

Pascha
John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (KJV)

HRISTOS VOSKRESE! VAISTINU VOSKRESE!
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

We are blessed with the experience of celebrating Jesus Christ's Resurrection in God's Holy Church. The passing of centuries and opponents of Christ have not diluted the power of the Resurrection.

Jesus' Resurrection established an enduring hope for all believers. Jesus' power over death offers hope in eternal life when earthly death exists. Jesus was very clear about eternal life.

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (Jn. 11:25) Jesus' Resurrection guides serious believers through the dark days of life.

Great and Holy Friday when Jesus hung upon the cross created great darkness over the earth. (Lk.23:44) The dark days of earthly life can be vivid reminders of Jesus upon the Cross.

Joy replaced darkness when the women went to the Tomb and heard the words: He is not here: for He is risen, as He said." (Mt.28:6) The joy of the Resurrection is spread around the world today.

Believers greet each other with "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen". The truth of the Resurrection reaches into the hearts, minds and souls of believers. The Paschal greeting changes lives.

The Paschal greeting brings light where there is darkness in life. Never underestimate the power of the Paschal greeting. Saying “Christ is Risen” to a friend or neighbor can be just what is needed to lift them from darkness.

Pascha is a time of renewal for believers. The new life in Christ involves being more faithful to Christ. The Lenten journey and Holy Week intend to bring the believer into full conformity with the ways of Jesus Christ.

The effort put into making good use of the Lenten journey results in new ways for the believer to go forth in life. The Crucified and Risen Christ is always present to guide the believer.

The Church is full of Paschal joy. Savor the joy of the Resurrection throughout life. Give thanks to the Lord God for the Resurrection. Give thanks for the hope and possibility of eternal life.

Experiencing Paschal joy changes the believer. Jesus always is prepared to nourish the faithful. Just as He fed the multitudes during His earthly ministry, He continues to feed believers everywhere with His Precious Body and Blood.

Pascha comes each year. The Resurrection is celebrated to a degree on Sundays during the year. Believers are challenged to draw personal meaning from Jesus’ Resurrection.

Each believer benefits from the Church’s world-wide celebration of Pascha. Being part of the Church’s Paschal celebration increases the joy for believers and adds to the profound meaning of the Resurrection.

Believers determine individually the degree the Resurrection will be celebrated and incorporated into daily life. Hope in life is resolute when centered in and rooted in the Resurrection.

Jesus Christ overcame death and embodies life. Believers benefit all the days of life thinking about the Cross and the Resurrection. Serious Christian lives are shaped by the Cross and the Resurrection.

Thank God for the Church enduring through the centuries. Thank God for Christ’s Presence in the Church and throughout the world. Thank God for the goodness and mercy available to believers.

Christ is Risen and each believer has reason to celebrate. Christ is Risen and each believer has renewed hope in life. Christ is Risen and the world has changed for the better.

Pascha 2022. April 11/24, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic.