

May 2, 2021



THE IMAGE...

(Jn 12:45 & 14:9; Heb 1:3; Col 1:15)

www.stjohnofdamascus.org

Publication of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, Poway, CA

HOLY PASCHA

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ and manifest the Kingdom of God in the Liturgy of His Church. If this is your first time with us, give us a chance to get to know you.

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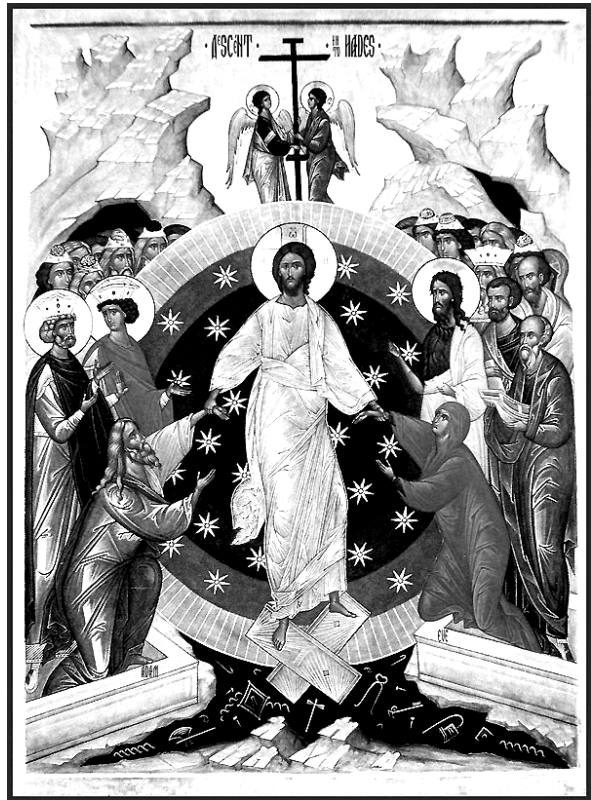
A Word from the Holy Fathers

So the angel became an evangelist and herald of the resurrection to the women. "Do not seek," he says, "the one who" always "lives," who in his own nature is life, "among the dead. He is not here," that is, dead and in the tomb, "but he has been raised." He has become a way of ascent to immortality not only for himself but also for us. For this reason he made himself nothing and put on our likeness, that "by the grace of God," just as the blessed Paul says, "he might taste death on behalf of all." And so he has become the death of death.

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

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For sacraments, services,
instruction, home/office/hospital visits
please contact **Fr. Michael Anderson**
858-717-2172



CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS ORTHODOX CHURCH + THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST + THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Parish Life

Basket Blessings

We will bless paschal baskets this year, though we will follow appropriate safety protocols.

Baskets will be blessed at the following times....

- After the Midnight Paschal Services (no fellowship meal)
- After the Sunday morning Paschal Divine Liturgy
- After Paschal Vespers Agape Service



Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt—Sun 5/2

After the Paschal Agape Vespers we WILL have our lamb BBQ and Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Details to come!



Donations for Paschal Flowers



We are collecting donations for flowers for Holy Week & Pascha.

Please give as you are able and include "flowers" on your check

PASCHAL GREETINGS

English:

Christ is risen! ...*Indeed/Truly He is Risen!*

Albanian:

Krishti U Ngjall! ...*Vertet U Ngjall!*

Aleutian:

Khris-tusax agla-gikux!
...*Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!*

Arabic:

El Messieh Kahm! ...*Hakken kahm!*

Chinese:

基督復活了！確實復活了！

Ethiopia (Amharic):

Christos tenestwal! ...*Ewnetem tenestwal!*

French:

Le Christ est ressuscite!
...*En verite il est ressuscite!*

Georgian:

ქრისტე აღსდგა! ჭეშმარიტად აღსდგა!

German:

Christus ist auferstanden!
...*Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!*

Greek:

Christos anesti! ...*Alithos anesti!*

Polish:

Chrystus zmartwychwstal!
...*Prawdziwie zmartwychwstal!*

Russian:

Hristos Voskrese! ...*Voistinu Voskrese!*

Romanian:

Hristos a inviat! ...*Adeverat a inviat!*

Spanish:

Cristo ha resucitado!
...*En verdad ha resucitado!*

Ukrainian:

Hristos Voskres! ...*Voistino Voskres!*

Vietnamese:

Chua Song Lai Qua That Song Lai

Paschal Readings

Epistle — Acts 1:1-8

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (*Holy Pascha*) — This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (*Ps 117/118:24*)

v: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever! (Ps 136:1)

Gospel — John 1:1-17

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵ (John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. *Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion*

V. *The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men*

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARION

*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

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal One; You destroyed the power of death! In victory You arose, O Christ our God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Your apostles, and bestowing resurrection on 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!

Paschal Vespers Gospel — John 20:19-25

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."



Worship — Bright Monday Scripture Readings

Epistle — Acts 1:12-17; 21-26

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; ¹³ and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry. ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

Gospel — John 1:18-28

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (*Bright Monday*) — Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (*Ps 18/19:4*)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)

ALLELUIA

(*Bright Monday*) — V. The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. (*Ps. 88:5*)

V. God is glorified in the council of the saints!
(*Ps. 88:7a*)

Paschal Archpastoral Message—Metropolitan TIKHON

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Today the Myrrhbearing Women arrive at the tomb and, seeing the angel, hear from him the joyous message that the Lord has risen. When they leave the tomb, running to tell the Apostles the news, Christ Himself suddenly appears to them and greets them with a single word: “Rejoice!” (Mt 28:9).

On this bright day, as we celebrate this glorious feast of feasts, this supreme festival of festivals, the Resurrection of Christ, I in turn extend our Lord’s greeting and say to you all: “Rejoice!”

Our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to us through His Death and Resurrection. He has won the victory for us over seemingly meaningless death by His all-meaningful Death, and we in turn celebrate with exceeding joy. Death no longer stings and hell has no victory, for its gates are smashed and its prisoners are freed. The Resurrection of Christ has brought eternal life to all.

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of our sins, hardheartedness, and lack of forgiveness. For we know that God promised through Jeremiah: “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jer 31:34).

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of our doubts, worries, and anxieties. For as was guaranteed to us through Zephaniah: “No one shall make them afraid... The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more!” (Zeph 3:13, 15).

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of the difficulties, trials, and struggles that we have faced, and always will face, in the brief span of our earthly lives. For Christ Himself has promised: “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen!” (Mt 28:20).

My brothers and sisters in the Lord: “Rejoice!” Our sins are forgiven, our anxieties cease, and our temporary sufferings are given meaning through the Resurrection of the One who grants us eternal life. And while this eternal life is only fully manifest in the age to come, it is ours to experience joyfully even now.

May we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection in joy and love. From this day forward, may we never cease exulting in the Lord.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Paschal Archpastoral Message—Archbishop BENJAMIN

To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Diocese of the West:

..if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith also is empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:13-22)

Dearly Beloved: **Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

St. Paul, in very simple, logical, plain language states the fundamental struggle that we face daily. If there is no resurrection, then Christ is not risen. If Christ is not risen, then our preaching and faith are “empty.” For more than a year, each of us has been questioned by life itself: Is there a resurrection? It has sometimes been hard to see with the difficulties that many people, and even the Church, have endured. No one expected to still be dealing with the fallout from the pandemic today. But underneath it all is the simple fact that Christ is risen, our faith is not futile and “pardon has shown forth from the grave.” (Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom)

As we and the Church inch our way back to “normal” (whatever that is), we must be reminded that “resurrection” is not something that we anticipate, or await only in the future. The very first words that our Lord uttered in His public ministry were “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” To be sure, our hope is that life eternal in the Kingdom is our destination after our own falling asleep. But resurrection in Christ begins for each and every one of us with our deaths in baptism and is experienced in the ongoing life of the Church. That resurrection is to a resurrected and transfigured life here and now. Dying and rising with Him in the waters of baptism is supposed to change the way we live our lives. Walking with Him through His Passion and then Cross allows us to die with Him. There is no other path to resurrection. The various sufferings and “crucifixions” that we have endured, are enduring, and will endure in life purify us and open us to the new life in His Resurrection.

More than anything else, the Resurrection of Christ, and our experience of that resurrection, pierce the struggles and difficulties of life with light and hope. To focus on the risen Christ is to know His love. One who knows the resurrected Son of God sees His hand, will, and care in the various moments of life, both difficult and easy. But knowing Him requires discernment. Have we used the past year to move away from Him and the Church or closer? Have we grown accustomed to “watching” Church instead of “being” Church? Have we feared a virus that can kill our bodies more than the demons that can kill our souls? St. Paul does remind us that “in Christ all shall be made alive.” The liberation that comes with knowing the risen Christ can only be experienced by those who recognize they have been imprisoned.

As we continue back and forth from Bethany to Jerusalem with our Lord during Passion Week, may our fears and concerns all be assuaged by the knowledge that we will, on that Day without end, come to the Empty Tomb. May the joy, peace and light of the Resurrection fill each of your hearts and souls and carry us through whatever remains of these difficult times.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Yours in the risen Christ,

†Benjamin Archbishop of San Francisco



LOOKING AHEAD

The following are services and parish events ***IN ADDITION*** to the usual weekend services (*Sat 6pm & Sun 8:30am*).

Holy Saturday May 1

11:30pm — Nocturns, Matins & Paschal Divine Liturgy

Holy PASCHA (Sunday) May 2

10:00am — Paschal Divine Liturgy w/ Procession

1:00pm — Paschal Agape Vespers w/ Reading of Gospel in
Multiple Languages

Followed by BBQ & Childrens' Egg Hunt

Bright Monday May 3

10:00am — Paschal Divine Liturgy w/ Procession

Bright Tuesday May 4

10:30am — Father's Virtual Café (via Zoom—see website calendar)

For more dates please visit our website: www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar

Many Years!

Name Days	Birthday
Dn George Shumaik, Oliver Cooper, Bill Hubler	Dmitry Panasenko 5/1
Timothy Anderson 5/3	James Palachik 5/4
	Ethan (Athanasius) Menig 5/8
	Marina Rahal 5/8
Wedding Anniversaries	
Gary (Paul) Jollie & Huyen Do (Sarah)	5/4
Carmen (Anthony) & Beth Brown	5/4

Confessions are held on Saturdays after Great Vespers or by appointment with Fr Michael.

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org — **Phone:** (858) 717-2172

Attached Clergy: V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired & Dn. George Shumaik

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