

## CHRIST'S RESURRECTION: A LOGICAL EVENT

**T**he Orthodox world rejoices today as we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. While we bask in the radiance of this glorious day, however, we must be aware of the fact that much of the world remains hardened and unmoved by the observance of Pascha. Yes, there are those who would insist that the story of Christ's Resurrection from the dead is simply that: a story fabricated by His followers and handed down from generation to generation.

Is it preposterous for us to believe that Christ could have risen from the dead? No one denies that Jesus Christ actually walked this earth -- historians have been able to verify what the Gospels tell us. So if He lived, taught, preached, worked miracles, was arrested, put on trial and ultimately crucified, **WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS BODY?** Our Lord's tomb had a huge boulder placed in front of its entrance, and was sealed with the imperial seal of Rome. It was guarded by Roman soldiers, who were trained killers. Is it logical to believe that the Apostles -- who ran and hid when Jesus was arrested -- could have overpowered the guards and stolen their Master's Body? Highly unlikely! To suggest that the Myrrhbearing Women could have pulled off such a "grave robbery" is even more illogical. It is inconceivable to suggest that the guards may have failed to do their jobs. They would have paid for such a blunder with their lives.

In reality, the **MOST LOGICAL** explanation of what happened to Christ's Body is what we proclaim this morning: **CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD!** In 2000 years, no one has been able to prove otherwise. The truth of Christ's Resurrection, which is the cornerstone of our Holy Orthodox Faith, will continue to stand up to the scrutiny of skeptics and unbelievers. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.*

### **WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS**

Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Liturgy.

### **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

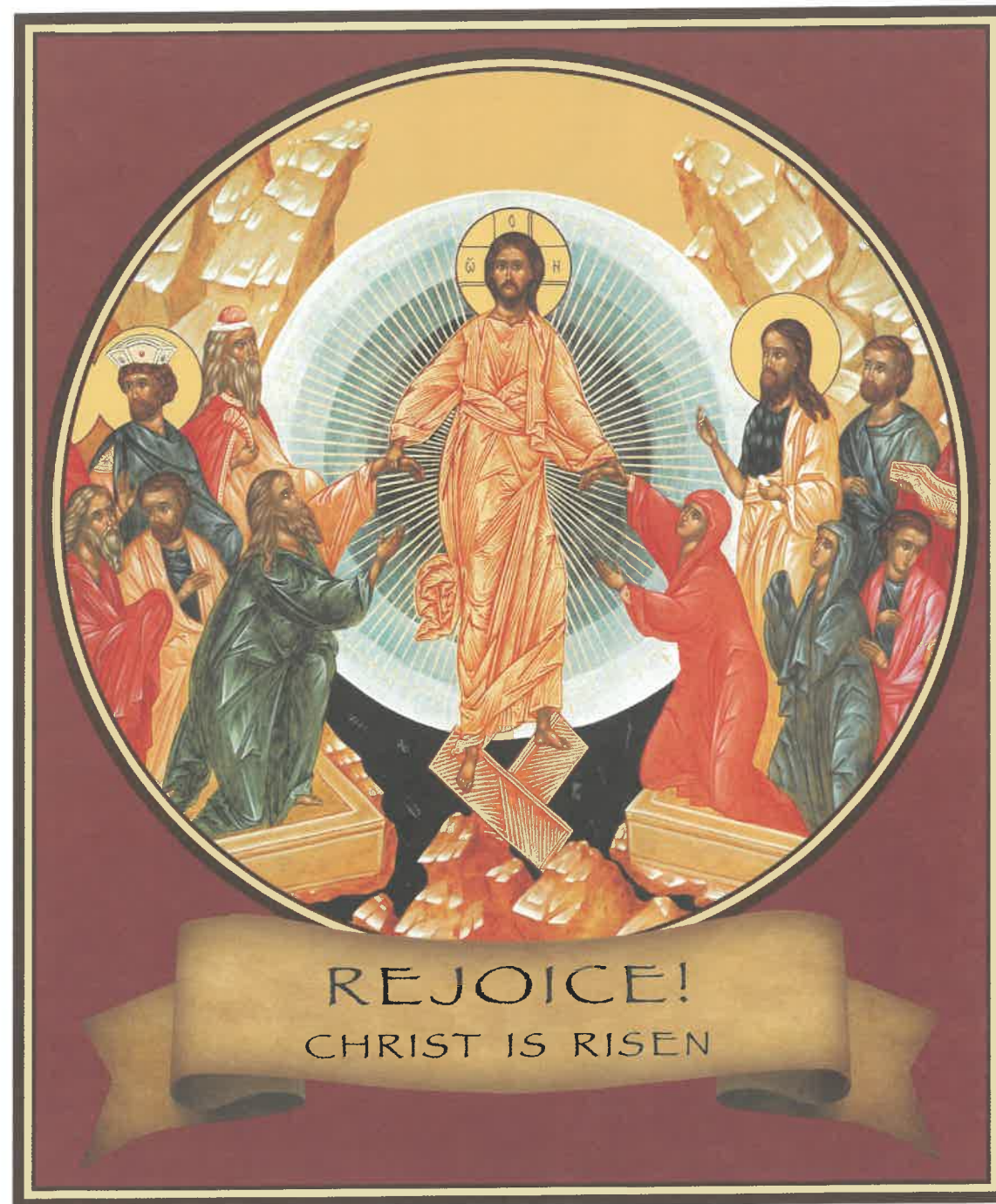
### **HOLY OBLATION BREAD AND MEMORIAL WHEAT**

If you are offering Holy Bread, please pick up your portion on top of the chanter stand at the end of Liturgy.

If you are offering Memorial Wheat, please provide (300) 3oz Dixie cups.

Please notify the Church Office by end-of-day Tuesday.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE TUESDAY END-OF-DAY.**



May 5, 2024

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

5311 Mercer, Houston, Texas 77005 www.stgeorgehouston.com

Church Office admin@stgeorgehouston.com 713-665-5252 p  
V. Rev. James Shadid Pastor fjshadid@gmail.com 316-209-3605 c  
Rev. Mark Makarios Assistant mark.makarios@stots.edu 508-685-3498 c  
Chris Al-Dehneh Youth Director chrisaldehyeh@gmail.com 915-539-6901 c

**WELCOME His Eminence Metropolitan SABA! Many Years Master!**

**WELCOME** Father Paul the Monk & Deacon Elias Nicolas who are accompanying Sayedna

**HOLY OBLATION** is offered in memory of William & Virginia Attra, Rosalie Attra Abercia, Nellie Attra, Evelyn & Kenneth Griffith, Jack & Lillion Nahas, and Helen & Gerald Angelo and for the health of Bill & Betty Attra, Robert Attra, Louis Abercia and Al & Carolyn A. Nahas by Al & Carolyn A. Nahas.

**HOLY OBLATION** is offered in memory of Yacoub Nassar, Fuad Sr., Georgette and Issam Baba and for the health of Karimeh Nassar and Baba families by Afif and Najwa Baba.

**HOLY OBLATION** is offered in memory of Leila, Hilweh, Helena, Basil & Jamil and for the health of Joe, Jack, Tala, and Dana Nassar.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday (5/5)	1:00p Agape Vespers
Monday (5/6)	9:00a Orthros 10:00a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. George
Wednesday (5/8)	6:30p Paschal Vespers
Saturday (5/11)	6:00p Great Vespers
Sunday (5/12)	8:45a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** Will resume 5/12.

**EVENTS**

**BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday mornings at 10:00a. studying the Gospel of John will resume 5/14

**STUDY OF THE LITURGY:** With Fr. Mark on Thursday mornings at 10am.

**A PILGRIMAGE TO ANCIENT GREECE WITH FR. GEORGE DAHDYOUH:** August 29 – September 9. You can sign up for the Pilgrimage up until May with some charges. We have 28 seats on the same airplane only. If you have decided to join Fr. George Dahdouh, please send in your registration form asap. For more information call Fr. George or the agency or pick up a flyer from the church or check out the info in the Monday email.

**FOCUS HOUSTON CENTER DIAPER DRIVE:** Please drop all donations in the FOCUS box in the hallway by the Church Office. (Diapers, baby wipes, baby soap & shampoo, diaper rash cream/powder, newborn formula, tec..) for a full list, please check the Monday email.

**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION:** St. George Ladies Altar society is hosting the annual Mother's Day celebration on Saturday, May 11th at 12pm at the church hall. Tickets are \$50 and \$75. For reservation, please contact Yolla Jabbour at 281-468-2219.

**ST. GEORGE 50 + BUS TRIP:** will be visiting Saints Constantine & Helen Serbian Orthodox Church in Galveston on Tuesday, May 14. We will be given a tour and have a discussion about the history of this oldest Orthodox Church by the priest Fr. Djordje Veselinovic. To reserve your seat please call Faika Zaid @ 713-213-3211. Space is limited. We will have lunch prepared by the ladies of the church. Buss leaves St. George at 10:00 AM.

**FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY CENTER**

**PHASE 1 OF THE FAC PROJECT** is moving forward, and our fundraising deadlines are fast approaching. Please help reach our Phase 1 goal of \$6.5 million by making and fulfilling your FAC contribution today! Pledges and donations can be made on the St. George/FAC website or by scanning the QR code.



**FAC TOWN HALL ON MAY 19TH:** Do you have any questions, concerns or just looking for additional information? Immediately following services on May 19th, meet us in the hall to get the answers you're looking for. Reach out to Zach Abercia zach.abercia@gmail.com for additional questions.

**HOUSTON MED FEST 2024:** Save the date (10/26) for this year's Med Fest! Stay tuned on additional information on how you can help make this year a success! Reach out to Rana Abercia rdeeba@gmail.com for additional information.

**STEWARDSHIP**



**2024 PLEDGE STEWARDSHIP "NEW BEGINNINGS":** Our 2024 Pledge Campaign is now open, please prayerfully commit to your home of St. George. Please scan the QR code to the left to submit your 2024 Pledge Commitment. In an effort to simplify the pledging process, a new system (Tithe.ly) has been implemented.

To donate, give towards your 2024 pledge or to set up recurring payments, scan QR code to the right.



**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** is back at Saint George and registration is now open! Scan the QR code to register before May 1st for the early bird price of \$35 per kid (\$40 each after the deadline). Volunteers also need to fill out a form.

**HOUSTON OCF MEETING:** Tuesday, 5/7 at 7pm at Saint George. All Houston area college students are invited to join each week, dinner will be provided, as always. Contact Chris (chrisaldehyeh@gmail.com) for more information or to be added to the OCF GroupMe and follow @ocf\_houston on Instagram to stay updated.

**ST. SOPHIA MOMS GROUP MEETING:** The next St. Sophia Moms Group meeting will be Friday 5/10, 9:30-11:30 am. RSVP [stsophiamoms@gmail.com](mailto:stsophiamoms@gmail.com)

## The Epistle in Arabic

هذا هو اليوم الذي صنَّعه الربُّ فلنفرح ونتهلل به. اعترفوا للربِّ فإنه صالحٌ وإلى الأبدِ رحمته.

فصلٌ من أعمالِ الرُّسُلِ القديسينِ الأطهارِ (8-1:1)

إني قد أنشأتُ الكلامَ الأوَّلَ يا ثاوفيلُسُ في جميعِ الأمورِ التي ابتدأَ يسوعُ يَعملُها ويعلمُ بها\* إلى اليومِ الذي صعدَ فيه من بعدِ أن أوصى بالروحِ القُدسِ الرُّسُلَ الذينَ اصطفاهمُ\* الذينَ أراهمُ أيضاً نفسَهُ حياً بعدَ تألمِهِ ببراهينَ كثيرةٍ وهو يترأى لهم مَدَّةَ أربعينَ يوماً ويُكلِّمُهُم بما يختصُّ بملكوتِ الله\* وفيما هو مجتمعٌ معهم أوصاهمُ أن لا تَبْرَحُوا مِن أُورَشَلِيمَ بل انتظروا موعدَ الآبِ الذي سمعتموه مني\* فإنَّ يوحنا عمَدَ بالماءِ فسألهُ المجتمعونَ قائلينَ يا ربُّ أفي هذا الزمانِ تَرَدُّ المَلِكُ إلى إسرائيلَ\* فقال لهم وأما أنتم فسُتَعْمَدُونَ بالروحِ القُدسِ لا بعدَ هذه الأيامِ بكثيرٍ\* ليسَ لكم أن تُعرفوا الأزمنةَ أو الأوقاتَ التي جَعَلَهَا الآبُ في سُلْطَانِهِ\* لكنَّكم ستتالونَ قوَّةَ بحلولِ الروحِ القُدسِ عليكم وتكونونَ لي شهوداً في أُورَشَلِيمَ وفي جميعِ اليهوديَّةِ والسامرةِ وإلى أقصى الأرضِ.

## The Gospel

*The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:1-17).*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own, and his own received him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John bore witness to him and cried, "This is He of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me." And from His fullness have we all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## The Gospel in Arabic

(1:1-17) فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ

في البدءِ كانَ الكلمةُ والكلمةُ كانَ عندَ اللهِ وإلهاً كانَ الكلمةُ\* هذا كانَ في البدءِ عندَ اللهِ\* كلُّ به كانَ، وبغيرِهِ لم يكنْ شيءٌ مما كُنْ به كانتِ الحياةُ والحياةُ كانتْ نورَ النَّاسِ\* والنورُ في الظلمةِ يُضيءُ والظلمةُ لم تُدرِكْهُ\* كانَ إنسانٌ مُرْسَلٌ مِنَ اللهِ اسمهُ يوحنا\* هذا جاءَ للشهادةِ ليشهدَ للنورِ. لكي يؤمِّنَ الكلُّ بواسِطَتِهِ\* لم يكنْ هو النورُ بل كانَ ليشهدَ للنورِ\* كانَ النورُ الحقيقيُّ الذي يُنيرُ كلَّ إنسانٍ أتِ إلى العالمِ\* في العالمِ كانَ والعالمُ بهِ كُورٌ والعالمُ لم يعرفْهُ\* إلى خاصَّتِهِ أتى وخاصَّتُهُ لم تقبلْهُ\* فأما كلُّ الذينَ قَبِلُوهُ فأعطاهمُ سلطاناً أن يكونوا أولاداً لله الذينَ يُؤمِنونَ باسمِهِ\* الذينَ لا من دِمٍ ولا من مَشِيئَةٍ لِحْمٍ ولا من مَشِيئَةٍ رَجُلٍ لكنْ منَ اللهِ وُلدوا\* والكلمةُ صارَ جسداً وحلَّ فينا (وقد أبصرنا مجدَهُ مجدٌ وحيدٌ مِنَ الآبِ) مملوءاً نعمةً وحقاً\* ويوحنا شَهِدَ لَهُ وصرخَ قائلاً هذا هو الذي قلتُ عنه إنَّ الذي يأتي بعدي صارَ قبلي لأَنَّهُ مُتَقَدِّمِي\* ومن ملئِهِ نحنُ كُلُّنا أخذنا ونعمةً عَوَضَ نعمةً\* لأنَّ الناموسَ بموسى أُعطيَ وأما النعمةُ والحقُّ فبيسوعَ المسيحِ حصلوا.

Great and Holy

# PASCHA

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Hristos a Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Christus ist auferstanden!

Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Qom Alohu min Kubre! Tishbahtu Hilo Rabu!

Yasous Taustwal! Aown Tasous Tanastwal!

Cristo è Risorto! Veramente è Risorto!

Christos Musen! Ekusen Musen!

## The Troparion of PASCHA

### English

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

### Arabic

Al masihu qama min bainil amwat, wa wati al mowta bil mowt,  
wa wahabal hayat, lil ladhina fil qubur!

### Greek

Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patesas  
kai tis en tis mnemasi zoe charisamenos!

### Slavonic (Russian)

Christos voskresye iz myertvykh, smyertiyu smert' poprav;  
i sushchim vo grobyekh, zhivot darovav!

### Romanian

Hristos a înviat din morti, cu moartea pre moarte călcând,  
si celor din mormânturi viată dăruindule!

### Spanish

Christo a resuscitado de los muertos, la muerte por la muerte ollando,  
y a que estan en las tumbas, la vida dando!

I. "Blessed is the kingdom . . ." *is followed by* "Christ is risen . . ." *with all Paschal verses.*

### II. The First Antiphon:

1. Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.  
(*"Through the intercessions . . ." after each verse*)
2. Say to God: "How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High."  
"Glory . . . Both now . . ."

### III. The Second Antiphon:

1. May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.  
(*"Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia." after each verse*).
2. That Thy way may be known upon the earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee.
3. May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.  
"Glory . . . Both now. . ." *and then* "O only begotten Son and Word. . ."

### IV. The Third Antiphon:

1. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.  
(*"Christ is Risen" . . . after each verse.*)
2. As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.
3. So let sinners will perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.
4. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

### V. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) of Palm Sunday:

"In the gathering places bless ye the Lord our God, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia."

### VI. After the Little Entrance, the following are chanted:

- *The Troparion of Pascha in tone 5:* "Christ is risen..."

- *The Hypakoe of Pascha in tone 4:*

"They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: 'Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, Who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.'"

- *The Kontakion of Pascha in tone 8:*

"O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen."

### VII. Instead of the Trisagion Hymn, "As many as have been baptized" *is sung.*

#### The Epistle

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!  
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His mercy endureth forever.

*The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-8).*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, 'you heard from Me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So when they had come together they asked Him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel? He said to them, 'It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.