

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 15, 2012 ~ Pascha

Cross is commemorated especially on Great Saturday. It is the day of the Descent into Hades. And the Descent into Hades is already the Resurrection of the dead. By the very fact of His death Christ joins the company of the departed. It is the new extension of the Incarnation. Hades is just the darkness and shadow of death, rather a place of mortal anguish than a place of penal torments, a dark “sheol,” a place of hopeless disembodiment and disincarnation, which was only scantily and dimly fore-illuminated by the slanting rays of the not-yet-risen Sun, by the hope and expectation yet unfulfilled...Not a “place” at all, but rather a spiritual state: “the spirits in prison” (1 Peter 3:19)...Amid the darkness of pale death shone the unquenchable light of Life, the Life Divine. The “Descent into Hades” is the manifestation of Life amid the hopelessness of mortal dissolution, it is victory over death. “It was not from any natural weakness of the Word that dwelt in it that the body had died, but in order that in it death might be done away by the power of the Savior,” says St. Athanasius (De inc. 26). Holy Saturday is more than Easter-Eve. “This is the most Blessed Sabbath, this is the day of rest, whereon the Only-Begotten Son of God has rested from all His works” (hymn of Holy Saturday). “I am the first and the last: I Am He that liveth, and was dead: and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen. And I have the keys of death and of Hades” (Rev. 1:17-18).

~ CHRIST IS RISEN IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES ~

Arabic:	Al-Masi-H Qam	Hakan Qam
Slavonic:	Christos Voskrese	Voistinu Voskrese
Ethiopian:	Christos T’ensah Em’ Muhtan!	
Georgian:	Khriste aghsdga	Jeshmaritad aghsdga
Greek:	Christos Anesti	Alithos Anesti
Romanian:	Hristos A Inviat	Adevarat A Inviat
Spanish:	Christos Ha Resucitado	En Verdad Ha Resucitado

• PROCESSION HYMN, Tone Six:

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the Angels in Heaven sing; enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart.

• TROPARION OF PASCHA, Tone Five:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

And in Slavonic: Krestos voskrese ez mertvih, smertee-you smert po prav, Ee suscheem vo grobeh zhiivot darovav.

In Greek: Khristos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasin, zo-ecen kharisamenos.

In Romanian: Hristos a înviat din morți, Cu moartea pre moarte călcând, Și celor din morminte Viață dăruindu-le!

In Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado de los muertos, por la muerte, la muerte hollando; y a los que están en las tumbas la vida dando.

In Georgian: ქრისტე აღსდგა მკვდრეთით, სიკვდილითა სიკვდილისა დამთრგუნველი და საფლავების შინათა ცხოვრების მიმნიჭებელი!

Transliteration: Kriste aghsdga mkvdretit, sikvdilita sikvdilisa damtrgunveli, da saplavebis shinata tskhovrebis mimnichebeli.

WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS

We invite you to the Agape Meal following the Divine Liturgy (about 2:30 AM or so!). There will be plenty of food to share.

• RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We remind all Parish members and guests that the reception of Holy

Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who fully accept the conditions and demands of his or her baptism and chrismation. Communicants in the Liturgy will have prepared themselves for receiving Holy Communion by prayer, fasting, and a recent Confession. If you are not Orthodox Christian and have questions, please see one of our priests, or call Fr. Lawrence at 584-9491.

- BRIGHT MONDAY:

On Bright Monday we will once again be blessed to have His Grace, Bishop Benjamin here to serve the Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy (begins at 9 AM). We are hoping to serve breakfast after the Divine Liturgy.

- LETTERS FROM PRISON:

(Below are two letters sent from prison by the twenty-five year old **New Martyr Saint Alexander Schmorell**, a faithful Orthodox Christian and member of the *White Rose* group of German dissident students during WWII. St. Alexander was beheaded by the Gestapo on July 13, 1943, for distributing leaflets condemning Nazi atrocities in Poland, in the death camps and elsewhere. St. Alexander was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church in Munich on Feb. 3, 2012).

My dear parents! I can't report anything new to you. Myself, I am healthy and in a good frame of mind. I've recently read something in a very good and meaningful book, that seems to be very fitting for you all: "The greater the tragedy of life, the stronger one's faith must be; the more it seems that we are forsaken, the more confidently we must command our souls into the hands of God the Father." And the Abbot Theodore of Byzantium writes: "Therefore, I have thanked God for my misfortunes, and bowed myself completely to the unfathomable judgements of His Providence, that in His beneficial manner, He has already known, from the time in which the foundations of the world were laid, the time and place of death of every person." This is pretty much the same as what I have already written you. It would make me very happy, if you would think the same way, it would take away a lot of sadness and pain for you. But I'm not dead yet—and so pray and don't give up hope. *My most heartfelt greetings, Shurik*

My dear father and mother, Now it shall be none other than this,

and by the will of God, today I shall have my earthly life come to a close in order to go into another, which will never end and in which all of us will again meet. Let this future meeting be your comfort and your hope. Unfortunately, this blow will be harder for you than for me, because I go in the certainty, that in my deep conviction, I have served the truth. All of this leaves me with a calm conscience, despite how near the hour of death is. Think of the millions of young men who have lost their lives outside in the fields. Their lot is mine as well. Greet all my dear friends from my heart... In just a few hours I will be in a better life...and I will not forget you; I will ask God to grant you solace and peace. And I will wait for you! One thing, above all, let me leave this on your hearts: Never forget God!!! *Your Schurik*. PS: With me goes Professor Huber, who also sends you his most heartfelt greetings! (*written July 13, 1943, Munich, Germany*)

- ON THE RESURRECTION:

Christ was Risen, and so we too must be resurrected with Christ, in order to ascend with Him. Our Resurrection is two-fold: in body and in spirit. Our bodily Resurrection will take place on the Last Day. We speak of this when we recite the Creed, the Symbol of Faith: "I look for the Resurrection of the dead." To be resurrected spiritually is to depart from our sins, to turn away from the vanities of this world, and to abide in true repentance and faith; to take up the struggle against any sin, to do the will of our Heavenly Father; to live His truth, and to follow Christ, the Son of God, with humility, love, meekness, and patience. This is the new creation of which the Holy Apostle speaks when he says, "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...." (II Corinthians 5: 17); a new person, renewed through repentance and faith, a true Christian, a living member of Christ and an heir to the Kingdom of God. — *St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

- ON HADES (Fr. Georges Florovsky):

"He lays down His life, but He has the power to take it again; and the veil is rent, for the mysterious doors of Heaven are opened; the rocks are cleft, the dead arise. He dies, but He gives life, and by His death destroys death. He is buried, but He rises again. He goes down into Hades, but He brings up the souls" (St. Gregory of Nazianzus). This mystery of the resurrecting