

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

APRIL 16, 2017

GLORIOUS PASCHA SUNDAY!

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Христос воскрес! Christos Voskres! Christ is Risen! Al Maseeh Kam!



Address:

4903 – 45th Street S.W. Calgary, Alberta Canada T3E 3W5

Office Hours:

Mon—Friday: 8:30am - 4:00pm Saturday: and Sunday Closed Closed Statutory Holidays

Telephone:

403-249-4818, press 0

Pastoral Emergencies:

403-249-4818, press 9

Email:

Office@Protomartyr.ca
Coordinator@Protomartyr.ca

Parish Website:

www.saintstephencalgary.ca

Eparchy Website:

www.edmontoneparchy.com

DIVINE LITURGIES

Sunday Services:

8:30am – Ukrainian 10:30am – English 1:00pm – Arabic / English [Melkite] 5:00pm – English

Weekday Services:

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat—English @ 9:00 am

Friday at Westview—English @ 10:00 am

Paschal Troparia

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

First Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise. Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.

Say unto God, "How awesome are Your works!* Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You." Through the prayers of the Mother of God,*

O Saviour, save us.

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,* let it sing to Your name, O Most High! Through the prayers of the Mother of God,*

O Saviour, save us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, You are immortal, and You willed for our salvation to be made flesh of the Holy Mother of God and ever -virgin Mary, and without change you became man. You were crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled death by death. You are One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Entrance

In the churches bless God, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

HOLY MYSTERIES

Confession:

Sunday 10:00 am —12:00 pm Saturday @ 4:00 pm—5:00 pm or by appointment

Marriage:

Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Baptism-Chrismation-Eucharist:Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Anointing of the Sick:

For emergencies call 403-249-4818, press 9.

Funeral: Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

CLERGY and RELIGIOUS

Priest and Administrator:

Fr. Bo (Bohdan) Nahachewsky 403-249-4818, ext. 202 FatherBo@Protomartyr.ca

Deacon and Intern:

Dcn. Andrij Nykyforuk 403-249-4818, ext 203 DeaconAndrij@Protomartyr.ca

Pastor, St. Basil's Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Fr. Ephrem Kardouh 1-514-224-1664 403-249-4818, ext. 302 emkardouh@gmail.com www.facebook.com/St-Basils-Melkite-Greek-Catholic-Church-Calgary-1567658193459037/>

Pastor (on sabbatical):

Fr. Mark A. Bayrock 1-403-973-4120 mabayrock.iphone@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE

Office Administrator: Linda Buck 403-249-4818, ext. 0 office@Protomartyr.ca

Sacramental Coordinator:Mirna Farahat

MAINTENANCE

John Kowal 403-249-4818, ext. 207 <maintenance@Protomartyr.ca

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES

Brett Bernakevitch
Director, Parish Centre Management
403-615-9561
blebernak@gmail.com

HALL / KITCHEN

403-249-4818, ext. 204

Kontakion: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One,* yet You destroyed the power of Hades;* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!* and giving peace to Your Apostles:* You, who grant resurrection to the fallen.

Instead of Holy God

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. You have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon

This is the day which the Lord has made;* let us rejoice and be glad in it.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 117:24,1)

Epistle Acts 1:1-8

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Please gather your children to hold candles for the Gospel.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: When you rise, You will have compassion on Sion.

verse: The Lord looked down from heaven to earth to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set

free the sons of those put to death. (Psalm 101:14,20)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 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 or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hymn to the Mother of God

The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. (3x)

(Priest) And to us He grants life eternal,

(all) Let us bow to His resurrection on the third day

views from pews



We have observed Holy Week and now we celebrate the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

In the world we live in today it may seem overwhelming as we struggle to find an answer to the question "how can I help?" God does not expect us to make the same sacrifice as his Son Jesus chose to make. The simple answer is love.

St. Teresa (Mother Teresa) when asked to protest against war, said no, but she said she would walk with them for peace. "Every time you smile at someone it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing. Peace begins with a smile."

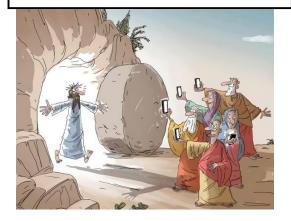
Individually we can make a difference by choosing the way we live each day; showing love and compassion to everyone, including ourselves. As we gather together in Jesus' name to pray and share love with one another we feel the bright light of healing surround us. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless us and protect us as he guides us through life.

Happy Easter!

Laurie Kindrachuk, editor

Contact me: laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca

Cell: 403-614-5581



Easter Greetings from the Office

"Hades received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O death, where is your sting?

O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen! And you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen! And the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen! And the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen! And life is liberated!
Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead:

For Christ having risen from the dead,

has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power,

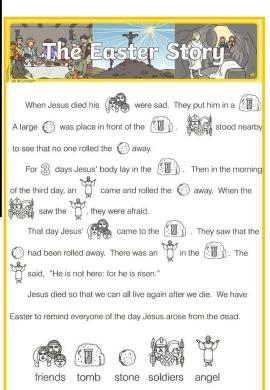
now and forever, and from all ages to all ages. Amen!"

From the Resurrection Homily of St. John Chrysostom

It is with great joy that the clergy and staff of our parish greet you on this the day of the Resurrection. May peace, joy and profound rejuvenation flood your life.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky, Fr. Ephrem Kardouh (the Melkite Catholic Priest), Deacon Andrij Nykyforuk, Linda Buck, Mirna Farahat, John Kowal & all of us at the officethe staff of St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish.



Liturgy Intentions for this week:

Sunday, April 16:

PASCHA –

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

8:30am – Resurrectional Divine

10:30am – Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Monday, April 17: BRIGHT MONDAY

9:00am – Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, April 18: BRIGHT TUESDAY

9:00am - Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 19: BRIGHT WEDNESDAY

NO Divine Liturgy

Thursday, April 20: BRIGHT THURS-DAY

9:00am - Resurrectional Divine Liturgy - For the repose of the soul (40 day) of +Victoria Burlack

Friday, April 21: BRIGHT FRIDAY 10:00am – Resurrectional Divine Liturgy – WestView

Saturday, April 22: BRIGHT SATUR-DAY

9:00am – Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 23: THOMAS SUNDAY 8:30am – in memory of the repose of

the soul of +Victoria Lotocky

10:30am – for the repose of the soul
of +Joe Ewanchyna

5:00pm – for the intentions and
needs of all parishioners

ST. STEPHEN CHARITABLE COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Charity Subcommittee:

Coordinate and market the efforts of all parish charitable activity.

Contact: Eugene Woychyshyn
587-891-9898;
eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com

Pass It On:

Donates clothing to needy families in Calgary.

Contact: Theresa Lewchuk 403-208-0850; lewchukt@hotmail.com

Men's Dinner:

Annual major church fundraiser for capital expenses plus Inn From the Cold endeavors. Contact: Greg Bobyn 403-271-0011; greg.bobyn@mnp.ca

The Helping Others Network:

Distributes used furnishings and clothing to the needy.
Contact: Des Peplinski
403-238-0804; dlp238@shaw.ca

Art Committee:

studies and plans new religious artwork for parish.

Contact: Jim Ochitwa jim.ochitwa@maryngroup.com

UCWLC:

community needs through
volunteerism, pastoral works,
Ukrainian culture & aid.
Contact: Stacey Bobyn
403-860-2185 sbobyn1@telusplanet.net

Knights of Columbus:

Responds to parish and

Provide financial aid & support for members and their families, and help the sick, needy and disabled in our parish, city and abroad. Contact: Earle Kowalewich at 403-831-5503, earlekoko@shaw.ca

Plus 50 Club:

Provides social interaction for parish seniors, promotes Ukrainian cultural events, and raises funds for the parish.

Contact: Ed Tysowski 403-547-3226; tysow@shaw.ca

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	Wı
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 8:00 am Resurrectional Matins—Eng 8:30 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Easter Baskets—Eng & Ukr 10:30 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Easter Baskets—Eng & Ukr NO First Solemn Communion Class NO Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Resurrectional Matins (Rush) followed by Resurrectional Divine Liturgy—Arab No 5:00 pm Liturgy	17 BRIGHT MONDAY • 9:00 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy • 4:00 pm Newman College Course	18 BRIGHT TUESDAY • 9:00 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy • 7:00 pm 50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	19
8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 9:00 am First Solemn Comm. Class 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. with Sunday School 10:30 am Baptism 11:30 am Easter Lunch 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy—Arab 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio 4:00 pm Newman College Course 	25 • 9:00 am Divine Liturgy • 11:00 am Plus 50 Meeting and luncheon	26
ING WOMEN 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION DAY 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng.—with Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy—Arab 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. 6:30 pm VOLUNTEER Safer Environments Mtg Deacon Andrij's last day with us	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Working Together For a Safer Environment meeting 4:00 pm Newman College Course 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 	2 • No Divine Liturgy	3.
7 SUNDAY OF PARALYTIC 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng.—with Sunday School	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Newman College Course 	9 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm PPC Meeting	10

1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy—Arab

5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.

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DNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BRIGHT WEDNESDAY Io Divine Liturgy	20 BRIGHT THURSDAY • 9:00 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy • Art Committee Mtg	21 BRIGHT FRIDAY • 10:00 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy at West View	22 BRIGHT SATURDAY • 9:00 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy • 12:00 pm Melkite Baptism • 3:00 pm PLAST Post Easter Event in hall
Io Divine Liturgy :00 pm Choir Practice :00 pm Property Janagement Meeting	27 • 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	28 ◆ 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge ◆ 10:30 am Choir leaving for Edmonton	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Retreat and 1st Confessions 4:00pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
lo Divine Liturgy	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree Meeting 	KofC state conve 5 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 7:30 pm AIN'T	6 • 9:00 am Divine Liturgy • 4:00pm Confessions • 5:00 pm Vespers
Io Divine Liturgy :00 Choir practice	 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting 	YOUR BABA'S ZABAVA 12 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 6:00pm Faith Friday	 13 ◆ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy ◆ 4:00pm Confessions ◆ 5:00 pm Vespers

St. Stephen's Choir: Provides music ministry to the parish for liturgical services and other events. Contact: Linda Dudar 403-238-0461; linda.dudar@stmu.ca

Prayer & Support Group: Accepts prayer requests for the confidential needs and intentions of parishioners.

Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624; marilyncomchi@shaw.ca

Support Network: Provides support, encouragement & help for parishioners facing various difficulties/situations with referrals to services or help they need. Contact: Marilyn Comchi

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403-220-9624 marilyncomchi@shaw.ca

International Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to international charities in 2nd and 3rd world countries.

Contact: Steve Groch

403-239-4699; swgctc@aol.com

Family Support Trust Fund: provides temporary financial support to parishioners in need. Donations to this fund are always welcome.

Contact: Eugene Woychyshyn
587-891-9898; eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com

Calgary Pro-Life Association: Raises funds for educational awareness programs.

Contact: John Siroishka

403-271-2128; johnsiroishka@shaw.ca

Parish Library: A great place to borrow great books about our faith.

Contact: Olga Kizlyk Scarpari ststephens.library@gmail.com

ARK Store: Looking for the perfect religious item? Check it out at the entrance to our hall. Open most Sunday mornings after Liturgy.

Contact: Donna Chelack

403-764-0811; dchelack@shaw.ca



Mothers and Fathers in Action

(M.A.F.I.A.): A group for parents and little ones from 'in utero' to Grade 6. Contact: Zenon Berg zenonberg@gmail.com

Sunday School: A program run on most Sundays during the 10:30am Divine Liturgy for preschoolers age 4 through grade 2 children. Contact: Lynsey Lowey Iklowey@hotmail.com

First Solemn Communion (FSC):

Sacramental Classes for children around GRADE 2 who are ready to approach for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist on their own.

Contact: Karen McMillan s.david.mcmillan@gmail.com

Children of Mary & Altar Servers:

Elementary school children who have completed their FSC, are encouraged to get involved by serving at the Altar, learning, playing and growing together. Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com

Junior Youth & Senior Youth: This is an active group of Jr. & Sr. High School students who work, play and grow together in Christ. We are currently looking for a youth group leader, so if interested, please contact Fr. Bo.

Young Adults: Those aged 18 - 35 are encouraged to gather as a community and learn, embrace and celebrate their faith. We are currently looking for a young adults leader, so if interested, please contact Fr. Bo.

Adult Catechism (RCIA): This program is open to Adults and Teens who want to receive the sacraments or just understand the faith.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com

Bible Study: On many Mondays we study our faith through Sacred Scripture. Join us.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST!

PRAYER & CATECHESIS

** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY **

Retreat and First Confessions: on Saturday, April 29.

GREETING CARDS AND DIVINE LITURGIES: If you know someone in our Parish Family who the Love & Care Committee should be attending to, please contact Anne Lozinski at 403-241-8905.

SAVE THE DATE: A new Pastoral Care Seminar has been set for Tuesday, Sept. 19 with guest speaker, Dr. David Falk entitled "A Christian Perspective on Medical Aid in Dying—MAID". Please mark it in your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

DARISH & EVENTS

MEETINGS

50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING MTG: on Monday, April 17 at 7:00pm in the boardroom.

EASTER LUNCH : on April 23rd. Please join us after the 10:30 Liturgy in the Parish Hall for an informal, light Easter lunch. This is an opportunity to introduce your new Parish Pastoral Council members and meet some new parishioners!

ART COMMITTEE MTG: on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00pm in the Knights room.

AIN'T YOUR BABA'S ZABAVA: on Friday, May 5th— Cinco de Mayo style! All young adults are encouraged to attend this fun filled night

AN EVENING WITH THE BISHOP: is being held in conjunction with ABVM here at St. Stephen's on Friday, June 9 (see ad for details).

THE 2017 UKIE STAMPEDE STOMP: is just around the corner—Saturday, June 24. Save the date and dust off your boots for another great even hosted by the Knights of Columbus (see ad for details).

KIDS SUMMER CAMP 2017 is coming up! Save the date for the week of July 10-14th. Registration details coming soon!

NEW INITIATIVE TO SAVE A BOY'S LIFE:

A coordinated group of nurses will be at St. Stephen's Church on Sunday April 23rd, 2017 after the 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm Divine Liturgies to do the swabbing. The process is a simple cheek swab. The age range we are looking for is 17-35.

The 8-year old boy Brady, has acute myeloid leukemia, a cancer of the blood. He is of Ukrainian Russian descent. His family is from one of the parishes in Edmonton where they have been doing similar stem cell drives to find a match to save his life. A match is very difficult due to ethnicity, so St. Stephen's has been asked to help out with the approval and guiding hand of his Excellency Bishop David.

For more information and to read the story of Brady, please follow the website...http://globalnews.ca/news/3301213/stem-cell-swabbing-for-cancer-stricken-edmonton-boy-so-successful-it-ran-out-of-kits/

Liturgical Help

TODAY
EPISTLE READERS
8:30 am— KoC
10:30am— KoC
5:00pm—KoC

HOSTS/USHERS 8:30am—KoC 10:30—KoC

ROSARY (10:00am): KoC
ARK STORE—Closed

ANN STONE CIOSES

8:30 am Myron & Larysa Gelleta 10:30am Donna Korchinkski 5:00pm Patricia Harasym

HOSTS/USHERS 8:30 am— Myron & Larysa Gelleta 10:30— Craig Pichach

ROSARY (10:00am): Bill Lewchuk

NEXT WEEK
EPISTLE READERS

ARK STORE - Dwulit

KNEELING

in our church was adopt-

ed by our Roman Catholic counterparts many centuries ago. It is a penitential posture often reserved for Great Lent — it is not a position of adoration but the position of a sinner seeking forgiveness. Standing is the proper position for giving praise and thanks to God in the spirit of joy, honor, thanksgiving and adoration. The Council of Nicea in 325 decreed that a person should not kneel for prayer during Sunday Divine Liturgies. As Christ was resurrected on a Sunday we are to stand during Divine Liturgy to glorify His resurrection. At the beginning of the Anaphora, the priest says, "Let us stand well, let us stand with fear; let us be attentive to offer in peace the holy oblation." Later he prays... "We thank you for this Liturgy... Even though there stand before You... tens of thousands of angels..." Standing is a reverential position. Therefore, like the angels, we stand in praise of God who comes to us by the power of the Holy Spirit (Epiclesis) under the appearance of bread and wine. The epiclesis (the invocation of the Holy Spirit) is such a sacred moment in the Divine Liturgy that there should be no movement during it. We are to stand upright in soul and body, being completely present to the Lord. - we pray as up right people (not fallen), saved people, free people, God's people



The Icon for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is technically the Icon of Christ's Descent into Hades, but is commonly called the Anastasis or Resurrection Icon. It is the visual Gospel, the Holy Scripture written in form and picture, for all to participate in the Good News of this event.

The Icon of Christ's Descent into Hades is not a photojournalists recording of what took place in the bowels of the earth, but rather a spiritual representation of the significance, reality and importance of what Christ accomplished. Many of the elements that we see come from the apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus and although the details vary from icon to icon, the essential elements remain the same: We read from The Acts of Pilate, from the text of Nicodemus "The bronze gates were broken in pieces and the bars of iron were snapped; and all the dead who were bound were loosed from their chains, and we with them. And the King of Glory entered like a man, and all the dark places of Hades were illumined..." Christ is shown standing on the gates of Hades which are suspended over a black hole in the form of a cross. Hades is depicted as a person, conquered and bound.

Sometimes Satan is depicted with two heads to show his multiplicity and lack of integration or personhood. The hardware that held the gates in place is shattered and scattered, showing that the gates will never be closed again.

Christ is dressed in a garment of white, orange or sometimes even dark hews of blue, or brown, but with gold highlights emanating light from His transfigured body, showing that He is the Light of the world. His cape flies to show that He is not ascending, going up, but actually descending into Hades, and having resurrected He is shown in His glory. This is signified by the blue Mandola behind Him, which we also see in the Transfiguration and in the icon of the Koimoiseis or Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary.

He is raising Adam from his tomb with Eve on the other side. Adam offers his hand to Christ rather than clasping Christ's hand to show that it is Christ who raises us from the dead. With His other hand, Christ raises Eve from her tomb, or He may be depicted holding a scroll in His hand, in order to proclaim the Good News to the captives. Sometimes He is shown holding a cross in His hand, the tool by which He broke apart the gates of Hell.

Christ's hands and feet show the marks of the nails, as is the case in the Icon of the Touching of Thomas, but which is not true of the Icon of the Ascension. Sometimes angels are shown above the mandola, (also known as the "glory orb"), holding the tools of

salvation: the cross, the lance and the sponge. These are elements that also appear in The Icon of The Extreme Humility of Christ. There are many figures surrounding Christ. On the left side in this icon we have 1) the kings David and Solomon who are Christ's relatives, according to the flesh; 2) St. John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament Prophets is also present, proclaiming in Hades as he did in this world "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Some say that John died before Christ so that he could be the "Forerunner" even in Hades; 3) Moses is also shown, wearing a Phrygian cap, he represents the first covenant and one who witnessed the first Passover; 4) and Abel, the first to suffer injustice as the consequences of sin; 5) In the background are various kings, prophets, and righteous men who immediately recognize the Risen One. On the right side we have the contemporaries of Christ showing us that this is an eternal act that transcends time and space.

This is the quintessential icon for the Orthodox faithful because in it is the fulfillment of God's purpose for humanity. It speaks of the Restoration of Adam (and all humanity) into communion with God and tells of the Awesome Victory over Death.



Easter Message from Patriarch Svatoslav

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life,
Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ
of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Like a yearling lamb, our blessed crown, Christ, was sacrificed of his own will for all, a Pasch of cleansing. And from his tomb he shines on us again, the splendid Sun of righteousness From Ode 4, Paschal Canon

Beloved in Christ!

Today throughout the whole Universe the joyful good news resounds with one voice: "Christ is risen!" In these words are found the power and profession of the central truth of the Christian faith. "Truly He is risen" is the response of those who believed in the resur-

rection of our Savior and in His victory over hell and death.

Our faith in the Risen One is our faith in that resurrection which we all can personally experience. Indeed, it is because of our faith that we become Christians, that is, partakers in the eternal life of our Divine Savior, who today emerges from the sealed tomb in glory. It is for this reason that St Paul the Apostle affirms: "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved (Rom 10:9-10). We celebrate an event to which the holy apostles bore witness. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit in our paschal services we can experience that which was experienced by the women myrrh-bearers at the tomb and by the apostles who personally encountered the risen Savior and were His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Today, on this light-filled feast, let us once again unite ourselves to Him and proclaim to Him in the words of the Apostle Thomas: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28).

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Like a yearling lamb, our blessed crown, Christ

Who is this Christ, whom we find risen from the grave? First of all, He is the incarnate God who conquered death and whom the gates of Hades could not contain. Our Paschal Matins service likens Jesus Christ to the paschal lamb, offered in sacrifice for the liberation and salvation of the chosen people. On that first paschal night, the death-bringing angel in Egypt passed by those whose house was marked by the blood of the paschal lamb, and then began the exodus of the chosen people from slavery to freedom. The risen Lord Jesus Christ is our true paschal Lamb, as St. John the Theologian attests when in the words of the Baptizer already at the beginning of the Gospel he bears witness to Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29). Indeed, He is the One, who this night with His light dispelled the darkness of the slavery of sin and leads behind Him all of us from death to life and from earth to heaven.

If in our Holy baptism we have mystically died and risen with Christ, if we partake of His Body and Blood, that is, if we consume the Pascha of the New Covenant, and are signed by the blood of Christ, then death bypasses us, "passes over," and the doors of heaven are opened before us. Each time we pray the Divine Liturgy we become partakers of the resurrection, that is, of that life which today shines upon us from the empty tomb. And this life of the Risen One is a blessed crown for us, children of God, a sign of our dignity and our vocation to be His witnesses in the world and proclaimers of His Gospel.

Was sacrificed of his own will for all, a Pasch of cleansing;

To celebrate the Christian Pascha for us today means to be capable to rise up and awaken to action by the power of the Risen One, that is, to be capable of personal paschal self-sacrifice for the good of one's people, their freedom, and a better future. Gazing at the faces of our Ukrainian soldiers-heroes, who gave up their lives for their people, we can rest assured that the Heavenly Father accepts their sacrifices in the name of His Son. Indeed, in them through the risen Christ we already have victory over evil and a healing of spiritual and bodily wounds.

To celebrate the Christian Pascha for us today means to carry the victory of life to where death rules. To sincerely confess that Christ is "truly risen" means to believe that through our personal commitment and effort it is truly possible to overcome corruption and untruth in our society, that the kind of country we will have depends, in fact, on us: will it die, a victim of the merciless powers of this world, or will it stand up, awaken, be renewed and arise to an authentic life worthy of a person created in the image of God.

Christ, who today breaks the chains of death and emerges from the tomb, is our exodus from slavery. He purifies us from sin, from addiction, from circumstances, temptations and manipulations of a small group, whose members consider themselves the stewards of this world. He cleanses us from all that imprisons us and takes away our life. He, the risen Lord, is our exodus from our historical circumstances: in Him we will find victory in the war and overcome those who instigate and support it. Christ is also our gateway, our door (see Jn 10:7, 9). He is our way, truth and life (see Jn 14:6). He grants us freedom for the fullness of life, of love of God and neighbor, of building our own future in our God-given land. In the light of Christ's resurrection let us not allow ourselves

to be fooled by empty words and false promises, nor by the helplessness of those who lack faith in the truth and justice of the Gospel, and who only complain about their own fate.

And from his tomb he shines on us again, the splendid Sun of righteousness

Difficulties and discomforts are the experience of every pilgrim on the paschal path. Let us not seek to avoid toil and personal sacrifice on this path to victory. We often are tempted to distance ourselves from the reality that surrounds us, shift responsibility on others, are quick to see evil rather than good, seek a "victim" upon which we might transfer all our burdens. We select for ourselves not a pure Lamb who calls us to personal participation in the victory over evil, but a scapegoat upon which we place all our sins, weaknesses, fears, our unwillingness to take upon ourselves responsibility for the fate of our people. We would like for someone to do everything for us, look for "someone" who will take our difficulties upon himself and who will pay the price for our welfare, so that our adversities might "pass over us" without our personal effort. We hear when people whisper: "Let others go and defend the Fatherland, but I want to feel secure. Let others change the county where I live for the better, as long as I myself don't have to change."

Christ, on the other hand, calls us to a different way of life. He rose from the dead in order to bring about a change in us, first of all, to move and raise me first, and through me everything and everyone in my surroundings. If I want a better society, country, world, then first of all I myself must become a better person. And the day of this great transformation, when our Sun rises, is indeed today! Today is our Great Day, our *Velykden!* Let us become great in our risen Savior. Christ has shone forth from the grace and is our Sun of righteousness. Enough complaining, it is time to act! The Sun is rising and new day is dawning. In the light of its rays we are given an opportunity today, this very day and time. Let us not waste it!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I greet you all with to-day's glorious feast of Christ's Resurrection, with the day of liberation from death and evil, and of the opening of the door to life, hope, and love. I wish you all the peace of Christ, that peace which is given us by Christ's victory over evil and untruth, that peace for which every Ukrainian heart longs in the midst of war. Once again to all of you, in Ukraine and throughout the world, I send my heartfelt greetings. I sincerely wish every Easter blessing, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! - Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2, 2017 A.D.