

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!

Today the Light of the Risen Christ shines in the lives of believers everywhere. Present believers are united in the Light with believers through the centuries. The Church Militant and the Church Triumphant are One!

Death is defeated and Life resounds! The Tomb is Empty. "He is risen. He is not here." (Mk.16:6) Paschal joy fills the lives, hearts and minds of believers. The Resurrected Christ lives within believers' souls everywhere.

The long journey to Pascha is complete. Jesus Christ's Resurrection is proclaimed and celebrated! Unbounded joy spreads through churches, homes and communities.

Life is new today! Light replaces darkness. Joy replaces sadness. Hope replaces gloom. Strength is renewed. Weakness is no more. Life's outlook has changed. Life eternal is established.

God's Holy Church exists throughout the world and down through the centuries. The knowledge of Jesus Christ's Resurrection is not limited by time or geography.

Words are insufficient to communicate the power of the Resurrection. The Resurrection creates lasting change beyond measure. History does contain or restrict the change.

The Uncontainable having taken on Human Flesh while remaining Uncontainable was not bound by death or the grave. The future unfolds defined by the Resurrection.

The days ahead are days of joy. Living in the Resurrected Christ is blessed beyond measure. The new and renewed life in Christ embraces the future with the assurance of the Resurrection.

The Resurrected Christ's daily Presence influences the way each day of life is lived. Believers have the opportunities to go forth with confidence in the Resurrected Christ.

The Empty Tomb and Christ's Resurrection appearances are verified in the Holy Gospel. The Church through the centuries witnesses to the Resurrection appearances.

Extended Paschal celebrations have shaped the centuries since the Empty Tomb was discovered. Remote villages and major metropolitan areas on various continents have been affected by Paschal celebrations.

Today and each day the account of the Resurrection has a place deep in the hearts and minds of believers. The meaning of the Resurrection for each life merits consideration throughout earthly life.

Eternal life is the goal of each believer embraced at Holy Baptism. The Kingdom of God is within reach of each believer choosing to follow the narrow path.

The journey to Pascha through Great Lent and Holy Week keeps the believer on the path to God's Kingdom and life eternal. Christ's Resurrection is the verified proof necessary for believers to follow the narrow path.

Believers are blessed to receive the Precious Body and Blood of the Resurrected Christ at the Paschal Divine Liturgy. Believers unite with each other and are united with Christ.

The unity in the Church permeates the centuries. Communicants are united in the Precious Body and Blood. Jesus Christ died and rose for all until the Glorious Second Coming.

Today let us join together in the deepest gratitude to the Resurrected Christ. Let our thankfulness be reflected in the way we live in Christ each day. May Christ's love embodied in the Resurrection be manifested throughout the world.

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Pascha. April 3/16, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic