

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation May 16, 2021



St. Thomas Sunday

Troparion of PASCHA

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

Troparion of Myrrhbearers Sunday, Tone 2

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim: 'The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.'"

Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death; by His Resurrection, He sentenced Man to immortality. In return for a beating, He gives an embrace; for abuse, a blessing; for death, immortality. Man never showed so much hate for God as when he crucified Him; and God never showed more love for man than when he arose. Man even wanted to reduce God to a mortal, but God by His Resurrection made man immortal. The crucified God is Risen and has killed death. Death is no more. Immortality 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
Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal
Christus prisikele
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
Христос 'Авѣстѣ
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
Cristo Resorto
Christus Resurrexit
ХРИСТОСЪ ВЪСТЪА
Cristo Resorto
Christus Resurrexit
ХРИСТОСЪ ВЪСТЪА

Krisztus Föltámadt
Christ est ressuscit
Christi Ungia
Kristur er upatiginn
CHRYSYTI RAIGAS
キリストが更生した

Christ is risen

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Tricia, Kirk and Katherine. Next week our archbishop will be with us: Nina T. has graciously agreed to provide the main course. We have a sign-up sheet for other items to be brought.

Parish Council— today, after Coffee Hour.

Episcopal Visit— After two years of not seeing our archpastor, Vladyka Benjamin will be with us next Saturday and Sunday. What a joy to be with our archpastor. Let's be sure to gather with Vladyka, at Vespers at 5:30 on Saturday, and, especially, at Divine Liturgy for Sunday.

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. **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 **Macrina**— a friend of Mike L. **Archimandrite Alexander**—Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor. **Kerrie Photine**— receadsfafnt surgery, **Karen**— battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime Friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emila and reposed Vadim.**

Concerning Myrrhbearers Sunday:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

Today is the feast day devoted to the women who brought spices to Christ's tomb, and also the day when we honor the memory of Joseph and Nicodemus - two Pharisees, members of the ruling council, who were responsible for burying the Lord. It is the day on which we honor loyalty, for these people alone remained true to the Lord in those first days. Nicodemus and Joseph believed Jesus' message but because formerly they had been afraid openly to express their faith in the coming Kingdom of God, they used to come to Him in secret. You remember how Nicodemus came to Him by night, so that his colleagues would not see that he was visiting the hunted teacher.

Is this not how many of us often come to the Lord, ashamed of the fact and hiding it? I still remember a scene I witnessed many years ago. It was far away, in Siberia, at Easter. That night the church was full to overflowing with people all around it. A professor from a college had come and was standing, like the tax collector, at the back of the crowd. With his collar turned up and his hat pulled down, he crossed himself timidly, glancing about him. His soul was reaching out to the Church but he was afraid. Can we judge him? After all, if someone had caught sight of him there, he would certainly have run into difficulties and complications and might even have lost his job.

Nicodemus must have come by night in the same way. Joseph of Arimathea, who occasionally spoke out in the Savior's defense against His enemies, was also His secret disciple. They maintained their loyalty to Him through the worst moments of mourning and despair, when all the disciples had abandoned the Lord and fled. Joseph and Nicodemus, risking their reputations, went to Pilate and asked his permission to bury the body of their executed teacher. The bodies of executed criminals were usually thrown into a common grave, but Pilate granted them permission and, as we know, it was Joseph and Nicodemus who carried the Lord's body to the tomb, which was in a garden.

Meanwhile the women were looking on from afar. They did not dare to come too near. They on the other hand, had been at Golgotha, where few of the Lord's closest friends had been. The women who stood there supporting the Virgin Mary are almost unknown to us. We know their names: there was Mary from Magdala (Mary Magdalene), there was Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, as well as Salome, mother of the apostles James and John, and some other women from Galilee. They stood on the hill of Golgotha and watched their Lord and teacher dying. They saw where His body was placed and agreed among themselves that after the Sabbath, on which buying and selling were forbidden, they would buy spices, anoint the Lord's body and say their own prayers of mourning (for Joseph and Nicodemus had been able only to say hurried prayers before sunset).

It is amazing that it was to these women that the Lord appeared first, appearing only later to Peter and the others. That is what the Evangelists tell us. It is true that the Apostle Paul says He first appeared to Peter, but by this he meant that Peter was the first among the apostles to see Him; Paul simply does not mention Mary Magdalene. However, as you know, the women were carrying what was necessary for burial - "myrrh" - which is why we call them the spice bearers, and they were the ones who saw Him first. ...

Amen.

(taken from *Awake to Life*, by Fr. Alexander Men)

*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)