

Hymn of the Month

Hymn of the Resurrection, tone 6

*Having beheld the resurrection of Christ,
let us worship the holy Lord Jesus,*

the only sinless One.

*We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ,
and we praise and glorify Thy holy resurrection;
for Thou art our God,*

*and we know no other than Thee;
we call on Thy name.*

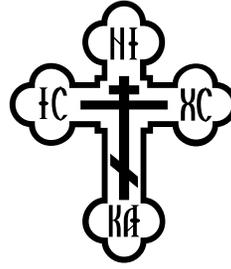
*Come, all you faithful,
let us venerate Christ's holy resurrection.*

*For, behold, through the Cross
joy has come into all the world.*

*Let us ever bless the Lord,
praising His resurrection,
for by enduring the Cross for us,
He has destroyed death by death.*

*Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold,
granting us eternal life, and great mercy.*

The Hymn of the Resurrection is chanted at Matins on Pascha and the entire Bright Season. It is chanted at Sunday Matins and the Matins of Lazarus Saturday.



PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY RESURRECTION
ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 2018

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www.orthodoxtacoma.com • V. Rev. John Pierce

The Resurrection, Icon of Victory

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty (I Cor. 15:14)

At the center of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ and His Resurrection from the dead. As such, the Icon of the Resurrection is the most celebrated, the most common, the most cherished, the most instructive.

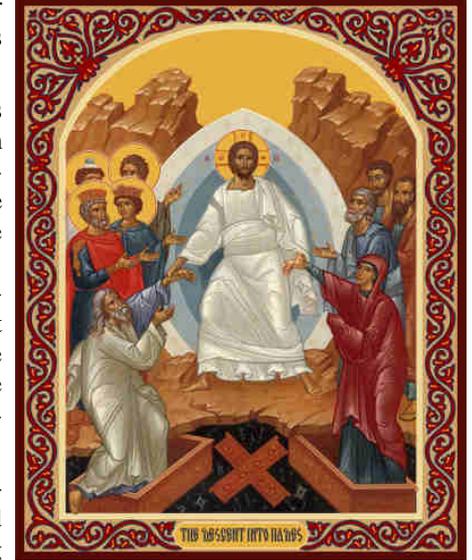
It is all of these things because the Orthodox Icon of the Resurrection is not content with simply showing us the Risen Christ, or the empty tomb; the Victory shown in the Icon of the Resurrection is complete.

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

-Paschal Troparion

Jesus Christ was not content with laying in the tomb for three days after His crucifixion. Instead, while His body was entombed, Christ's soul descended into Hades, or Hell. Christ descended there not to suffer, but to fight and free the souls trapped there. Just as bringing a light into darkness causes the darkness to disappear, the Source of all Life descending into the abode of the dead resulted in Jesus' victory over death and not death's victory over Jesus. This is the full reality of what Christ's death and resurrection accomplished.

In the Icon, Jesus Christ stands victoriously in the center. Robed in Heavenly white, He is surrounded by a mandorla of star-studded light, representing the Glory of God. Christ is shown dramatically pulling Adam and Eve, our first parents who represent all mankind, from the tomb. This humble surrender to Jesus is all Adam



-Paschal Kontakion

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,
Thou didst destroy the power of death!
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, ...
bestowing resurrection to the fallen.

The Resurrection, Icon of Victory *Cont'd.*

and Eve need to do, and all they are able to do. Christ does the rest, which is why He is pulling them from the tomb by their wrists, and not their hands.

Surrounding the victorious Christ are John the Baptist and the Old Testament Righteous. Those who predeceased Christ's crucifixion descended to Hades, where they patiently waited the coming of their Messiah, and now they are freed from this underworld..

And what of this underworld, Hades? It is shown in the aftershock of Christ's descent into its heart – in utter chaos.

This event, known as the Harrowing of Hades, was taught from the very beginning of the Church. St. Melito of Sardis (+ 180) in a *Homily on the Passion*; Tertullian in a *Treatise on the Soul*, 55, Hippolytus in a *Treatise on Christ and Anti-Christ*, Origen in *Against*

Celsus, 2:43, and, later, St. Ambrose (+397) all wrote of the Harrowing of Hell.

"Harrow" comes from the Old English word used to describe the ploughing of a field with a cultivator which is dragged roughly over the ground, churning it up. Beneath Christ's feet – which still carry the marks of His crucifixion – lay the gates of Hades, smashed wide open. Often they are shown laying in the shape of the Cross. Therefore, just as the hymns proclaim, so too does the Icon: Christ has trampled death by death.

Within the dark underworld are scattered broken chains and locks. Hades is not destroyed – it is still here – but its power to bind people is gone. There are no chains, no locked doors. If only we raise our hands in supplication and longing for Jesus Christ, He is there to lift us from the grave.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Pascha in our Parish

Please check our full Paschal Schedule at: www.OrthodoxTacoma.com

Palm Sunday Fish Dinner/Potluck: After Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 1st, the Myrrhbearers Sisterhood will serve wild caught



cod. A basket will be set out for donations towards the cost. Please bring sides, salads, sweets & drinks. It is a fast day, but fish, wine & oil are allowed.

Confessions: Make arrangements to go to confession before Holy Wednesday Unction Service. Don't wait until the last minute! Confessions will be heard after Presanctified Liturgies during Holy Week, and after Bridegroom Matins.

Paschal Flowers: We count on your generosity to beautify the church with flowers. Donations for flowers will be placed into the general fund and paid out through budget. A collection box has been placed in the back of

the church for donations. There will be free and inexpensive Easter lilies this year, as Pascha is only one week after Easter, stop by a store or nursery after Easter and ask!

Attire: Reflect the liturgical observance: wear bright clothing on Palm Sunday & Pascha, dark clothing during Holy Week!

Accommodations: Rooms are available for Holy Week and Pascha in the Parish House. Bring your own bedding, towels, etc. Bathrooms with hot showers and kitchen facilities are available. Speak to Fr. John.

Reading in Church: Orthodox Christians have many opportunities to help read during Holy Week include the Old Testament readings on Holy Saturday at the noon Vespers Liturgy, and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles which begins at 9:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday. At the Pascha afternoon Agape Vespers the Gospel is read in as many languages as we can, John 20:19-25. Please speak to Matushka Katherine about Holy Saturday & Agape Gospel; to Reader Peter Ricks about reading the Acts.

Paschal Candles: will be made available for you at church for a donation. Please hold your lit candle throughout the Paschal service!

Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Pascha in our Parish *cont'd*

Children under 7 will be provided battery operated "candles." Please return them after the service.

Help Wanted! After 10:00 a.m. Royal Hours on Holy Friday, April 6th, we'll need helpers to set up the "Tomb of Christ." Then, following the noon Vespers Liturgy on Holy Saturday, April 7th, we need folks to



help prep the church for Pascha. Check with Carol Magmore to see how you can help with flowers!

Paschal Meals: Pascha morning, April 8th: Following the Midnight Service in the Parish House: Easy to serve & eat "finger foods." No fast. Pascha afternoon, April 8th: Following Agape Vespers: Your finest for your brothers & sisters! A feast! A party! No fast. We'll have roast pork & lamb, and a donation basket! We'll set up several stations for food service, to accommodate lines. Please bring extra meats, side dishes, desserts, drinks, and ice chests. Bring musical instruments, yard games, frisbees, blankets for the grass, folding chairs and friends. The dinner ends promptly at 4:30 p.m. We appreciate assistance with carrying tables & chairs from the St. Joseph Hall to the back lawn, and back; as well as help with clean up.

Pascha Baskets: Pascha Baskets are blessed

after the midnight service. A table will be prepared on the church porch or under the Parish House entrance in case of rain.

Pascha Afternoon Easter Treat Hunt: Please bring contributions to the Easter Treat hunt; we sponsor sections for children up through adult. A box has been placed near the bulletin board for your contributions of toys & candy. Let us know the ages of your children on the special sign-up on the main bulletin board, so we'll have a better idea about how to portion off the lawns.

Bright Monday: Join us for Paschal Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, April 9th, at our historic Holy Trinity Chapel in Wilkeson at 10:00 a.m. After Liturgy we'll go to lunch at the Buttered Biscuit restaurant (1014 North St, Suite 1000, Sumner, 253 826-6099 - thebutteredbiscuit.net). Heads up: two people can share almost any entree they have.

Bookstore: Our Holy Trinity Bookstore has service books and other materials for your holiday needs, check it out! It is located in the Parish House, downstairs and to the right.

Important Information about Pascha, the Kitchen and Leftover Food

Remember that the ovens will be in use by the Sisterhood on Pascha morning! No ovens available! Please, prepare your food at home, bring it in your own or a disposable container, and take everything that is left over home with you. If you leave food, it will be thrown away, the sin is on you! Pascha day is one of the worst days in this regard. Please don't make stalwart kitchen hands stay behind to wash the pans and clean the plates that you used for your food! That way, everyone will be happy, the people you brought your delicious food for, as well as the people who have to clean and lock up at the end of the day.

In Our Parish

Pastoral Visit of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, April 28th/29th
Last December His Eminence was kind enough to "swing by" our parish on his way to St. Spiridon Cathedral in Seattle and St.

Herman Church in Port Townsend. He came to ordain Deacon Steven Hille. This time, it will be his official pastoral visit to our parish! His Eminence will join us for Vespers on Saturday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. (followed

In Our Parish *cont'd*

by a light reception) and we will greet him at the doors of the church at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 29, for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Please be present at Vespers, and be waiting for the arrival of His Eminence at 9:30 on Sunday morning! A reception will be held after Sunday Liturgy.



Charities Committee

Next Meeting: April 22nd during coffee hour.

Thank you to everyone who took part in making Homeless Bags. We still have bags available for you to distribute, they are located downstairs in room 4. Please help yourself to as many bags as you want to give to folks in need that you may encounter during your day.

Saint Francis House: We donated all of the clothing that was brought to the church during our clothing drive to Saint Francis House in Puyallup. They were very grateful for the donations. Contact them if you would like to give more:

www.puyallupfranchishouse.org

Meeker Minions: An organization called Meeker Minions meets in Puyallup once a month, usually the last Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, performing work projects as needed. They are currently working on a restoration project for Meeker Creek and are looking for volunteers. Perhaps we can all help as a group! More information about the monthly work days will be made available on the Charities bulletin board and in the Sunday bulletin. The Meeker Minions are part of the Pierce County Conservation District (www.piercecountycd.org). There are many events offered by the District that we can be

involved in. Stay tuned for events for this spring and summer.

Orthodox Christian Mission Center: Cheri Wilson is working to obtain an OCMC speaker to come and share more about the opportunities and work done through OCMC (www.ocmc.org). Watch for news about this on the Charities bulletin board in the Parish House, parish newsletters & calendars!

Pacific Northwest Orthodox Youth Camp

Dates: June 25-28, 2018. Location: All Saints Camp, 205 Camp Rd. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Information: A webpage with registration and other forms will be put up shortly on the St. Katherine, Kirkland website: stkatherine.org -- "Summer Camp." Contact camp director: Fr. Barnabas Powell at (425) 623-3653, or email the camp at: pnwoyc@gmail.com. Please let Fr. John know as soon as possible if you would like to help as a counselor or in the kitchen so background checks may be made in time.

Parish Camping Trip

Last year was such a wonderful experience, we're scheduling again – bigger and better! Mark your calendars! We have reserved two group sites at the Cougar Rock campground in Mount Rainier National Park for August 19th-22nd! For the most up to date information, visit our parish website, www.OrthodoxTacoma.com, and click on the "Our Parish" tab. Registration for the camping trip will open around Pascha. Information for those who will not be using the group



tent sites, and would rather reserve their own site is available on our online camping page.

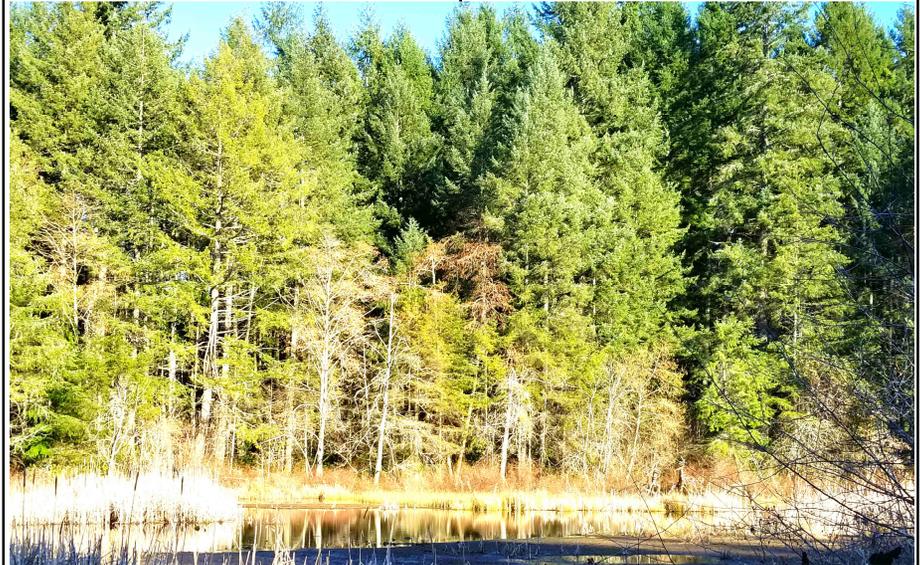
Holy Trinity Bookstore *by Susan Noel Reynolds*

The other day I was sitting out in the woods watching nothing happen. All was still and quiet. Yet I knew that under the surface of the water, frogs were waiting to come out and sing that night, skeeter bugs were waiting to make their appearance when the weather warms, the sap was flowing up to the tops of the trees, where raccoons were sleeping the afternoon away. Words from Isaiah and St. Maximus came to mind: "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies." The grace of the Spirit takes possession of the quiet soul."

Presence of God), angelic beings are submerged in silence. Silence the noise of thoughts. Calm the commotion of ceaseless evaluation and judgement. Can you sit quietly while the mud settles?



The newsletter Doxa of the Monastery of the



A quiet soul. A calm mind. The workings of the Spirit in 'ineffable silence', as St. Isaac the Syrian puts it. On Holy Saturday we hear the astoundingly beautiful hymn 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence', followed by the silent entry of the priest with the Holy Gifts. The ultimate Seventh Day on which God rested. All is silent within the tomb, but unheard and unseen, Christ himself is freeing the captives in Hades. St. Ignatius describes the Lord's death as a 'secret crying to be told, but wrought in God's silence.' Again, St. Isaac says, 'In wonder at (the Mystery of the

Holy Archangel Michael in Canones, NM says this:

'Silence is the mother of tears. Tears are the true path to the deep heart. The deep heart is a spring of compassion for our neighbors. Love of enemies is the fasting of the mind, which manifests itself in a still heart. The calm heart is the mounting of the cross, and her vision is the resurrection of mercy. In the Resurrection we are beyond death, and silence has swallowed up all fear. The end of silence - Christ is risen!'

Indeed!

Send June Newsletter Articles to [<larrysortho@gmail.com>](mailto:larrysortho@gmail.com) by May 25th.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PALM SUNDAY Matins 9:00 am Liturgy 10:00 a.m. fish dinner/potluck Bridegroom Matins 6:30 p.m.	2 <i>Holy Monday</i> Presanctified 10:00 a.m. Bridegroom Matins 6:30 p.m.	3 <i>Holy Tuesday</i> Presanctified 10:00 a.m. Bridegroom Matins 6:30 p.m.	4 <i>Holy Wednesday</i> Presanctified 10:00 a.m. Holy Unction 6:30 p.m.	5 <i>Holy Thursday</i> Matins 10:00 a.m. Mystical Supper (Vesperal Liturgy) 2:00 p.m. Soup Supper Passion Gospels 6:30 p.m.	6 <i>Holy Friday</i> Royal Hours 10:00 a.m. help set up tomb Vespers 2:00 p.m. Matins 6:30 p.m.	7 <i>Holy Sabbath</i> Vesperal Liturgy 12:00 noon decorate church Reading of Acts: 9 pm Nocturnes 11:30 pm Paschal Service at midnight
HOLY PASCHA Matins & Liturgy 12:00 a.m. "Agape Finger Food Potluck Break-fast" Agape Vespers 1:30 p.m. "Treat Hunt" for All Ages and Potluck Feast	9 <i>Bright Monday</i> In Wilkeson: Paschal Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Brunch at the "Buttered Biscuit" in Sumner	10	11  Bible Study potluck 9:30 a.m. Paschal Vespers 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Paschal Vespers 6:30 p.m.	14 Everybody come! Parish Feast Day! Paschal Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Luncheon Vespers 6:30 p.m.
15 <i>Thomas Sun.</i> Matins 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	16 <hr/> Fr. John Attends Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue, Dallas <hr/>	17	18	19 Parish Council 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Vespers 6:30 p.m.
22 Matins 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Seminarian Sun. Wilkeson & Charities mtgs. choir	23 Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>Greatmartyr George</i>	24	25 <hr/> Fr. John attends Diocesan Council, San Francisco <hr/>	26	27	28 Archbishop Benjamin Visits! Vespers 6:30 p.m. light reception
29 Archbishop Benjamin Visits! We greet him at 9:30 a.m.! Hierarchical Liturgy reception	30	May 1	2 Vespers 6:30 p.m.	3  Bible Study potluck 9:30 a.m.	4	5 Vespers 6:30 p.m.