

Christ is Risen!



"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.

(1Corinthians 15:42)

Dear Parishioners,

The beauty of Pascha being celebrated in the Spring is that nature itself witnesses to the truth of the resurrection. Seeds that have dried up and fallen to the ground and have been buried in the earth from trees and flowers during the Fall sprout forth, grow and blossom into vibrant, life-giving colors.

It is with this imagery in mind that the great Apostle Paul teaches the people of Corinth with his great treatise on the resurrection found in chapter 15 of 1st Corinthians. There were some in Corinth that doubted that there is a resurrection from the dead.

The theme of religious instruction this year is "Do You Believe...I Believe!" Does this false belief of there not being a resurrection prevail in the twenty-first century?

There is not a person in the world that has not had to deal with the concept of death. Whether it is through the experience of a loved one, a close relative or friend dying or just the philosophical concept of death. How a person processes the mystery of death has a tremendous impact on their spiritual and psychological well-being. Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." (John 12:24)

As the earth receives the body of a person who has fallen asleep, the body decays, like the seed coat of a seed, this is what it means to be sown in corruption. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father, the body is renewed and it is raised in incorruption, like the beautiful flower that germinates, sprouts and blossoms from the seed that was planted in the ground. Thus the body is "sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." (1 Corinthians 15:43)


In the teachings of Jesus, in the writings of the apostles and the saints, some of the most beautiful imagery is used in discussing the theme of death. It is compared to a baby being born from the womb. It is referred to as sleep. The Lord Jesus waited for death to be present in Jairus' daughter, the widow's only son and Lazarus so that His teachings about the resurrection would be distinct.

As life is navigated through the challenges, difficulties and sufferings of the world, let each Greek Orthodox Christian march forward with courage, boldness, joy and love for Jesus Christ has conquered death by death!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

May your Pascha be filled with the love and joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as you worship and rejoice with your family and friends.

In Christ,

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Rev. John K. Lardas
Protopresbyter

Truly He is Risen!