

April 24, 2022



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

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom. He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were thrown down through the fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us. —*St. Gregory the Theologian*

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

Email powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org



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
- After Paschal Vespers Agape Service



Agape Meal Following Paschal Services

By the Grace of God we are able to have our community Agape Meal after Paschal Services.

All are welcome! Please make room for everyone, enjoy the joy and plan on helping clean up at the end.



Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt—Sun 4/24

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



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 Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

I greet you in the joy of the Resurrection on this “chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days” (Paschal Canon, Ode 8). Great and Holy Pascha truly is the “king and lord of days.” On this day our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ shines with the victory of life over death, life which is given by Him as a gift to the whole human race. Amidst the daily news that prompts feelings of anxiety and despair, the present feast offers us our only true help. We take comfort that, in His great love for mankind, our Lord has forever banished the futile senselessness of death, which is the “last enemy” (1 Cor 15:26). Our slavery to fear and sin and death is abolished by the King of Glory, “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle” (Ps 23 [4]:8).

The dark and gloomy grave is now filled with light. We have no need to fear death—our Lord has vanquished it. At this time, the world seems to lie in the darkness of conflict, pain, and grief. Yet, even now, with God helping us, we can face whatever our circumstances may be with the holy joy and Paschal strength that comes from firm conviction and faith in the Risen Christ.

In the overwhelming might of Christ’s Resurrection, the strong man is bound forever (Mk 3:27); and in God’s providence, we know that He will “make the evil to be good by [His] goodness” (Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great). It is our Lord’s unfailing promise of new and eternal life which allows this day to rule all of the days which God may give us on earth. In the brightness of Pascha, even these dark days we now endure are mere servants to this feast of feasts.

On this Paschal day, my prayer is that you allow the joyful light of Christ fully into your hearts. In the coming days of celebration, let all men and women see this spiritual light shining from you, and let them hear your evangelical proclamation that “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Paschal Archpastoral Message—Archbishop BENJAMIN

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

..“Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You...” (John 16:32-17:1)

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

These words of our Lord were spoken to His disciples at the end of a long discourse preparing them for the coming events of His Trial, Death and Resurrection. He then begins the High Priestly Prayer that points to His glorification. We hear His words at the end of a very long first Passion Gospel on Holy Thursday evening. As we gather throughout Holy Week and then Pascha itself, we need to be girded up the way our Lord knew His disciples needed to be girded up. Our world is full of suffering and tribulation. We deal with weakness of faith, laziness, sickness, poverty, passions, disappointments, and temptations. Our Lenten efforts have barely moved the needle of repentance in our lives. And now we grieve as we watch Orthodox brothers and sisters killing each other as pawns in some geopolitical game. Tribulations indeed.

But our Lord strengthens His disciples (and us) in the midst of these tribulations, and prepares all of us for the coming Victory with two truths: first, we are comforted in the reality that our Lord has overcome the world, despite there always being tribulations. How? By the inauguration of His Kingdom, here and now, in the life of the Church. We flee to the consolation and loving embrace of the Church as a refuge from the harsh sufferings outside the doors of our parishes. All these things the Lord spoke so “that in Me you may have peace.” The peace which surpasses all understanding is the gift of Christ’s Resurrection experienced in the life of the Church. No tribulation can overwhelm this gift.

Secondly, Jesus lifted up His eyes to His Father and announced that the hour had come. For what? For His glorification. The Son is glorified by freely giving Himself over to humiliation, spittings, scourging, and finally death hanging broken and bloody on the Cross. The fulfillment and completion of His glorification is in the empty tomb. The Lord promised us that He has overcome the world. But that promise did not say that we did not have to still live in the world, still deal with this world, and still encounter and overcome the tribulations in this world. Our glory must be the same glory as His — faithfully walking through the trials and tribulations of all that the world throws at us, keeping our eyes on Him and not the storms swirling around us.

It seems antithetical to believe that the tribulation is overcome and the glorification is fulfilled in all the sufferings that surround the Lord during His Passion. But it is only antithetical if we look with the eyes of the world instead of the eyes of faith. The eyes of the world see a bloody defeat. The eyes of faith see the ultimate Victory in a faithful endurance and obedience even unto death. Each of us has our own Golgotha to endure in faith and hope. But when we do, we receive the same gift — a passover from death to life.

Brothers and Sisters, be of good cheer, for the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world. Be of good cheer, for the hour has come for Him to be glorified. We live in Him and walk with Him so that we, too, might be glorified. May the joy, peace, and light of the Resurrection fill each of your hearts and souls!

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 PASCHA (Sunday) April 24

1:00pm — Paschal Agape Vespers w/ Reading of Gospel in Multiple Languages
Followed by BBQ & Childrens' Egg Hunt & Activities

Bright Monday April 25

10:00am — Paschal Divine Liturgy w/ Procession

Bright Tuesday April 26

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

Thomas Sunday

After Divine Liturgy—Memorial Service for April & May
(submit names to Fr Michael prior to the service)

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

Many Years!

The faithful members & friends of St John of Damascus Orthodox Church

Name Days

Mark Sladack 4/25

Dn George Shumaik, George Rahal, George Minakov, Bill (George) Hubler 4/26 (23)

Birthdays

Patty (Anna) Pelachik 4/27

Anna Kaminskaya 4/30

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

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

Church: 16903 Espola Rd Poway — **Mailing Address:** PO Box 28291 San Diego, CA 92198

Web: www.stjohnofdamascus.org

Email: info@stjohnofdamascus.org — **Phone:** (858) 674-1931

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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