



SUNDAY/APRIL 8th
HOLY PASCHA: THE BRIGHT RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of Feasts and Holyday of Holydays

12:01a.m. Matins and Divine Liturgy; followed by the

blessing of paschal foods

12:00p.m. Vespers

BRIGHT MONDAY/APRIL 9th

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and Luncheon

7:00p.m. Vespers

BRIGHT TUESDAY/APRIL 10th

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00p.m. Vespers

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11th

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Risen Lord

7:00p.m. Deanery Vespers with Metropolitan Herman at

Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus

BRIGHT SATURDAY/APRIL 14th

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Life-Giving Tomb of Christ; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

NEW SUNDAY/APRIL 15th

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour

Extending to all the Paschal Greeting:
"Christ is Risen!"

May the Bright Resurrection of Our Lord
Bestow upon everyone divine illumination

Joy, peace and spiritual renewal!

With love in the Lord !

Fr. James





THE PASCHAL GREETING

CHRIST IS RISEN! AND THE RESPONSE INDEED HE IS RISEN! IS EXCHANGED MANY TIMES DURING THE PASCHAL 40 DAY PERIOD. THIS GREETING IS NOT JUST A LITURGICAL FORMULA. IT IS A GREETING TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN ALL BELIEVING CHRISTIANS AS A PROCLAMATION OF OUR FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD. THE GREETING EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES, EXPRESSES THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH AND UNITES US IN ACCORD AND SYMPHONY WITH OUR ORTHODOX FAITHFUL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
-ENGLISH-

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!
-GREEK-

KRISTE AHZDKHAH! CHEZDMARIDET!
-GEORGIAN-

HRISTOS A INVIAT! ADEVERAT A INVIAT!
-ROMANIAN-

KHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINU VOSKRESE!
-RUSSIAN-

CHRISTO A RESUCITADO! EN VERDAD A RESUCITADO!
-SPANISH-

EL MESSIESH KAHM! HAKKEN KAHM!
-ARABIC-

KRISTO AZUKKIDE! AMAZIMA AZUKKIDE!
-UGANDIAN-

GRISDO GGESUH! BOO-HOL HA-SHON-NAE!
-KOREAN-



THE FESTAL PRAYERS OF BRIGHT WEEK

The Hours of Pascha, replace the regular evening and morning prayers for the entire Bright Week

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

(Tone 6) Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ / let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus / the only sinless one / we venerate Thy Cross, O Christ / and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection / For Thou art our God / and we know no other than Thee. / We call on Thy name / Come, all you faithful / let us venerate Christ' holy Resurrection / for behold through the Cross joy has come into all the world. / Let us ever bless the Lord / praising His Resurrection. / For by enduring the Cross for us / He has destroyed death by death. (3 times)

(Hypakoe – Tone 8) Before the dawn Mary and the women came / and found the stone rolled away from the tomb / they heard the angelic voice: / “why do you seek among the dead as a man / the one who is everlasting light? / Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world / the Lord is risen! He has slain death / as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men!”

(Kontakion Tone 8) Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God / proclaiming “Rejoice” to the myrrhbearing women / granting peace to Thy apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

(Tone 8) In the tomb with the body / and in hell with the soul / in paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit / wast Thou, O boundless Christ / filling all things.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Bearing life and more fruitful than paradise / brighter than any royal chamber / Thy tomb, O Christ, is the fountain of our resurrection.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 8) Rejoice, o holy and divine abode of the most high / for through you, O Theotokos, joy is given to those who cry: / Blessed are you among women, O all-undefiled Lady!

Lord have mercy. (40 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3 times)



OCA News

Address:
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY
11791-0675

Office:
516-922-0550

Fax:
516-922-0954

Email:
info@oca.org

Web:
www.oca.org

© 2006 OCA
All rights reserved.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman for the Feast of Our Lord's Resurrection

Article posted: 4/2/2007 11:21 AM

PASCHA 2007

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of The Orthodox Church in America

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.... And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" – 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

Recently, there have been a number of attempts to "disprove" the central tenet of our faith: that Christ is risen from the dead. Television documentaries claim that Our Lord's grave – and that of his family – have been discovered. "Scholars" debate whether Christ really died on the cross, or whether He merely fell victim to a condition that mimics death, only to be "revived" while "resting" in the tomb. That which generated tremendous controversy 2000 years ago – even Our Lord's murderers spread the belief that His disciples had stolen His body! – continues to breed controversy and attempts to prove or disprove the very foundation of our faith as Orthodox Christians.

Scientifically, the Resurrection cannot be proven. Ultimately, it is a Mystery – the greatest Mystery of all time. It is a Mystery that can only be understood through the eyes of faith, through an intense trust in the will of the Creator Who, as we sing in one Vesper hymn, can change the order of nature as He desires. It is a Mystery that simply cannot be understood by those who question or reject the very notion that God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son to renew and restore all creation and its relationship to its Creator. For those who deny God, or who are indifferent to Him, or who refuse to embrace His very existence, the Resurrection is reduced to myth, even as it renders the death of Christ meaningless, just one more senseless death not unlike the countless others perpetrated by the civil authorities of the time.

While indeed we "preach Christ crucified," as Saint Paul writes elsewhere, it is only through the glorious Resurrection that the Crucifixion holds any real meaning. The cross – that dreaded sign of death and corruption – is transformed into a sign of victory, the ultimate symbol of God's presence and loving kindness and forgiveness. Hence, while we preach Christ crucified, we look beyond the cross to the empty tomb, in which we discover the Christ Who emptied Himself precisely to ensure that our preaching and faith are not empty or futile, the Christ Who loves us so much that He literally gives His life lest we remain captives to sin, corruption, and ultimately, death itself.

Someone once wrote that, when the Good News of the Resurrection ceases to be controversial, it loses its very power to transform lives. Today, as in centuries past, Our Lord's Resurrection remains the subject of controversy, doubt, and even blatant denial. But surely we must acknowledge that, despite 2000 years of controversy and scientific enquiry and archeological digs, the light of the risen Christ has not – and cannot – be extinguished.

The Resurrection remains at the heart of our faith and lives as Christians. The eyes of faith can see beyond the Mystery into the deepest reality of all: the very love of God that makes the Resurrection of Our Lord possible and holds for us the promise of our own resurrection and delight in life eternal.

This year, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, let us arm ourselves against every temptation to doubt the central Mystery and reality of our faith. Let us be assured of the forgiveness and new life that shines forth from the empty tomb. And let us renew our commitment – and conviction – that only by and through the incomprehensible Mystery of the Resurrection can we discover our true destiny and calling as the People of God, living "in" this world, yet already delighting in the life of the world to come.

May the risen Savior renew, restore, and refresh us during this most joyous season, and every day of our lives, so that in all things, He and He alone may be glorified!

With love in the Risen Lord,

Herman