



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

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Sunday of Great and All-Holy Pascha

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام

Great and Holy Pascha



Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women,

however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

THE EPISTLE

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. 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."

هذا هو اليوم الذي صنعه الرب فلنفرح ولننتهل به.

اشكروا الرب لأنه صالح لأن الي الأبد رحمته.

الرسالة: أعمال الرسل ١ : ١-٨

إني قد أنشأتُ الكلام الأوّل يا ثاوفيلس في جميع الأمور التي ابتدأ يسوع يعملها ويُعلّم بها إلى اليوم الذي صعد فيه، من بعد أن أوصى بالروح القدس الرسل الذين اصطفاهم، الذين أراهم أيضًا نفسه حيًّا بعد تألمه ببراكين كثيرة وهو يتراءى لهم مدّة أربعين يومًا، ويكلّمهم بما يختصّ بملكوت الله. وفيما هو مجتمع معهم أوصاهم بالأّ تبرحوا من أورشليم بل انتظروا موعد الأب الذي سمعتموه مني، فإنّ يوحنا عمّد بالماء وأما أنتم فستعمّدون بالروح القدس لا بعد هذه الأيام بكثير. فسأله المجتمعون قائلين: يا ربّ أفي هذا الزمان تردّ الملّك إلى إسرائيل؟ فقال لهم: ليس لكم أن تعرفوا الأزمنة أو الأوقات التي جعلها الأب في سلطانه، لكنكم ستنالون قوّة بحلول الروح القدس عليكم وتكونون لي شهودًا في أورشليم وفي جميع اليهوديّة والسامرة وإلى أقصى الأرض.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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. (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.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jane Nassif**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the **victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey**. For the good health of the survivors and memory eternal for the departed!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Mariam Munayr**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Fuad and Nadia Swiess for the good health of **Mounir Haddad**. Many years!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum and John Dudum

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- † Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum** for the good health of their family.



Happy and blessed Palm Sunday!

- † Also, in memory of **John, Misadeh, Audie & Mary Dudum and Jim and Rose Romley**. May their memoirs be eternal!

St. John Orthodox Church
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