

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation May 2, 2021



PASCHA

Troparion of PASCHA

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life!

Kontakion for PASCHA, Tone 2

Thou didst descend into the
tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst
destroy the power of death. In
victory Thou didst arise, O
Christ God, proclaiming
“rejoice” to the myrrhbearing
women. Granting peace to thine
apostles and bestowing resur-
rection on the fallen

Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death;
by His Resurrection, He sen-
tenced Man to immortality. In
return for a beating, He gives
an embrace; for abuse, a bless-
ing; for death, immortality.
Man never showed so much
hate for God as when he cruci-
fied Him; and God never
showed more love for man than
when he arose. Man even want-
ed to reduce God to a mortal,
but God by His Resurrection
made man immortal. The cruci-
fied God is Risen and has killed
death. Death is no more. Im-
mortality has surrounded man
and all the worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



PASCHA
CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore
Cristo está recusitado
حضرت عیسیٰ ظاہر ہیں
Christus ist auferstanden
Jesus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal
Christus prisikhele
Hristos a inivat
Cristo Resorto
Christ is risen
XPICTOC KYXBVTY
EPHUSNU BAPCAY T UTOTLNB

Krisztus Föltámadt
Christ est resuscitit
Chrishti Ungia
Kristur er upatiginn
المسيح قام
CHRYSYTI RAIGAS
キリストが更生した

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ Ἀνέστη

Announcements and Activities

Bright Week Liturgy— Wednesday, at 9AM, and Friday, at 8AM.

Great Vespers—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy for St. Thomas Sunday— Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour was replaced by our PASCHAL potluck. Next week we'll have some Coffee and Cookies, but no Coffee Hour because it is Mothers Day

Holy Week and PASCHA— was truly a pilgrimage that most all of us made together. The Divine Services of Holy Week were, in general, well attended. I thank all those who labored to help with many details during these days. The life of our parish, I have no doubt was deepened in our Lenten and Paschal journey together.

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling Samir's friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight.** **Anna J.**, who is battling health issues related to her bone marrow transplant and battle with Lyme Disease. are battling health issues. **Zoya**, who lives in Russia and is suffering from the covid virus. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. . **Reposed Darrel**, Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery.** **Erika and Family.** **And, finally, all those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic (which has been growing in numbers across the country and in the world), wildfires, hurricanes, and civil unrest.** **Jerry— Reposed.** **Don, Judy, Paul, Thomas, Marcella, Paul Reposed, friends of Karen and Scott T.; Donald, reposed,** a relative of Stephen and Luci F. **Archpriest Paul**— battling kidney problems. **Nicholas**—Reposed, a person known by Heather. **Macrina**— a friend of Mike L. **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor. **Kerrie Photine**— recent surgery, **Karen**— battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime Friend of Father's, newly reposed.

Concerning PASCHA:

"The word Pascha", says St. Ambrose of Milan, "means passage. This feast of feasts is so named because it celebrates, in the Old Testament Church the memory of the exodus of the sons of Israel from Egypt and at the same time their deliverance from slavery; and in the New Testament Church that sign that the Son of God Himself, through the resurrection from the dead, passed over from this world to the Father, from earth to Heaven, freeing even us from eternal death and the work of the enemy, and granting us the "power to become children of God" (John 1:12)". "By the Resurrection of Christ the infernal regions is opened, the earth is renewed by the baptism of catechumens, Heaven reveals the Holy Spirit. The open infernal regions returns the dead, the renewed earth grows those who are arising, the open Heaven receives those who are ascending. The infernal regions return those below to the high place, the earth sends the buried to Heaven, Heaven represents those received to the Lord".

According to the teaching of St. John Chrysostom, "by the resurrection of Christ the fire of Gehenna is quenched, the vigilant worm dies, Hades is overthrown, the devil groans, sin is destroyed, the evil spirits convert in flight, those passing from earth to Heaven rise, those who were in Hades were freed from the bonds of the devil". "Such is the light of our Pascha for those who worthily worship! Such is the mystery for the Christians! That is, we celebrate the feast of the resurrection of the dead and life eternal.

In the church hymns, Jesus Christ, "all who were subjected to death, through the power of His resurrection as the mighty God, raised us together and deified us", "from death to life and from earth to heaven He led us", and we, celebrating Pascha, "celebrate the annihilation of death, the destruction of Hades, the beginning of eternal life". In the ranking of the feasts of the Lord the feast of Pascha occupies the central place, and in the ranking of all Christian feasts it is the feast for the most part, that "surpasses all celebrations, even those of Christ and those fulfilled in honor of Christ, as much as the sun surpasses the stars".

What is the basis of all sacred celebrations? "In the one", as His Eminence Innocent, Archbishop of Cherson teaches, "it is expressed mainly by the firmness and purity of faith; in the other it especially opens the grace of love and virtue; in still others by a perceptible image it radiates the height and holiness of Christian hope. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ combines in itself that quality in the highest degree. It is the highest celebration of faith, for it establishes us, it raises up, it deifies our faith; it is the highest celebration of virtue, for in it the purest virtue has triumphed over the greatest temptation; it is the highest celebration of hope, for it serves for the faithful as a pledge of the most majestic promise". That is why the day of the Resurrection of Christ really is "the feast of feasts and holy day of holy days" 3), and consequently it was celebrated and is celebrated with an especially bright and solemn paradigm. On "this chosen and holy day", sings the Holy Church, "is enlightened by divine rays and the life-bearing resurrection of the Son of God and joy is fulfilled in this pious assembly".

*Translated from **Bulgakov's Handbook**, by Archpriest Eugene Tarris)*

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)