

**TOTAL COST: \$5,999 per person, double occupancy until 12/31/2025**  
**\$6,149 per person, double occupancy from 1/1/2026**  
**Single supplement of \$1,500 (limited availability)**



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Round trip airfare from Seattle\*
- Airfare from Athens to Izmir
- Accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Ground transportation in Greece and Turkey
- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- Entry fees to sites and licensed local guides
- Gratuities
- Pre-trip educational materials

*This price is based on estimated airfare. We will offer a price adjustment, if necessary, once airfare is published in late Nov.*

## PREPARING FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Progressive Pilgrimage is proud to offer educational resources to help travelers get the most out of their pilgrimage. A few months before your trip, we will send short articles on the history, religion, politics, and culture of the region. We will also send a reading list for travelers desiring more in-depth study.

### PREPARE YOUR SPIRIT

Traveling as a pilgrim is a little different than being a tourist. While we will see many of the major tourist sites, we will also pause to pray, worship, and reflect along the way. You do not need to be a "holy roller" to enjoy a pilgrimage. We simply invite you to come with a heart open to encountering the divine along the way. To prepare, you may wish to set an intention for your pilgrimage, whether that's to learn, connect with the divine, plumb your own soul, or simply to rest. You may also want to reflect on your favorite Biblical stories or moments in church history that connect with your destination. Reflect on who is making this trip possible for you and who you carry with you in your heart as you travel.

### LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS

What to pack? What about prescriptions? How much money should I bring? Is it safe? Progressive Pilgrimage will provide more detailed information about these and other questions as your trip approaches. In the meantime, visit our website, [www.progressivepilgrimage.com](http://www.progressivepilgrimage.com) for answers to many common questions related to your destination and more general FAQs. The safety and security of our travelers is always a top priority so we monitor the political situation carefully and travel with experienced guides.

GROUP TRAVEL TO DEEPEN FAITH, ENRICH KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPLORE CULTURES

[www.progressivepilgrimage.com](http://www.progressivepilgrimage.com) | 410.300.1170

DEEPEN FAITH | ENRICH KNOWLEDGE | EXPLORE CULTURES

## PROGRESSIVE PILGRIMAGE



## FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL: A PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND TURKEY

**OCTOBER 8-19, 2026**

**WITH THE VERY REVEREND  
STEVEN L. THOMASON**



**Early registration discount ends: December 31, 2025**

**Registration closes: April 1, 2026 | Full payment due: July 1, 2026**

**\$500 deposit to reserve your space**

**Register online at**

**[progressivepilgrimage.com/saintmarkscathedral](http://progressivepilgrimage.com/saintmarkscathedral)**



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN THOMASON

Our Christian tradition holds dear the practice of making pilgrimages as holy experiences of learning, conversion, and transformation, and none is more significant than walking in the paths laid down by our spiritual forebears. Pilgrimage experiences have profoundly shaped my ministry and my understanding of what it means to follow Christ. I am excited by this opportunity to lead a pilgrimage, with approximately 30 pilgrims.

This is designed to be different than a tour or vacation; a pilgrimage offers a very particular opportunity to engage our sacred Scriptures contextually, and to learn more about the foundational stories of our faith. The shape of this 12-day trip is contemplative and communal, drawing on the ancient wisdom of generations of Christians who have held the rhythms of worship, prayer, and life in community in this part of the world. Those who make the trip will have a keen sense of taking their place in the long lineage of pilgrims who have traveled to the same holy sites for nearly two thousand years. The spirits of these faithful forebears will buoy our spirits as we make our way.

We will worship in sacred places that have held centuries of prayer, and we will celebrate the Eucharist at holy sites along the way, finding nourishment and inspiration for our lifelong spiritual journeys. To the first Christians who were curious, or even longing for something more in their lives, Paul offered words of encouragement and challenge, speaking the truth in love. Their words and witness pass down to us, in these challenging times, inviting us to join them in the journey that is this life in Christ. It is our spiritual forebears who say, Come...come and see.

 The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason  
Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL  
OCTOBER 8-19, 2026

Greece has often been called the birthplace of democracy and the cradle of Western Civilization. It, together with Turkey, is also the earliest home of Christianity outside of the Palestine/Israel. Led by The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason and local archaeological guides on the ground, this 12-day pilgrimage traces the footsteps of Paul in Greece and Turkey as he engaged the early Christian communities there. Our journey will take us to the well-preserved ruins of Athens, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessaloniki in Greece. Along the way, you'll marvel at the byzantine monasteries perched on the cliffs of Meteora. In Turkey, we'll visit Smyrna and Pergamum, two of the churches to whom Revelation was written to encourage them during troubled times. On our last full day we'll explore Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Letter to the Ephesians is a remarkable witness to Paul's courage and encouragement to the beleaguered Church. Note: Our schedule may be adjusted based on guide availability.

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|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCTOBER 8  | Pilgrims depart Seattle today for Thessaloniki. Exact flights and times TBD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| OCTOBER 9  | Pilgrims arrive in Istanbul in the afternoon, have a layover before flying to Thessaloniki. Have dinner at the airport, or wait until we arrive at our hotel where dinner is included. Overnight in Thessaloniki.                                                                                                                                                         |
| OCTOBER 10 | In Philippi, we will view the baptismal site and visit a crypt dating from the Roman period that is thought to have served as a prison for Paul. We will also see the famous Acropolis, the Marketplace, Basilica, and the Theatre. Lunch (included) in Kavala, near Philippi. In the evening, return to Thessaloniki for dinner (included) and overnight accommodations. |

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|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCTOBER 11 | We'll begin our day along the port, learning the details of Thessaloniki's importance to trade and the spread of ideas during St. Paul's time. We'll visit sites related to Emperor Galerius, including the ancient agora, the Arch of Galerius, and the Rotunda of Galerius. After lunch (included), enjoy free time to explore Thessaloniki on your own. Dinner (on your own) and overnight in Thessaloniki. |
| OCTOBER 12 | We depart Thessaloniki and head south. We'll visit the splendid Museum of the Royal Tombs in Vergina. Our next stop is a brief visit at Veria (Berea), where Paul fled after being attacked in Thessaloniki. We continue on to Kalambaka and arrive in time for dinner (included) and overnight accommodations.                                                                                                |
| OCTOBER 13 | Today, we will visit two monasteries in Meteora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The afternoon is free for lunch (on your own) and an optional hike to a third monastery. Dinner tonight is on your own in any of Kalambaka's lovely restaurants. Overnight in Kalambaka.                                                                                                                                        |
| OCTOBER 14 | Departing Kalambaka, we will visit the icon workshop of Father Pefkis before continuing to Athens with a stop for lunch along the way (included). Arrive in Athens in time to visit the New Acropolis Museum. Dinner (included) and overnight in Athens.                                                                                                                                                       |
| OCTOBER 15 | Today we will walk in the Acropolis, visit the Areopagus (Mars Hill), and visit the ancient Agora. You'll have free time for lunch in the Plaka or Monasthraki. After lunch, you have the balance of the afternoon and evening to explore. Dinner tonight is on your own. Overnight in Athens.                                                                                                                 |
| OCTOBER 16 | Today we visit ancient Corinth, an archaeological site, we will come across the Temple of Apollo, the agora and the Peirene fountain; After a break for lunch in Corinth (on your own), we travel to the Athens Airport for your brief flight to Izmir; Dinner (included) and overnight in Izmir.                                                                                                              |
| OCTOBER 17 | In the morning, we explore the few remains of the ancient city of Smyrna (modern Izmir), one of the churches mentioned in Revelation. Visit the ancient Agora and the Tomb of St. Polycarp before departing for Pergamum, another of the churches of Revelation. Return to Izmir for dinner (on your own) and overnight.                                                                                       |
| OCTOBER 18 | Today, we travel south to Ephesus, one of the most vibrant cities of first-century Asia minor and a place where Paul spent considerable time. We walk through the ancient city to see the public buildings, residences, library of Celsus, the temple of Artemis and the amphitheater where Paul spoke with courage and conviction. Return to Izmir for worship, closing dinner (included) and overnight.      |
| OCTOBER 19 | We'll depart Izmir in the morning to Istanbul, then connect to our flight back to Seattle. Flight times and numbers TBD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

HEALTH & FITNESS:

This pilgrimage involves a considerable amount of walking, although it is not a hiking expedition. Pilgrims will need to be able to get on and off a bus frequently, and, in the course of a day, walk one or two miles at a gentle pace, sometimes on uneven or hilly ground. Much of the terrain is not suited to walkers or strollers, or to people who depend on wheelchairs for mobility. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with Dean Thomason before registering.

