

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, April 16, 2023

Sunday of Great and All-Holy Pascha

Celebrant: Fr. Ben Kjendal

LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE FOUR: When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT: Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE)

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

Albanian: Krishti Ungjall! Vertete Ungjall!

Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Polish: Khristus Zmartvikstau! Zaiste Zmartvikstau!

Portuguese: Christo Ressuscitou! Em Verdade Ressuscitou!

Romanian: Hristos a Inviat! Adevarat a Inviat!

Russian: Khristos Voskres! Voistinu Voskres!

The Mission of St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church is to love and worship God, to grow closer to Him, and to proclaim and to spread the Good News of the salvation of Jesus Christ to our parishioners, our neighbors and people everywhere.

We worship and pray in English. We experience the beauty and joy of living the Holy Orthodox Christian faith – sharing love and fellowship, teaching and leading by example, growing together through service, education, stewardship and forgiveness.

A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION: *Since we understand Communion to mean we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all present to partake of the blessed bread distributed at the end of the service.*

UNLESS YOU ARE INJURED OR UNABLE, PLEASE REMAIN STANDING DURING COMMUNION

SCHEDULE:

● **Holy Thursday, April 13**

- 6:00 PM Orthros with the Twelve Passion Gospels for Holy Friday and the Procession of the Cross

● **Holy Friday, April 14**

- 9:00 AM Royal Hours
- 4:00 PM Vespers (Removal of Our Lord's Body from the Cross)
- 6:30 PM Service of the Lamentations and Procession of the Holy Sepulchre

● **Holy Saturday, April 15**

- 9:00 AM Vespers Divine Liturgy with the order of Baptism and Chrismation
- 10:45 PM Rush Service, Orthros and Paschal Liturgy

Great and Holy Pascha!

● **Sunday, April 16**

- 12 Noon: Agape Vespers

● **Saturday, April 22**

- 5:00 PM Vespers

● **Sunday, April 23**

- 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School
- 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*****In case of emergency, there are emergency numbers posted next to the telephones in the coat room and in the kitchen*****

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

Our People are our Choir! We love to hear you sing with us! WELCOME!

We are glad to have you worship with us today!

Ben Kjendal is available to visit with you in your home for pastoral care, counseling and inquiries regarding Orthodoxy by appointment. His cell number is (978) 397-3285.

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."

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.



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE
ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

PASCHA POTLUCK - Please join us in breaking the fast in the wee hours of Sunday morning after the Paschal Liturgy! Bring your favorite foods to share as we enjoy this time of celebration and fellowship together!

We will not have food for thought in April. Stay tuned for the next session.

THE SYNAXARION

On this day, Great and Holy Pascha, in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ; for Christ alone did descend with condescension to fight hades; and He ascended bringing the abundant spoils of victory which He had snatched.

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Savior 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 Savior 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 Savior'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 honor of the Lord; in honor and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.