



# 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*  
 حضرت عیسیٰ انظار ہوئے  
*Christus ist auferstanden*  
*Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal*  
*Christus prisikiele*  
*Hristos a Inviat*  
*XPICTOC NYXBVTY*  
*ΕΡΙΘΥΣΝΟ ΒΑΡΕΥΗ Τ ΟΥΤΕΓΛΟΒ*

*Krisztus Föltámadt*  
*Christ est ressuscité*  
*Christi Ungia*  
*Kristur er upstigin*  
*Χριστός 'Ανέστη*  
*Cristo Resorto*  
*CHRYSTI RAIGAS*  
*Christ is risen*  
*CHRISTUS RESURREXIT*

المسیح قام  
 عیسیٰ تکرار تولد شد  
 ईसू शुभकारणदि  
 \*リ\*  
 \*ス\*  
 \*ト\*  
 \*ガ\*  
 \*更\*  
 \*生\*  
 \*し\*  
 \*た\*

## **Announcements and Activities**

***Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!***

***Great Vespers Saturday***— 5:30 PM.

***Divine Liturgy***— Sunday, at 10AM.

***Coffee Hour***— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Cristina Diederich.

***Parish Council***— met last Sunday. We adopted a deficit Treasurer's Report. Perhaps high prices and inflation are affecting our giving. Fr. Lawrence asked our Treasurer to look a little deeper into the fact that while donations are up, pledges are off. We hope this month's successful fundraiser will help offset some of our deficit. For now, brothers and sisters, let's dig as deep as we can to support our deepest need: the Church.

***Ethnic Food Fair***— many thanks and Many Years to all who helped with the parish fundraiser last Saturday. We raised around \$3K for the church

***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 the Sunday of the Paralytic***

The Gospels for the last two Sundays told us about the appearances of the Risen One. They were as if filled with the light of Christ's Resurrection: the wonderful appearances to the disciples, to Thomas, to the myrrh-bearers. But today's Gospel starts with a dismal, horrible picture: there is no brightness, no light. At the Sheep Gate there was a pool which had five porches. "In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered... For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years" (Jn. 5:2-5).

Just picture this: thirty-eight years in such a terrible condition, in pain and suffering, without a doctor, without care, without medicine, and maybe even often without food. And this unfortunate man bore all this because he wanted to be well. He tried to enter the water after it was troubled, but he had no one to help him, was late, and did not receive healing. And so passed thirty-eight years. Why this is a human lifetime!

Suddenly everything changed. Jesus came up to him and said: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk..." and he walked (Jn. 5:8,9).

What happened? What took place? What happened is that the reason for his sickness was removed. Christ revealed this reason when He met this man in the temple and said to him: "Behold, thou art made whole: *sin no more*, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (Jn. 5:14). Here is the reason — sin. Sin is the reason for all evil, for all our sufferings, for all our sicknesses. Yes, sin...sin alone. And Christ is the only one who can destroy it, who can forgive. But this is under one condition: "*Sin no more.*"

We have lived through the Passion days, we have lived through the very death of Christ, the death of the Lamb of God, Who takes upon Himself the sin of the world. This means our sin, too. He, the Only Sinless One, has become the sacrifice for us before our Heavenly Father. And now we are walking in the Easter joy of the Risen Christ. And so week after week. But still we stumble, fall, sin. But let us not despond; let us turn to Him.

The pool at the Sheep Gate was only a shadow of what Christ performed and is performing. He alone is the source of healing and forgiveness. He alone, as God, can forgive sins. Let us turn to Him, and He will say to us the same words He said to the paralytic: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." And we will rise and walk again in the light of His Resurrection. But let us remember His words to the paralytic, "*Sin no more.*" And let us not sin, because *Christ is Risen*

*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)*