

Home as Church: 2nd Sunday after Pascha- Study Guide

This study guide is intended to organize information about the event of Christ's Resurrection so you can demonstrate your knowledge of the Orthodox faith.

These resources are designed for youth aged 6-14. This supplementary material is developed to stimulate thought, deepen insight, and inspire dialogue.

The study questions are related to the event of Christ's Resurrection as the core of our Church life, and therefore for clearer comprehension of our Orthodox faith.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Department of Christian Education at edu@easterndiocese.org

Overview

The greatest and most joyous of Christian feasts is the Resurrection of Christ - Pascha.

The feeling of resurrectional joy in the aftermath of the Feast of Feasts - the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, is very intense.

It is of greatest importance to emphasize that our Lord reappeared to His disciples in the 40 days after Pascha. Considering this biblical detail, we emphasize the divine power of the event of Christ's Resurrection from the dead, and the consequences of this victory for humanity.

The event of the glorious Resurrection affected so deeply the consciousness of the early Church, creating beautiful illustrations of the significance of the Christian faith: "What the soul is in the body, Christians are in the world ". In the worksheets prepared for the second week after Pascha, we can recognize the love and devotion of the Myrrhbearing women to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Page 1:

The first page includes biblical descriptions of the arrival of the Myrrhbearing women to the tomb of Christ, an event mentioned by all Gospel writers. It greatly influenced subsequent Christian hymnography and iconography. The encounter with the angel, the herald of Christ's Resurrection, represents the main scene of iconography in numerous medieval monasteries.

Page 2:

On this page we find the Epistle and Gospel readings for the second Sunday after Pascha. The Gospel describes in detail the meeting of the Myrrhbearers with the Angel, who tells them to rejoice and return to the city to announce the good news to the apostles, providing a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the event of Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

It is significant to see the courage of the Myrrhbearers who immediately scurried to transmit the good news to the apostles. Regular reading of Holy Scriptures is necessary to understand correctly the events of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The

Bible is the book of life, always reminding us that it is indispensable for our spiritual wellbeing. Let's try to have a discussion about what faith represents in someone's life?

Page 3:

Our Church life is centered around the person of Jesus Christ. For this reason, the Ecumenical Councils of our Holy Church permitted the description of the events that happened in His earthly life. Therefore, the mystery of Christ's Resurrection is described on icons and we are asked to include all our mental and spiritual capacities in order to recognize its educational character. Each of our catechetical activities should be directed to Jesus Christ, because He is our true Educator. On this page you can see all the beauty of the symbols seen on all icons and frescoes associated with Christ's Resurrection. Try to relate the joy of the Paschal greeting "Christ is Risen" with that joy experienced by the Myrrhbearers that early [Sunday morning](#)?

Pages 4-5:

These pages are dedicated to liturgical songs and hymns sung on the 2nd Sunday after Pascha. Each Sunday describes the glorious event of Pascha but this Sunday is lauding the love of the Myrrhbearers for Jesus. The poems teach us that the Myrrhbearers set an example for our Christian life. The songs are of Serbian tradition and are both in Church Slavonic and English languages. This is an opportunity to enrich students' musical gifts with the knowledge of church music, for example, of the beautiful Serbian chanting heritage. Read the troparia before you start listening to the melodies. Understanding the content is the basis for proper learning of church chanting. The text will encourage us to master the task as a whole! Try to master these two liturgical songs. To aid comprehension, videos are prepared for this occasion.

Page 6:

This page is dedicated to the history of a sacred liturgical object called the Holy shroud. The history of the use of this liturgical canvas from Great and Holy Friday to the evening of the Feast of Christ's Ascension is illustrated. The beautiful illustrations highlight the mourning of Christ's death and the laying of His Body in the tomb. Great and Holy Friday is a day of sadness but also of hope as the day of Christ's Resurrection approaches. Can you describe what emotions you feel about the events that happened on Good Friday and the Resurrection itself?

Pages 7-9:

Learning through play is always a helpful tool. On this page we find different types of games closely related to the second Sunday after Pascha -the Myrrhbearing Sunday. This approach allows us to understand and more easily accept church terms. The page is also enriched by the prayer of a little girl, Sofia Terzic, written about her experience during the coronavirus. Little Sofia's prayer is a perfect example of how we should care for those we love! This prayer is a great opportunity for open discussion about what prayer is, and is there difference between prayer and meditation?

At the bottom of the worksheets, there is a glossary of unfamiliar terms.

For church chant, we used the following two resources:

1. *Notni Zbornik* by Nenad Barackog
2. *Anthology of Serbian Chant: Volume II* by Nikola Resanovich