

## **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 anything 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!**

Jesus Christ's Resurrection is celebrated throughout the world. The joy of Jesus' Resurrection is not stifled by war or poverty or illness. Hearts, minds and souls filled with the Resurrected Lord experience true joy!

Believers blessed to live in countries where peace abounds do well to pray for individuals suffering in other parts of the world. Prayers are beneficial and can reach across the world as well to the ears of God.

It is heart-wrenching to know that war still abounds in certain areas after many centuries. Humans do well to learn to live together in peace. Serbian Orthodox Christian know from their own history of the sufferings of wars.

Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox believers, brothers and sisters in Christ, have been engaged in a protracted conflict. In the Middle East, war and violence are in the headlines each day.

Jesus Christ offers peace for those willing to open their hearts, minds and souls. Leaders of the world at home and abroad advocating for and engaging in war are encouraged to seek out peaceful alternatives.

Paschal joy abounds in Orthodox Churches today. Paschal joy fills believers' hearts and homes. Neighborhoods are enriched from local churches celebrating Jesus rising from the Tomb.

Each believer embracing Jesus Christ's Resurrection makes a difference in his or her community. Each parish church celebrating the Resurrection advances the cause of peace in the world.

Violence and wars cannot overshadow the Light of Christ! Killing Jesus on the Cross caused only temporary darkness in the world. Jesus eradicated the darkness when He stepped forth from the Tomb.

Prior to His death on the Cross, Jesus demonstrated His power over death when He called Lazarus forth to life after having been dead for four days. Jesus Christ represents Life, Hope and Light.

Today is the day to savor Jesus' Resurrection. Now is the time to focus the heart, mind and soul on the joy established by the defeat of death. The hope of eternal life is firmly established with Jesus' Resurrection.

Death's sting is taken away. The barrier of death is trampled down. The Light of Christ shines through every place of darkness. Believers with eyes to see and ears to hear welcome the message of Christ's Resurrection.

Centuries have passed since Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the Grave. The Church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection in the present. Jesus' Resurrection penetrates time.

Jesus' Life and Light penetrate the centuries. Jesus is ever-present and within immediate reach. Jesus' presence is verified with each passing moment.

Christ is Risen and eyes are opened. Christ is Risen and hearts, minds and souls are enlightened. Joy fills open ears. Joy fills God's Holy Churches.

Joy abounds in homes, jails and prison cells.

Joy reaches across the battlefields. Joy is alive in cockpits of fighter planes flown by believing pilots. Joy is present in the heart, mind and soul of every believer embracing the Risen Christ.

Judgment belongs with God. Humans are challenged to work toward peace. The Lord God offers the teachings and provides the Church. Jesus walked the earth and went to the Cross voluntarily for our salvation.

The evidence of Christ's Death and Resurrection exist for individuals willing to seek the facts. Each person decides for him or herself whether to embrace the Crucified and Resurrected Christ.

God's Holy Church offers the environment and teachings for believers to learn about the Crucified and Resurrected Christ. The Church offers direct experience with the joy of the Resurrected Christ.

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

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