



# Orthodox Heights

HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org

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## GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA!!!

### THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

**Christ Is Risen!**

**Indeed, He Is Risen!**

**RECEIVING COMMUNION:** The Orthodox Church believes that in order to partake of the Eucharist, the very body and blood of Christ, one has to share the beliefs of the Church regarding it. In the Church's teaching, this means being a full member of the Orthodox Church. Therefore, one may not receive Communion in an Orthodox Church unless he or she is an Orthodox Christian and has prepared through recent confession, prayer and fasting. All are welcome to join the Orthodox Church, should they so choose. **CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Хри́сто́съ воскрэ́се! AL MASEEH QAM! المسيح قام! حقا قام!**

**MEMORY ETERNAL!** We prayerfully remember all of those who gave of their time, talent and treasure in various ways for Pascha. We especially recognize the following for adorning the Temple for Pascha.

**Pascha Flowers:** Kyra Arnold Moore in Memory of Helen Arnold Peters; Nadezhda Melnik, Rdr Thomas & Mildred Cheplick, Paul & Mildred Urda, Valerie Angelo, Ruth Kriel, Ryan Anthony DeSocio, Alexander & Julie Charlanow, Samuel & Kathryn Payzant, Anonymous, Sdn. S Michael & Kathryn Karney in Memory of Basil and Evelyn Meade.

**Pascha Candles for Tetrapod:** Marylin & Robert Cusick in Memory of Walter & Vera Michalko and William & Irene Cusick; Beverly Michalko in Memory of Stephen Michalko and Anna & Wasyl Michalko.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

### SPECIAL HYMNS FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF FEASTS

#### **Troparion (Special Melody)**

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

#### **Hypakoe**

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 to the fallen.

#### **Paschal Hymn to the Theotokos:**

The angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin!  
Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all you people!  
Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem!  
The Glory of the Lord has shone on you!  
Exalt now and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

**PASCHA!!! APRIL 16:** 12 Midnight Matins and Liturgy of the Great and Holy PASCHA.

Agape Meal to follow.

12 Noon Agape Vespers and Egg Hunt

**BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 17:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy

6 PM Paschal Vespers

**BRIGHT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy

6 PM Paschal Vespers

**BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 22:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy at St Andrews Camp

6 PM Great Vespers

**ST THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23:** 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour and

Blessing of Graves at the Parish Cemetery

**Aleut:** Kristuusaq Ungwektuq! Pichinuq Ungwektuq!

**Arabic:** Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

**Chaucerean Middle English:** Crist is arisen! Arisen he sothe!

**Chinese:** Helisituosi fuhuole! Qeshi fuhuole!

**Church Slavonic:** Christos Voskrese! Voistino Voskrese!

**Coptic:** PiKhirstos af tonf! Khen o methmi af tonf!

**Eritrean:** Christos Ten-si-OU! Ba-Ha-ke Ten-si-OU!

**French:** Le Christ est ressuscité! Il est vraiment ressuscité!

**Gaelic (Irish):** Tá Criosd ar éirigh! Go deimhin, tá e ar éirigh!

**Phonetic** - Taw Creest Ereen! Taw Shay Ereen Guhdyne!

**Georgian:** Kriste aghsdga! Cheshmaritad aghsdga!

**German:** Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

**Greek:** Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

**Hebrew:** Ha-Mashiah qom! Be-emet qom!

**Italian:** Cristo e' Risorto! Veramente e' Risorto!

**Japanese:** Harisutosu Fukkatsu! Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu!

**Korean:** Kristo Gesso! Buhar ha sho Nay!

**Latin:** Christus Resurrectus Est! Vere Resurrectus Est!

**Nigerian:** Jesu Kristi Ebiliwo! Ezia o'biliwo!

**Quenyan:** Ortanne Laivino! Anwa ortanne Laivino!

**Romanian:** Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

**Russian:** Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

**Slavonic:** Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

**Spanish:** Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado!

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Elmira Heights, New York



SUNDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

## THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.

If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.

If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first.

He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious.

He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith.  
Let no one lament his poverty, for revealed.

Let no one mourn his transgressions, grave.

Let no one fear death, for the He that was taken by death has hades and took hades captive! He

flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions." It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked! It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen!

"O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

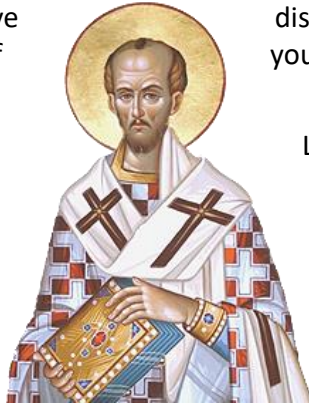
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.

To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.



disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The you! The calf is fatted; let no one go forth

Let all receive the riches of goodness.  
the universal kingdom has been

for pardon has dawned from the

Saviour's death has set us free.  
annihilated it! He descended into  
embittered it when it tasted his

## ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN TIKHON ON THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA 2017

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, Distinguished Stewards, and the entire family of the Orthodox Church in America:

### CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

The radiant day of the Resurrection of Christ has dawned and our Paschal celebrations have bathed us in the glorious light of renewal and regeneration. Today is a completely new day, a day which began when the divine brilliance pierced and dispelled the darkness of Hades and ended with the remarkable explosion which took place when Eternal Life crushed death and corruption.

On this new and bright day, our faith is renewed along with that of the Myrrhbearing Women standing by the open tomb; our hope is confirmed along with that of the Apostles on the road to Emmaus; and our love is strengthened along with that of the Mother of God who remained ever at the side of her Son. Even if we count ourselves among the numbers of those who previously denied or deserted the crucified Lord, such hesitation or shame cannot withstand the force of the new life of this day.

We know too well that there is no human being who lives and yet does not sin, and the consequences of the Fall are reflected in a world overshadowed by war, terrorism, and human misery. Nevertheless, this dark reality loses its hold on us today because we have tasted of the new drink from the fountain of incorruption which fills us with spiritual courage and divine hope.

This courage and hope are not simply fleeting emotions of the moment but rather an experience of the life of the risen Lord Who fills our hearts with such joy that every day and every moment of our existence we can sing paschal hymns such as this:

*How divine! How beloved!*

*How sweet is Thy voice, O Christ!*

*For Thou hast faithfully promised to be with us*

*To the end of the world.*

*Having this as our anchor of hope,*

*We the faithful rejoice.*

With my archpastoral blessing and love in the Risen Lord,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

# ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA 2017

Dearly Beloved Members of our Diocesan Family: *Christ is Risen! – Indeed He is Risen!*

Today we celebrate the Feast of Feasts! Today we recall the greatest event in human history, without which St. Paul tells us, “our faith is in vain” (I Cor. 15:14). Today we rejoice in the incomparable news of the Resurrection of our Lord from His three days in the tomb: “CHRIST IS RISEN! – INDEED HE IS RISEN!”

The Scriptural accounts of the Resurrection, given us by the four evangelists, were written in the second part of the first century – between the years 50 and 100 A.D. They are the work of the same generation who had witnessed the event ... the apostles themselves and their immediate successors. They bear testimony to the faith held by the earliest Christian community at Jerusalem from the very beginning of its existence (Mark 16:6). Like all sincere and authentic witnesses, the evangelists and St. Paul give us accounts of the Resurrection that confirm each other, yet they differ in details. Each author has a personal point of view. Each one, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wants to emphasize this or that aspect, or some particular point which impressed him the most. While their perspectives vary, three main points stand out clearly in all of the accounts.

First, **the Empty Tomb**. At dawn, the first day after the Sabbath, meaning Sunday, some of the women who followed Christ came to Jesus’ tomb, bringing perfumes to anoint His Body, as was the Jewish custom: they were Mary Magdalene, Mary the Theotokos – described by St. Luke as “the mother of James” – along with Salome, Joanna, and “the other women”. They found that the huge rock which had blocked the tomb had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty! Mary Magdalene immediately went to tell Peter and John, who came running to the tomb. John, the younger, arrived first but did not enter without Peter. Peter “went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself” (John 20:6-7). While Peter returned home very pensive, John “went in also; and he saw and believed” (John 20:8).

Second, **the Announcement of the Angels**. The holy women were to be witnesses of an event attested to by all four evangelists: the appearance of angels. These messengers from God were the first to announce the good news of the Resurrection to the myrrh-bearing women: “Do not be afraid ... You seek Jesus Who was crucified ... He is not here, for He is Risen, even as He said ... Come, see the place where He lay.” And then they instructed the women, “Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Lo, I have told you” (Matthew 28:6-7; Mark 16:6-7; and Luke 24:5-7).

Third, **the Appearances of the Risen Christ**. Our Lord appeared many times to several different people after His glorious Resurrection from the dead. The New Testament records at least 13 such times when He appeared after rising from the tomb. He appeared to: Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-17); the myrrh-bearing women (Matthew 28:9-10); St. Peter the Apostle (Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:5); the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32); His disciples while they were sitting at the table (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23; I Cor. 15:5); St. Thomas the Apostle (John 20:26-29); His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-24); more than 500 of His followers at one time (I Cor. 15:6); St. James the Apostle (I Cor. 15:7); the Apostles at Bethany before His Ascension into Heaven (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:4-6); the Eleven Apostles on the mountain of Galilee at His Ascension (Matthew 28:17); Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the Apostle (I Cor. 16:8); and the Apostle, Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen, while he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:55-56). From these historical facts, we see that Christ

did rise bodily from the dead, that He is truly risen from the grave; that He does live forever (Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 1:7).

So great were these confirmations of the Savior’s Resurrection that Melito of Sardis would write this in his Homily on Pascha in the second century: “The Lord, having put on human nature, and having suffered for those who suffered, having been bound for those who were bound, and having been buried for those who were buried, is risen from the dead, and loudly proclaims this message: ‘... I am your pardon. I am the Passover which brings salvation. I am the Lamb slain for you. I am your lustral bath. I am your life. I am your resurrection. I am your light, I am your salvation, I am your King. It is I Who bring you up to the heights of heaven. It is I who will give you the resurrection there. I will show you the Eternal Father. I will raise you up with My own right hand.’” Now, after nearly two thousand years have passed since the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, how are we affected by this event today? How does the “forgiveness of sins” for which Jesus died upon the Cross become the forgiveness of *our* sins today? How does the eternal life of the Risen One, Who will never die again, become *our* eternal life? How does Christ’s victory over death deliver us from death? How does everything that the Lord Jesus did for men whom He loved so much benefit the people of our time? How can the gift of God which He brought be effectively received by us today? How can we appropriate it, make it our own ... such that *His* Resurrection becomes *our* resurrection ... so that *His* union with the Father becomes *our* reconciliation with God ... such that *His* Life becomes *our* life? The answer is given in the Nicene Creed which we recite so often: “I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins.” The Death and Resurrection of Christ are made real to us through our Baptism. It is through our Baptism that we are united to His Death, so that we may participate in His Resurrection (Romans 6). It is in the Sacrament of Baptism that we are “planted together” with the Risen Christ; it is the Mystery of Baptism which grafts us unto Him.

Beloved, Baptism is not an act of magic. The great mystery which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in Baptism becomes part of one’s consciousness only through “synergy” – literally, *working together* with God – on the part of the baptized person. In order for the baptized individual to truly attain the image of Christ, to really become a Christian, a whole lifetime in the Church is needed. During this lifetime of faith, the action of Christ and the Holy Spirit in cooperation with the baptized person can gradually penetrate into all the nooks and crannies of the Christian believer’s heart and soul, body and spirit. On this Glorious Feast of Pascha, let each one of us recommit ourselves to the Risen Savior through the renewal of the promises made at our Baptism. We need to do this, for we have all fallen short of the Christ-like life we should live every day; we have often forgotten Our Lord by neglecting to be constant in prayer, in divine services, in fasting, in almsgiving, in obedience to the commandments. We have allowed ourselves to be pulled away from Him by the world, by our schedules, by our will. Let us repeat on this Day of Resurrection and every day the words of the Sacrament that was our Personal Pascha, the beginning of our personal salvation: “I renounce Satan and all his works ... I unite myself to Christ ... I believe in Him as King and God ... I worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.”

It is my sincere hope and fervent prayer that, in return for this renewal of our personal faith in our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on this Day of His Resurrection, He Who is the God who loves us more than we love ourselves, will bless each and every one of you with all the good things that come from His hands.

With my humble prayers, my archpastoral blessing and my sincere love,

+MICHAEL

Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey