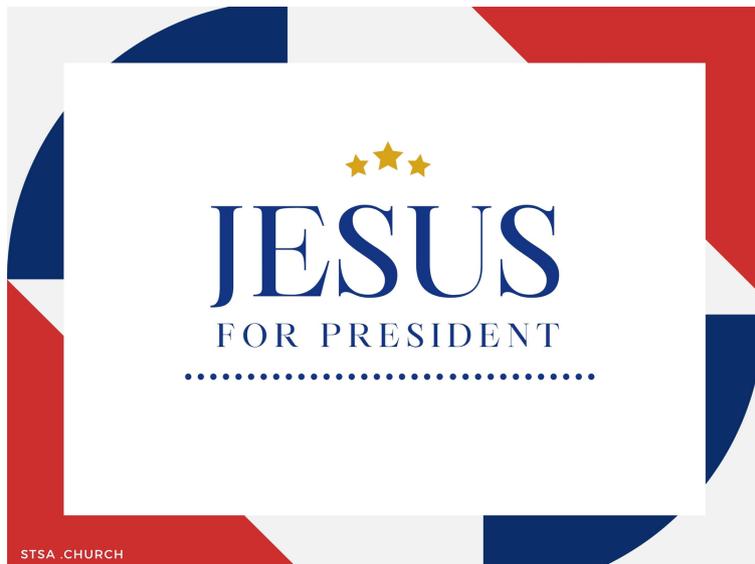




The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL



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JESUS FOR PRESIDENT

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PART 1: WHO'S GOT YOUR VOTE?

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:24

KEY THOUGHT:

**LIVING IN GOD'S KINGDOM REQUIRES
SUBMISSION TO GOD'S KINGSHIP.**

“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

2 Corinthians 6:16

**WHEN YOU WALK AWAY FROM GOD'S KINGSHIP,
YOU WALK AWAY FROM GOD'S KINGDOM.**

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26

“Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” Genesis 3:23-24

“Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.” 1 Samuel 6:5-7

**WE WERE NOT MADE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.
WE WERE MADE TO LIVE IN A KINGDOM, WITH A RULER.**

“The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not consider.” Isaiah 1:3

“They shall be My people, and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.”

Jeremiah 32:38-41

**“YOU HAD NO NEED OF MY SERVITUDE, BUT
RATHER I HAD NEED OF YOUR LORDSHIP.”
LITURGY OF ST. GREGORY**

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PART 2: A NEW ECONOMIC PLAN

**Living in God's KINGDOM requires submission
to God's KINGSHIP.**

“Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, He also has forsaken you.’” 2 Chronicles 24:20

**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
Matthew 5:5**

★ The Result: YOU SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH ★

“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long **on the earth.**”
Ephesians 6:2-3

“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold **now in this time**...and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

“Tell me, what kind of earth? Some say a figurative earth, but it is not this, for nowhere in Scripture do we find any mention of an earth that is merely figurative. But what can the saying mean? He holds out a sensible (tangible/material) prize; even as Paul also does, in that when he had said, Honor your father and your mother, he added, For so shall you live long upon the earth... Thus He does not incite us by means of the future blessings only, but of the present also.” John Chrysostom

Inherit the earth = winning at the game of life

“If you carefully consider what you wanted to be said of you in the funeral experience, you will find your definition of success.” The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Winning isn't about what I've done, but who I am and how I've done it.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

★ The Requirement: BLESSED ARE THE MEEK ★

Meek = surrendered to God's control

“...who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”
1 Peter 2:23

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass... For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth... The meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psalm 37:5-11

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PART 3: FULLY SATISFIED

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:” Matthew 5:1-2

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6

Promise: Be Filled = Fully _____

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy’s (God’s) ground...He [God] made the pleasure: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy [God] has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He [God] has forbidden.” C.S. Lewis

★ **The Requirement:** ★

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO

AND _____

FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” St. Augustine

**1. Ask yourself: Do I really _____ and
_____ for _____ ?**

**2. _____ eliminating _____
“food” from your life.**

**3. _____ forget that righteousness is
a _____ .**

**“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the
greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.”**

St. Augustine

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PART 4: JESUS ON CITIZENSHIP

Living in God's kingdom requires submission to God's kingship.

When you forsake God's kingship, you forfeit God's Kingdom.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
Matthew 5:9**

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
Luke 2:14**

Peacemaking is NOT avoiding or appeasing.

Peacemaking is taking INITIATIVE to reconcile the relationship.

"If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

"If you have anything against your enemy, get rid of your wrath, heal the wound, let go of your hostility, that you may receive healing from the table. For you are approaching the awesome and holy sacrifice. Show reverence for the goal of the sacrificial offering. The slain offering is Christ. And for whom was He slain, for what purpose? That He might make peace between heaven and earth, to make you a friend of angels, to reconcile you to the God of all, to make you - an enemy and adversary - a friend. He gave His life to those who hated Him. Will you continue in enmity with your fellow servant? ... For this reason, at the very time of sacrifice He recalls to us no other commandment than that of reconciliation with one's brother." John Chrysostom

"Pursue peace with all people... looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled." Hebrews 12:14-15

1. Look for the WHY behind the WHAT

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4

2. Attack the PROBLEM, not the PERSON

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification.” Ephesians 4:29

3. Focus on MY part, not THEIRS

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” Romans 12:18

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

**Remember, the ultimate goal is RECONCILIATION,
not RESOLUTION**

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

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PART 5: JESUS ON FOREIGN POLICY

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” -Matthew 5:10-12

Are we actually persecuted today?

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.” -John 15:18-20

“The lover of virtue then must incur hatred for the very things which excite our admiration – his rebuking vice and unveiling the vileness of the wicked by the contrast that his own manner of life presents. For when goodness is seen by its side, what is evil must appear unseemly... The man therefore who wishes only to be the servant of God, and who regards nothing as superior to piety towards Him, must necessarily be in conflict with those who love the world, whenever he persuades them to a state of mind out of harmony with the vain folly of the world.” -St. John Chrysostom

“...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” -Philippians 2:15

How bright does my faith shine?

How clearly can others see Jesus in me?

“But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake,— what else is that but to say, they will hate me in you, they will persecute me in you; and your word, just because it is mine, they will not keep? For all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake: not for yours, but mine.”

-St. Augustine

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus WILL suffer persecution.”

-2 Timothy 3:12

**When I am hated for Christ's sake,
I will rejoice and be exceedingly glad because
great is my reward in heaven.**

“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” -1 Peter 4:14

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” -2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“I'd rather temporarily lose with a cause that will ultimately succeed, than temporarily succeed with a cause that will ultimately lose.” Woodrow Wilson

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PART 6: CLAIMING VICTORY

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

Reward is to See God.

See God = Enjoy His Presence & Companionship

"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matt 13:16-17

Condition = PURE IN HEART

1 – It is an INNER thing, not outer;

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Sam 16:7

"Some have celibate pure bodies, but spirits commit adultery daily" St. Jerome

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment." Matt 5:21-22

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28

"Those who glory in their looks not in their hearts, dress to please others"
St. Clement of Alexandria

These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me. Matt 15:8

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."
Proverbs 4:23

**Pure in heart is not just doing right things,
but doing right things with RIGHT MOTIVES**

2 – I must DENOUNCE foreign allegiances

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” Mark 7:21-23

How to discover my foreign allegiances? _____

3 – I must PLEDGE allegiance to the King

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” Luke 11:24-26

"Do not fight to expel the darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear." Elder Porphyrios

4 – Purity of heart requires REGULAR washing

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" Hebrews 12:14

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:25-27

He says "My son, give Me your heart." Proverbs 23:26

Cast your Vote: Jesus Christ or Foreign Allegiances: _____

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TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

STSA Church was established in April 2012 with a mission to "bring an ancient faith to a modern world." We attempt to do that by presenting the depth and richness of our Orthodox Christian faith, in a way that's relevant and applicable to life in the 21st century.

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