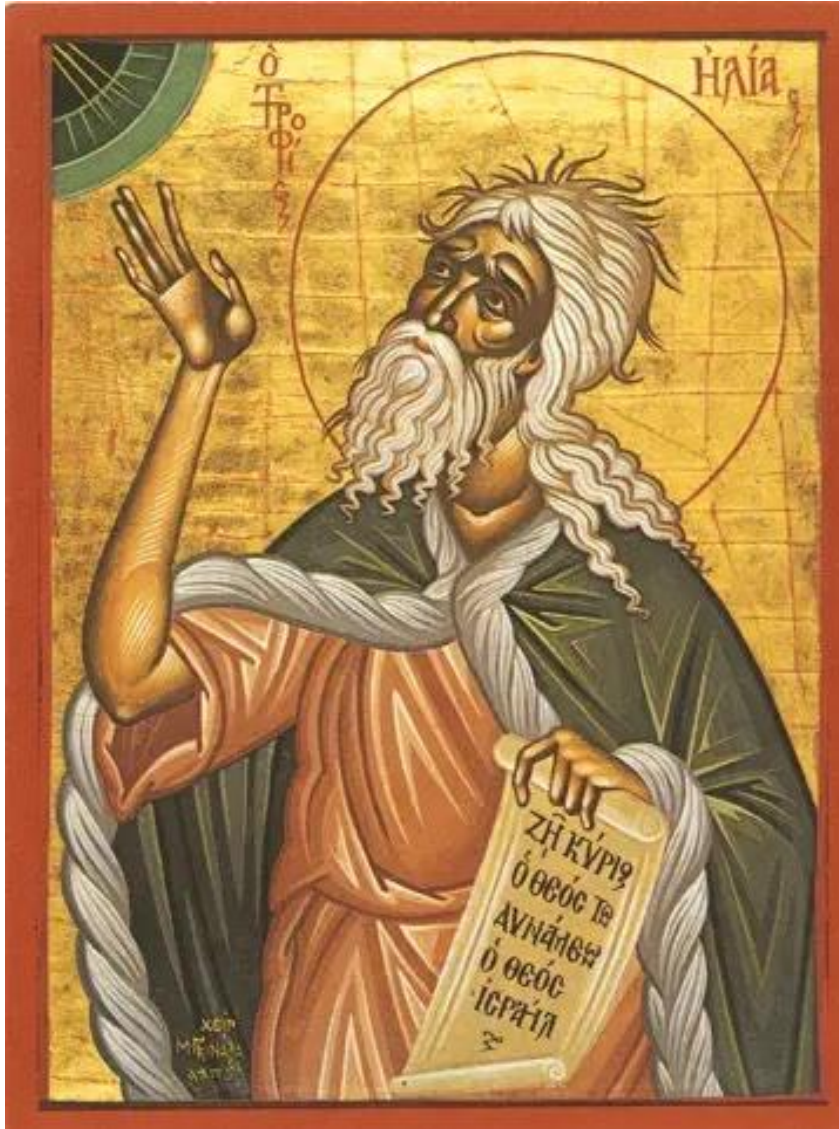


HOPE CHURCH



Icon of Elias (Elijah) the Prophet from Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Monastery

August 30, 2026

Reflections

“By associating reading so thoroughly with schooling, we are habituated to looking for information when we read rather than being in relationship with a person who once spoke and then wrote so that we could listen to what was said. Language, of course, does provide information, and books are conveniently accessible containers for it. But the primary practice of language is not in giving out information but being in relationship. That primacy does not change when it is written. The primary reason for a book is to put a writer into relation with readers so that we can listen to his or her stories and find ourselves in them, listen to his or her songs and sing along with them, listen to his or her arguments and argue with them, listen to his or her answers and question them. The Scriptures are almost entirely this kind of book. If we read them impersonally with an information-gathering mind, we misread them.”

Eugene Peterson

“God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what he wants, but to enable us to know him so that we may love him. Therefore God sends his word to us in the character of both information and invitation. It comes to woo us as well as to instruct us; it not merely puts us in the picture of what God has done and is doing but also calls us into personal communion with the loving Lord himself.”

J.I. Packer

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Hebrews 1:1-3

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

By Thy Mercy

Jesus, Lord of life and glory
Bend from heaven thy gracious ear
While our waiting souls adore thee
Friend of helpless sinners, hear

From the depth of nature's blindness
From the hardening power of sin
From all malice and unkindness
From the pride that lurks within

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord

When temptation sorely presses
In the day of Satan's power
In our times of deep distresses
In each dark and trying hour

When the world around is smiling
In the time of wealth and ease
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling
In the day of health and peace

In the weary hours of sickness
In the times of grief and pain
When we feel our mortal weakness
When all human help is vain

In the solemn hour of dying
In the awful judgment day
May our souls, on thee relying
Find thee still our Rock and Stay

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;

and I will keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!**

**Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.**

Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your rules are good.

**Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!**

from Psalm 119, 2 Corinthians 4

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone;
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong!
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death!

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good; God is good!

Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him!
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore!

PRAISE SONG

Our Great God

Eternal God unchanging mysterious and unknown
Your boundless love
Unfailing grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone

Hallelujah glory be to our great God
Hallelujah glory be to our great God

Lord we are weak and frail
Helpless in the storm
Surround us with Your angels
Hold us in Your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy
His pleasure is our harm
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird
Let ev'ry mountain
Ev'ry field and valley of the earth

Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship you. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah 31:31-34

RENEWAL SONG

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Faithfulness in an Age of Apostasy”

David Speakman

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. ³⁴ In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of

his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

1 Kings 16:29-17:1

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Your Word (Isaiah 55)

Your Word will do
What you sent it to do
Your Word has overcome
Your Word is true,
And it's taking root
Making all things new in us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Until These Tears Are Gone

Flood this heart with assurance of Your mercy
Fill this mind with knowledge of Your love
Hold me fast through the deep and steady current
How long how long till these tears are gone

Every hour awake me to Your presence
Shine Your light brighter than the dawn
Send Your joy illuminate the darkness
How long how long till these tears are gone
How long how long till these tears are gone

I'll fix my eyes on eternity above
Where every lie is uncovered by Your love

Every lie every shadow
Is uncovered by Your love

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Nothing To Fear

When you pass through the waters I will be with you
And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm
When you walk through the fire you will not be burned
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow I wept beside you
When you walked through the shadow I drew you near
And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always

What can separate you from My perfect Love?

What can separate you from My perfect Love?
What can separate you from My perfect Love?
Do not fear
Do not fear
Do not fear

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

LIFE TOGETHER

HOPE FOR THE CITY

Kids Outreach Project for Speas Teachers: Shopping list in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

Hope Springs: Volunteer with our disability ministry; contact Debbie Braden.

Gathering Hour - Aug 31 8-9pm: All women welcome at Lot63!

Women's Bible Study & Men's Cohorts begin this week: Register now.

Life Group registration for the fall is now open in Church Center.

First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner - Sept 2 5:30-7pm: All welcome!

Kingdom-Ministry Prayer Service - Sept 2 7pm: Please join us in Rm 107.

Thursday Morning Prayer - 7-7:30am starting Sept 3 in Rm 107 with David.

Pickleball League - Starting Sept 5 9-11am: Details in Church Center.

Missions Prayer Lunch - Sept 13 12:30-2pm: All welcome upstairs!

Discovering Hope - Oct 2-3: Register now for our new member class!

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Mystery Dinner - Oct 16 6:15-8pm: HS serving MS. Register now!

Youth Group - Sundays 4:30-6pm: All welcome for games, teaching, + small groups!

Kids Praise - 2nd & 4th Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: Resumes for 3rd-5th Grade Sept 13.

Kids Connection - *August Verse* - Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF AUG 25, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$868,133	\$894,866	-\$26,733	-2.99%
Expense	\$1,021,855	\$1,012,982	\$8,872	0.88%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$153,721	-\$118,116		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$763,108	\$4,875,687