked by a cancer of the face, but the Mother of God appeared to him and healed him completely. He was tonsured a monk in 1783 with the name of Herman (a form of Germanos), and was received into Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga. After some time, he was allowed to withdraw to the life of a hermit in the forest, and only came to the monastery for feast days.

In 1793, in response to a request by the Russian-American Commercial Company for missionaries to Alaska, Valaam Monastery was told to select a company of its best monks to travel to America. Eight were chosen, of whom the hermit Herman was one. The company crossed all of Siberia and, almost a year later, first saw Kodiak Island in September 1794. The missionaries set about their work, and found the native Aleut people so receptive to the Gospel of Christ that in the first year about 7,000 were baptized and 1,500 marriages performed.

Despite severe hardships, the missionaries covered huge distances, on foot and in small boats, to reach the scattered fishing settlements of the Aleuts. In general they found a warm reception, but many of the pagan shamans opposed their message and sometimes stirred up the people against them. Despite such opposition, the missionaries' major difficulty was with the Russian traders and settlers, who were in the habit of exploiting the Aleuts as they wished, and who had oppressed and disgusted the native people with their immoral behavior. When the missionaries came to the defense of the natives, they were repaid with the opposition of the Russian-American company, whose leadership put countless obstacles in the path of their work. In time, several of the company died at sea, and several more abandoned the mission in discouragement, leaving the monk Herman alone.

He settled on Spruce Island near Kodiak, and once again took up the hermit's life, dwelling in a small cabin in the forest. He spent his days in prayer and mission work, and denied himself every fleshly comfort: he fasted often and lived on a diet of blackberries, mushrooms and vegetables (in Alaska!!). He slept with a board as his blanket and wore a very heavy metal monastic cross underneath his clothes. Despite these difficulties and privations, he founded an orphanage and a school for the natives of the island, cared for the sick in epidemics, and built a chapel where he conducted divine services attended by many. (He was not a priest, but God made up the lack in miraculous ways: at Theophany, Angels descended to bless the waters of the bay, and the Saint would use the holy water to heal the sick). Asked if he was ever lonely or dejected in his solitude, and replied: "I am not alone; God is here as everywhere, and the Angels too. There is no better company." There are many miracles that took place due to the saint's prayers including healings, stopping a flood as well as a forest fire, changing the direction of the winds, and foretelling his own death.

Saint Herman reposed in peace on Spruce island, at the age of eighty-one, in 1836. At the moment of his departure, his face was radiant with light, and the inhabitants nearby saw a pillar of light rising above his hermitage. His last wish was to be buried on Spruce Island. When some of his well-intended disciples attempted to take his relics back to Kodiak to be buried from the church there, a storm rose up and continued unabated until they had abandoned the plan and buried him as he desired.

On March 11, 1969, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America proclaimed that Fr. Herman would be glorified as a Saint for having faithfully toiled in the "spiritual work of apostolic service among the natives whom he illumined by the light of the truth of Gospel." On August 9, 1970, Bishops, Priests and faithful from the entire Orthodox world assembled at the Church of the Resurrection in Kodiak to witness the Glorification upon earth of St. Herman, the first Orthodox Saint of North America. His holy relics remain in that church to this day.

Ask almost anyone in the regions around Kodiak and many people in all parts of Alaska, even to this day, if they know of the blessed Saint of Alaska, Fr. Herman, and you will probably receive a reverent and knowing “nod of the head.” Perhaps you will hear a personal story about how he has helped someone in need or inspired another upon the ancient, yet ever new heavenly path upon which he walked. We, who now strive to walk upon this same path two hundred years later, give thanks to God “who is wondrous in His Saints,” and who allowed such a one to walk in our midst.

The Following is a fragment of a conversation between St Herman and some officers of a Russian ship, recorded by his disciple Yanovsky; it includes perhaps the most familiar quotation from St. Herman.

"But do you love God?" asked the Elder. And all answered: "Of course we love God. How can we not love God?" "And I, a sinner, have tried to love God for more than forty years, and I cannot say that I perfectly love Him," answered Father Herman, and began to explain how one must love God. "If we love someone," he said, "then we always think of that one, we strive to please that one; day and night our heart is preoccupied with that object. Is it in this way, gentlemen, that you love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always remember Him, do you always pray to Him and fulfill His Holy commandments?" We had to admit that we did not. "For our good, for our happiness," concluded the Elder, "at least let us give a vow to ourselves, that from this day, from this hour, from this minute, we shall strive above all else to love God and to do His Holy Will!"

## GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL: Three stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8, followed by three of the feast and four for Saint Herman***

***Resurrection, tone 8:***

We offer to You, O Christ,  
our evening song and reasonable service,  
for You willed to have mercy on us//  
by Your Resurrection.

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!  
For You willed to have mercy on us//  
by the Resurrection.

Rejoice, holy Zion!  
Mother of the churches, the abode of God!  
For you were the first to receive remission of sins//  
by the Resurrection.

***Feast, tone 2, Special Melody “Joseph of Arimathea”:***

Come, and with faith let us celebrate together  
The all radiant and divine transfiguration of Christ,  
And, transformed by a goodly transformation,  
Let us spiritually mount to the lofty summit of the virtues with the disciples of Christ, //  
That, taught with them the revelation of the awesome mysteries, we may glorify the Savior and Lord.

Rejoice piously and be glad, O honored Church of the faithful,  
Celebrating now this honored and most radiant feast;  
For the Master of all, Who is now transfigured,  
Manifestly illumines with the brilliance of ineffable splendor the disfigurement of man, //

Radiantly emitting a brilliance which surpasses the brightness of the sun.

The God and Creator of all, having taken the form of a servant in the ineffable richness of His loving kindness,  
Now saves man from the ancient darkness,  
His face shining, disclosing the brilliance of the Godhead in the flesh;  
Therefore, filled with awe and fear, //  
The disciples worshipped the Master of all, falling prostrate.

***Saint Herman, tone 8:***

Your evangelical light shines as a bright star;  
lit by the burning fervor of your faith in Christ,  
kindled in your youthful heart, it burned brightly.  
Seeing it we say: “Grant mercy to all your people, O Lord, //  
through the prayers of our blessed Father Herman!”

With humble joy, O blessed Father Herman, You accepted the labor of a novice in Valaamo.  
Once having put your hand to the plow,  
you furrowed a straight and true path from Russia to the Aleutian shores. //  
We, who follow his way, praise Christ our Lord.

Your long and arduous journey across the dismal arctic wilderness  
brought you to the safe harbor in Kodiak,  
the field of your holy labor in America.  
Here, as the least of an apostolic company,  
you planted firmly the Cross of Christ  
deep in the hearts of an ancient people.  
Together with them, we cry aloud:  
“O Blessed Herman, //  
pray to Christ, the King of Glory, that our souls may be saved!”

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***GLORY...Saint Herman, tone 6:***

The great precepts of the angelic way  
you learned from a disciple of the blessed Father Seraphim of Sarov.  
Through prayer and fasting you labored long to keep pure God’s image in You,  
ascending to the heights of God’s likeness, that the flesh might indeed serve the spirit.  
O blessed hermit of Spruce Island,  
you have taught your disciples most wisely in word and deed.  
Now in the heavenly places  
you have the holy vision of the most Holy Trinity; //  
intercede for those who honor you in faith and in love!

***NOW AND EVER...the Dogmatikon in tone 8:***

The King of heaven,  
because of His love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.  
He took flesh from the pure Virgin  
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.  
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.  
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,  
we confess Christ our God!//  
Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls!

**THREE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**THE READING FROM ISAIAH 42:5-13**

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give you as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them. Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the tops of the mountains. They will give glory to God and declare His virtues in the coastlands. The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal and cry out against His enemies with strength.

**THE READING FROM ISAIAH 49:5-10**

Now thus says the Lord who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, and to bring Jacob and Israel back to Him (for I shall gather and glorify them before the Lord, and My God shall be My strength) indeed He says, ‘It is a great thing for you to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob and to restore the dispersion of Israel. Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: “Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord’s sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, ‘Go forth,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Reveal yourselves.’ They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

**THE READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON**

But the righteous live for ever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because He will cover them with His right hand, and with His arm He will shield them. The Lord will take His zeal as His whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel His enemies; He will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; He will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword,

and creation will join with Him to fight against the madmen. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap to the target as from a well-drawn bow of clouds, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen, therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given to you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, who will search out your works and inquire into your plans. **(5:15-6:3)**

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8:***

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the Eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness.//  
Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.  
He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.  
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.  
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.  
Glory to Your rising on the third day!  
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

***GLORY...Saint Herman, tone 1:***

Today we remember the great teachers of prayer and abstinence.  
They were made real to us because of your words, deeds, and example.  
Your wondrous life confounded the Enemy.  
You conversed with Angels;  
together with them, O Blessed Father Herman,//  
pray for the salvation of our souls!

***NOW AND EVER...for the feast, tone 2:***

You were transfigured in glory on Mount Tabor, O Christ God,  
showing to Your Disciples the glory of Your Divinity.  
Enlighten us also with the light of Your knowledge  
and guide us in the path of Your commandments.//

for You alone are good and the Lover of mankind!

**TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee.

**Feast, tone 7**

You were transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God,  
Revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it.  
Let Your everlasting light shine upon us sinners!  
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You!

**Saint Herman, tone 4**

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska,  
North Star of Christ's holy Church,  
the light of your holy life and great deeds  
guides those who follow the Orthodox way.  
Together we lift high the Holy Cross  
you planted firmly in America.  
Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ,  
singing His holy Resurrection.

**Resurrection Dismissal Theotokion, tone 4:**

The mystery of all eternity,  
unknown even by Angels,  
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man, // saving our souls from death.

<b>THE DIVINE LITURGY</b>
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**TROPARIA**

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### **KONTAKIA**

#### **Resurrection, tone 8**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,  
and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

#### **Saint Herman, tone 3**

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided you, blessed Father Herman,  
on your evangelical journey to America  
to proclaim the Gospel of peace.  
Now you stand before the throne of glory;  
intercede for your land and its people:  
Peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

#### **Feast, tone 7**

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,  
And Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;  
So that when they would behold You crucified,  
They would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,  
And would proclaim to the world,  
That You are truly the Radiance of the Father!

**PROKEIMENON, tone 8:** Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

**Vs.** In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

**2<sup>nd</sup> PROK., tone 4:** He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noon day.

**EPISTLE: (128) 1 Corinthians 3:9-17** Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's husbandry. According to the grace of God which was given unto me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no foundation can anyone lay other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If any man's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you? If any man defiles the temple of God, God shall destroy him. For the temple of God is Holy, which temple you are. **(181) 2 Corinthians 6:1-10** Brethren, we as workers together with Him beseech you also not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He saith: "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation I have succored thee." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves

as ministers of God: in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

**Alleluia in the eighth tone:** Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!  
**vs.** Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!  
**vs.** thy law is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my paths.

**GOSPELS: (59) Matthew 14:22-34** At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they, were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

**Matthew 10:23-31 (Saint Herman)**

When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore, do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! He turned the desert into pools of water, and a waterless land into streams of water. Alleluia...