



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Troparion of PASCHA

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

Kontakion of PASCHA Tone 8

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 resurrection on the fallen

Sentenced to Immortality by St. Justin Popovich

Man sentenced God to death; by His Resurrection, God 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.



PASCHA CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore
Et Cristo está recusitado
Krisztus Föltámadt
Christ est resuscitatus
Christi Ungia
Krisztur er upatiginn
المسيح قام
Χριστός 'Ανέστη
CHRYSYTI RAIGAS
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
Christus priskiele
Христос възвста
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
حضرت عیسیٰ انظار ہوئے
عصره عیسیٰ تکرار تولد شد
ईसू शुभकार जन्मदि
Christ is risen
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Announcements and Activities

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Day of Rejoicing— we will go to the cemetery at 8AM and bless the graves of our loved ones buried there. Come and join us in prayer if you are able to do so. We'll be there till 8:45, or so.

Great Vespers Saturday— 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is replaced with Coffee and Cookies, as it is Mothers Day. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Luci F. and Michael Mil.

Church School/Adult Ed— Today, Sunday, May 12th, at 9AM. We are approaching our summer hiatus for Church School. Thank you to the teachers who dedicated their time to instructing our students in the Law of God. Good job! To all the students who came and learned and the parents who brought them faithfully.

Parish Council— Next Sunday, after Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**— who are ill. **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Priscilla and Departed, George**. **Luci F. bad knee**. **Newly- Departed Marylyn; ill, Diane, ill, Colin. John Truman**— lightheadedness and a recent fall. , Tom and Amy, who lost their son. **Nicholas, the father of a friend. Rose Marie**— Rachel's mother, cancer. **Barbara H.**—recovering from a fall. **Claude (Moses)**- in need of housing. **Eleni**— aftermath of a stroke. **Sharon. Baby Archie. Phil**— covid. **Reposed Makhoul. Marius and Lucia. (aka Darrell and Laura Beth) health issues. Todd**, cancer, Anna, his wife. **Micha. Lilly**, mother of Jason, **Ron, reposed**—request from Nina and Don;

A Reflection on Anti-PASCHA, St. Thomas Sunday

Today is the Apostle Thomas's day. You remember that the Lord appeared to him in a special way. Ten of the disciples were together when the Lord, having conquered death, came to them and said "Peace be with you". These were precious words. He brought peace into human souls, that peace which also comes to us now. He stood talking to them and sent them out to preach the word of God. However, one of them, Thomas, was not present. When he arrived, the others all rushed to him, saying, "Brother Thomas, we have seen the Lord, we have seen Him alive, we touched Him!" Then Thomas felt such pain in his heart, felt so hurt that he said, "I don't believe it, I don't!" (even though ten people - his brethren - were telling him so). He declared "Unless I touch His wounds with my own hands, unless I feel His newly resurrected body, I will not believe it."

Some time later the disciples had met again, locking the doors from fear of persecution, when suddenly a familiar voice rang out again, the voice of Jesus: "Peace be with you!" And there He was, standing among them. The first to whom He turned was Thomas. Jesus said "Thomas, give me your hand, touch my wounds, verify them and make sure." But of course Thomas did not try to: as soon as he saw the Lord, he was overwhelmed and fell before Him in tears, crying "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him "Because you have seen, you believed. But blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Whom is He talking about? Why, you and me. We did not see the Lord during His earthly life, but we see Him with our spiritual eyes. He is alive amongst us and we have no need to touch Him. How many saw Him with their own eyes, heard Him speak, followed Him along the streets - and did not believe, because their hearts did not respond to Christ's call. We, however, have responded. Though we are weak and powerless, though we are very different, we have come to the Lord saying "My Lord and my God."

It is true that we seem to sense the Lord's presence, as everything around us is from Him and all of it is His. I remember a scholar who spent many years studying flowers, trees and herbs - all kinds of plants and animals. He made notes on everything and drew up long lists, which even now, thirty years later, are used throughout the world. Finally, when he had finished his work with the list of living things, he said "God has been near me. I have sensed Him in His creations." Indeed, the sun above us is the eye of God, the wind's breath is God's voice, all the laws of this world are God's laws, all the reverses and changes of our fate are also from the Lord. We see and sense Him in prayer, in the Holy Scriptures and in the sacraments. When the sacred Cup is brought to us - it is the real and living Lord who is present here, in this church, as He is in all the churches of the earth. He is present not only in churches, but in all the places where people pray to Him - in the far North, in deserts and in the mountains, as well as in populous towns where millions are crowded together: everywhere there are souls turning to the Lord. They see Him and feel His presence, for they are a hundred times happier and more blessed than those who lived two thousand years ago. The Lord is with us here, living, resurrected and giving us His blessing - and we, together with His apostle Thomas, bow before Him, saying "Lord, you stand alive before me, my Lord and my God."

Amen.

"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)