

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



The Feast of Feasts

PASCHA

April 16th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: St. John 1:1-17

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

A festive welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this joyous morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

BRIGHT WEEK (Fast Free)

- + *Agape Vespers* – Sunday April 16th at 3
- + *Bright Monday* – Divine Liturgy – April 17th at 9:30
- + *Paschal Vespers* – Wednesday April 19th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday April 22nd at 5
- + *St Thomas Sunday* – Hours & Divine Liturgy - April 23rd at 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall

Our Giving – April 9th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,731.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$87.00 / Benevolence - \$250.00

Memorial - \$500.00 / Pascha Flowers - \$195.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have **properly prepared themselves** by **fasting, prayer [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], recent confession**, and who were *at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

PASCHAL Homily of St John Chrysotom

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn Henry, Mat. Deborah Belonick, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Infant Wyatt, Isaac Bannister, Barbara Cain, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, & those suffering in Ukraine, Turkey & Syria

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protopresbyter Srboljub Jockovic +3/13, Mat. Carol Steffaro +4/14, Barbara Shatto +4/14 & Those who have lost their lives in Ukraine