

WEEK 23: NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

Christ will come again at the time of the Last Judgement and no one knows when this will occur.

(Younger children) Learn about the story of Noah's Ark in reference to verses 37-39

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 313-327

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 204-213

In the Beginning: A Fresh Look at the Early Chapters of Genesis by Fr. Lawrence Farley

(Chapter 4: The Return of Chaos: Noah and the Flood)

Learn: Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday <https://www.goarch.org/meatfare-learn>

NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

Read Matthew 24:36-44

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

Jesus is telling His disciples not to try and figure out when the Second Coming will occur. (This applies to us as well.) Additionally, many of us tend to procrastinate when we need to do something until we know the deadline is getting close and we absolutely need to start working on the task. There is a risk for all of us to become lazy or complacent if we think our death is a long way off. We know we will die, but not when. We know Christ will come a second time for the Last Judgement, but not when. We remain alert and vigilant when we do not know the time of the end.

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be...”

People belittled the construction of the ark and continued to live in sinful ways even when the rains began to fall and then the flooding destroyed them. Likewise, we know the Second Coming of Christ will occur, but we don't know exactly when Christ will come again. We can live our lives in constant anticipation of our final judgement, or not. The choice is ours, but we will not have the opportunity to make changes or correct our actions as we stand before Christ. We need to repent and correct our lives - now.

“Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.”

Two people can share the same community or family and one could inherit eternal life and one might not. We cannot simply hang out with people who live their life striving to acquire righteousness and the virtues (although this is definitely helpful to offer us support). It is important that we acquire righteousness and the virtues ourselves! Our priest, parents, godparents, and Sunday School teachers are trying their best to guide and mentor us along our journey to Christ.

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

We should always be vigilant and live our lives in such a way that if we died in a car accident today, we could stand before Christ at the Last Judgement knowing that we strived to live a Christian life.

Next week, we are going to be discussing the importance of being prepared for the Last Judgement as we learn about the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25.

THE LAST JUDGEMENT



This icon is in the Church of Chora in Istanbul, Turkey.

Read Matthew 25:31-46

In the center of the icon, you see Christ and to the right, Theotokos, and to the left, St. John the Baptist. Surrounding them are the apostles and many others.

Below Christ, Adam and Eve are bowing to Christ. Bathed in white light on the other side of Adam and Eve, we see the righteous - the sheep. On the opposite side of Adam and Eve, we see a river of everlasting fire for the unrighteous - the goats.

ISAIAH 34:4

“All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll.”



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WEEK 23: NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

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NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

Read Matthew 24:36-44

There are some aspects of life that are beyond our knowledge and understanding. We can be at peace about this because we know that God is infinitely greater than any of us and loves us deeply. We also know that Jesus will come a second time for the Last Judgement. We should live our lives in anticipation of this moment because we do not know when the Second Coming of Christ will occur, nor does anyone else - not even the angels.

There is always the chance that something tragic could happen to us today, tomorrow, or next week. We could be in a car accident, develop a terrible disease, or

be in a natural disaster. We should live every day as though it is our last, but also anticipate all that we will work towards tomorrow. We should apologize and seek forgiveness from those we have hurt or offended. We should be loving and merciful to our siblings and classmates. We should obey our parents and be respectful to everyone around us. There are always opportunities to live as Christ did in our daily lives.

There are also temptations surrounding us every day as well, such as, skipping our homework and chores because we want to watch tv or hang out with friends instead. (What are some other temptations in our lives?)

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ORTHODOX LIFE SKILLS: LEARNING RESPONSES TO “CHRIST IS RISEN!”

When we hear our priest proclaim: *Christ is Risen!*

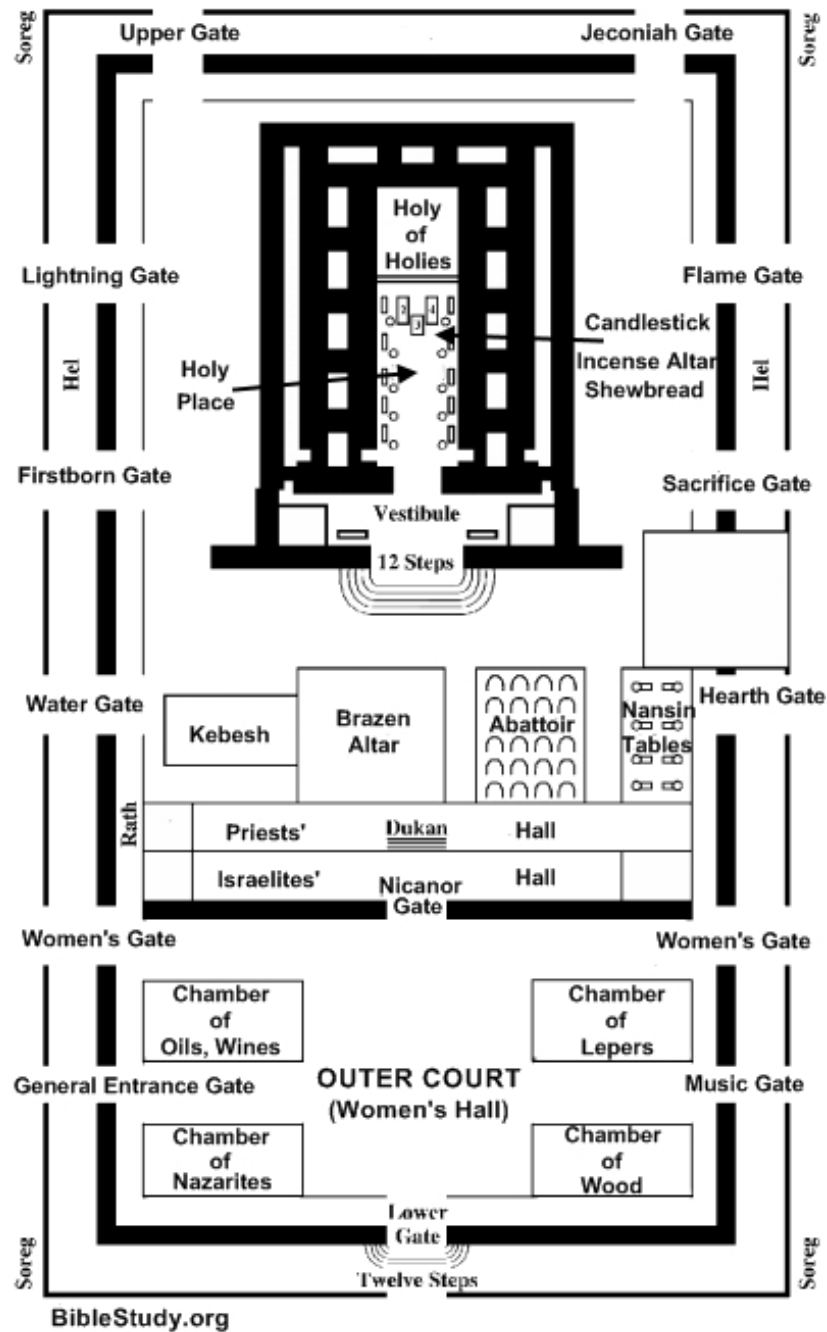
How do we respond? *Truly He is Risen!*

For additional languages: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/paschal-greetings>

YouTube: Pronunciation of “Christ is Risen!” in Different Languages

<https://youtu.be/BTfpP-t7lZ4>

USING OUR MODEL OF THE JEWISH TEMPLE:
LEARN THE PARTS OF THE TEMPLE



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Below Christ, Adam and Eve are bowing to Christ. Bathed in white light on the other side of Adam and Eve, we see the righteous - the sheep. On the opposite side of Adam and Eve, we see a river of everlasting fire for the unrighteous - the goats.

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3RD & 4TH GRADE

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Jesus will come a second time, but we do not know when this will happen - not even the angels know. When Jesus comes again, He will judge everyone. We will stand before Jesus and He will know all of our sins and all of the times we were loving and forgiving of everyone in our lives. It is important for us to always ask people to forgive us when we have hurt them and also to go to confession when we have not done what Jesus has instructed us to do in the gospels.

We should live every day of our lives as if it might be our last, but we should also look forward to all that we plan to do tomorrow. How should we live as Christians?

ORTHODOX LIFE SKILLS:

LEARNING RESPONSES TO “CHRIST IS RISEN!”

When we hear our priest proclaim: *Christ is Risen!* How do we respond? *Truly He is Risen!*

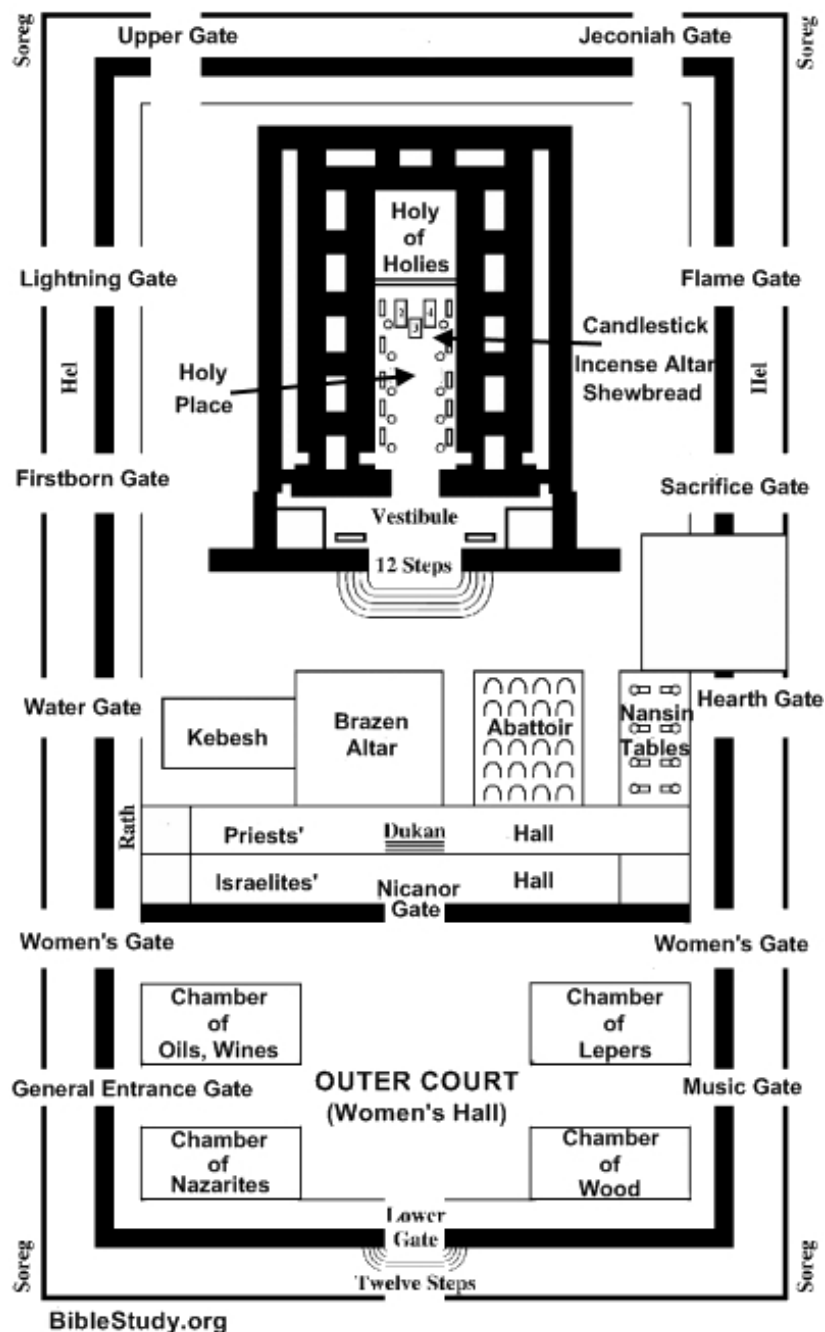
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BibleStudy.org

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1ST & 2ND GRADE

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer

NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

For our younger students, we are going to learn about Noah's Ark this week as Matthew 24:36-44 references the story.

Read the story of Noah's Ark from the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader on pages 24 - 27.

Using the icon of Noah's Ark, ask the children to take turns summarizing the story back to you. This helps them to not only learn about the icon, but also remember the story as well.

ORTHODOX LIFE SKILLS:

LEARNING RESPONSES TO “CHRIST IS RISEN!”

When we hear our priest proclaim: *Christ is Risen!* How do we respond? *Truly He is Risen!*

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NOAH'S ARK



Noah is depicted on the left side of the icon dressed in white with long white hair and beard. In the center of the icon, we see the ark filled with the animals and a ladder for the animals to enter and exit the ark. A dove is shown on the right side of the ark with an olive leaf in its mouth.

A rainbow is depicted as God's promise that He will never flood the earth again. We also see Christ in the top, right corner of the icon.

At the bottom right of the icon we see the altar that Noah built in thanksgiving to God after the flood waters had receded.

Ask the children to tell you about the icon after you have read the story of Noah on pages 24-27 of the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader.

WEEK 23: NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

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