

OUR HOME AS OUR ‘LITTLE CHURCH’ ON THE ROAD TO PASCHA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst!

It goes without saying that this year’s journey to Pascha has been unprecedented.

To help us through these unusual times, the Church will celebrate these services in a limited number of locations with just a few servers present and will live-stream it so all of us can participate virtually. This is a real blessing – but we also know it lacks the sense of participation we experience by being physically present in services. We think there is a way that can help you and your family more actively participate in this year’s journey to Pascha – it is to turn our homes into the ‘little churches’ that the Fathers teach us they are. To help you in doing this, this letter provides you with some practical suggestions and guidance that will appear in a single, visible location on the OCA website. You may in fact discover fresh and meaningful dimensions of this journey you hadn’t experienced before. And next year, when we are all back to our familiar holy week and pascha, we may find ourselves saying “remember last year, when we did ___ at home, wouldn’t it be nice to continue that home practice in addition to our divine services in church.”

To help us on this path, we first provide some general suggestions and then follow up with specific suggestions for each day of Holy Week and Pascha.

What We Are Seeking to Capture in Our “Little Church” Activities

Our normal journey to Pascha is more than just a series of services, it is an epiphany providing us with: a sense of the sacred, a sense of direction, a strong sense of expectation, a rhythm with a sense of excellerating movement towards the Kingdom of heaven. We need to strive to capture these qualities as much as possible. The following are a few ideas:

Sense of the Sacred: Create a sacred space in your home such as your icon corner or the wall where you have most of your icons – that will become your little church. Free it of all clutter and distractions, place a little table or flat surface in front of it that can become your ‘altar’, place your finest cloth on the table, and then an icon, a candle, and a bible. If you have children, involve them in setting up this ‘little church’ and have them put in something special to them. This will be the special holy place where you and your family will gather for your Holy Week prayers. Keep it set up like this all week and use it only for prayers, not for anything else. Also, when you come to your ‘little church’ to pray, come reverently, come dressed appropriately for a church service, venerate the icon(s), and behave accordingly. Whenever possible, all family members should attend together.

Sense of Journey: All of Holy Week is a journey to an end: the final victory, the vanquishing of death! We begin with the foretaste of the defeat of death: the raising of Lazarus. We accompany Christ on His entrance into Jerusalem, are reminded in the Bridegroom services to be prepared for His coming, are there with Him at the Last Supper, His betrayal, trial and crucifixion and His Resurrection. We need to experience this sense of directed journey. We need at least a taste of

each of these services. We may also want to array the icons of each of these days in our little church, adding one each day so that we can see the progress of that journey. And, our children, may want to make their own mural of that journey – sort of a Paschal equivalent of an Advent Calendar – with Pascha the clear end goal and with blanks to be filled in by them on each day (see more on this below).

Strong Sense of Expectation: we are all longing for Pascha. We can't wait to hear the words "Christ is risen," to see the bright vestments and lights, and to feast! That earthly feast – and the expectation of that earthly feast – is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come. It's important that we keep preparing for that celebration. Work with your children to plan and prepare your special Paschal foods, to prepare Easter eggs and have an Easter egg hunt in your house or apartment and yard, to do some special activities that they are looking forward to on Pascha. That sense of longing and expectation and then celebration is a key part of our Paschal journey.

Rhythm: As stated above, this journey is not a series of services strung together – it has its own rhythm, which somehow, mystically, penetrates our souls and bodies. So try to 'keep' each of the days of Holy Week. We will be recommending two short activities (less than 30 minutes) for each day:

- A time of preparation: in which you can read about the day in advance and reflect on its themes; or, if you have children, discuss it with them (it's amazing what we can learn when we are explaining things to our children), and then the children can make something to fill in the blank in their Paschal calendar described above.
- A service time: this is the time when you gather with your family in your 'little church', say some introductory prayers, read the Scriptures if called for, sing or listen to the special hymn of the day (which we will provide).

To establish a sense of rhythm, try to hold these activities at the same time on each day – so that it becomes an expectation.

Suggestions for Each of the Days of Holy Week and Pascha

Notes for parents: The OCA's Department of Christian Education (DCE) has available some excellent study materials to be used in engaging children of various ages on their journey to Pascha. These can be found at <http://dce.oca.org/focus/pascha/>. Consider using some of those ideas as part of the preparation sections below.

Also, the Gospel readings are powerful and sometimes complex, so after reading the appointed lection you may want to take a few moments to explain the message in terms they can understand. And sometimes, we as adults even learn more about the Gospels when we explain and discuss them with our children.

Note for all: The 'services' described are simplified and shortened for use in the home. If you would like a more complete service, then download the Typica service from the OCA web page and use it with the hymns and readings for the day. Another good source for a more extended but still simplified set of services for home use on Great and Holy Thursday through Pascha can be found on Deacon Nicholas Denysenko's blog at: <https://www.praytellig.com/index.php/2020/04/06/holy-week-and-pascha-at-home-during-a-pandemic-part-2-outline-of-home-liturgies/>

As to the services themselves, what is given below are only guidelines, so modify them to meet your and your family's needs – and, if something is unclear 'don't worry about it', just use your best judgment as to what to do. If there are multiple people in your household, consider having each of them read a part of the service – it's amazing how much more the service means to you if you have an active role in lifting up the prayers. And as to the hymns, don't worry if you don't know the music, or are not gifted with a 'good voice' – just sing prayerfully, that's all God wants.

Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: Bridegroom Matins

On these three days, Christ and the Church calls us to be prepared for only those who are ready will enter His Kingdom.

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless

Preparation:

- Download the recordings and texts of the Troparion (“Behold the Bridegroom comes ...”) and Exapostilarion (“Thy Bridal Chamber I see adorned...), along with the icon and line drawings for these days from the OCA website
- Discuss the imagery in this hymn:
 - Who is the Bridegroom, the Bride? What is the Bridal Chamber?
 - What does it mean that the Bridegroom comes at midnight?
 - And what about the admonition: Beware, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep?
 - Why might one not be able to enter the bridal chamber?
- Read and discuss the Gospel for the appropriate day:
 - Monday evening: Mt. 22:15-23:39 (The Pharisees and Sadducees plot against Jesus)
 - Tuesday evening: Jn. 12: 17-50 (“Now what shall I say/ “Father, save me from this hour?” No, for this purpose I have come to this hour”)
 - Wednesday evening: Lk. 22: 1-39 (Last Supper and Judas’ betrayal)
- On each day, discuss what parts of the Gospel stood out most for you. Go back and reread it necessary. If you have children, try simplifying it and discuss it with them. The children color their icons and place them in the appropriate place in their Paschal calendar mural/timeline

Service

- Begin service as above: “Through the prayers of our holy fathers ... Trisagion prayers; Troparion (sing it 3 times); Wisdom, Reading from Holy Gospel
- Slowly, clearly and loudly read the Gospel: see above for the readings for Mon., Tues., Wed. evenings
- Sing/play the Exapostilarion (“Thy Bridal Chamber...”) 3x
- Say the prayer of St. Ephraim (O Lord and master of my life ...)
 - Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. O Lord God, the bridegroom of salvation, the hope of those who hymn thee, grant to us who pray to thee that we be found with lamps full of oil just like the wise virgins who received incorruptible crowns. Look down upon those adversely affected by this pandemic: give rest to the departed, health to the ill, support to the impoverished, and peace to the troubled. Assist those who are sacrificing themselves out of love for their neighbor, especially healthcare workers and providers of essential services, and our hierarchs and civil leaders. And vouchsafe that we may celebrate thy glorious Resurrection.
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- Then “Through the prayers of the holy fathers O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us.”

Great and Holy Thursday

There are two main services for the day and, if possible, it would be good to observe both. The first commemorates the institution of the Mystical Supper and the second the reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels.

Institution of the Mystical Supper

Preparation:

- Download, read, and discuss the composite Gospel (composed from several different Gospel sections) from <https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2020/04/16/7>
- Discuss our Lord's anointing by the woman with the alabaster flask, His Last Supper with the disciples, His betrayal by Judas, and His trial
- How did our Lord show and teach his disciples about love and humility?
- Was our Savior doing this voluntarily or was He a 'victim of circumstances'?
- Download the recording and text of the Communion Hymn ("Of Thy Mystical Supper ...") and the icon and line drawing for the Mystical Supper.
- Work with the children to look on the internet for icons of the events in the bullet above. Some wonderful icons can be found simply by googling "images of icons of _____".
- Then have the children construct a timeline of those events, maybe placing small copies of the icons along the timeline as a 'story board.'
- Help the children download a line drawing of an icon of the crucifixion and print it out, paste/tape it to something stiffer, so that they could use it for this evening's service.

Service:

- Begin service as above: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers ... Trisagion prayers; Troparion (sing it 3 times); Wisdom Reading from Holy Gospel
- Slowly, clearly and loudly read the composite Gospel
- Sing/play the Communion Hymn ("Of Thy Mystical Supper...") 3x
 - Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. O Lord Jesus Christ our God who hast shown us perfect humility in thine own condescension to washing the feet of thy disciples, saying, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." Grant us, we pray thee, to serve and love our brother. Raise up our minds from things lowly to the ineffable heights of thy humility. Look down upon those adversely affected by this pandemic: give rest to the departed, health to the ill, support to the impoverished, and peace to the troubled. Assist those who are sacrificing themselves out of love for their neighbor, especially healthcare workers and providers of essential services, and our hierarchs and civil leaders. And vouchsafe that we may celebrate thy glorious Resurrection.
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- Then "Through the prayers of the holy fathers O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us."
- Jesus washed His disciples feet to show and to teach His disciples humility and as an example that we are all called to serve others.
- Then have a festive meal at table, with wine and bread and Lenten foods. Each member of the family can serve the others. One can pour the water or wine in each glass, one can distribute the

bread, one can put on the plate of each a single item. At the end, each member could read Psalms 148-150 with the head of the household concluding the the small doxology.

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Matins: Reading of the Passion Gospels

Preparation:

- When done in church this service has 12 Gospel readings. For our simpler home service listed below, we would recommend just 2: Lk. 23:26-33 and Lk. 23:34-49. So download these, the recordings and texts for the selected hymns (Troparion, Antiphon XV and Exapostilarion), and icons and line drawings of the Mystical Supper.
- Read and discuss the Gospel and the texts of the hymns. Then practice singing the hymns, or singing along with the hymns, if you can.
- Have a cross – either one you have or you and your children have made to bring into during the evening service;

Service (lights down low)

- Begin service as above: “Through the prayers of our holy fathers ... Trisagion prayers.
- Sing, play, or read the Troparion (“When the glorious disciples...”) 3x
- Wisdom let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Lukes
- Slowly, clearly, and loudly read the Gospel, Lk. 23:26-33
- Slowly bring the cross into your ‘little church’ and place it in the center of the table
- Sing, play, or read Antiphon XV (“Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the tree ...”)
- Wisdom let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke
- Slowly, clearly, and loudly read the Gospel, Lk. 23:34-49
- Sing, play, or read the Exapostilarion “The wise thief didst Thou make worthy of paradise...”. All should kneel while this is being sung.
 - Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. Exalted and glorious, God of fathers and youths, thy voluntary shame has become our honor. Let us all boast in thy cross. We shall nail our hearts upon it in order that we may hang on it our instruments and sing to thee, Lord of the universe, from the odes of Zion. A ship from Tarshih once furnished gold to Solomon at just the right time, as it is written: thy cross gives us untold wealth daily and at time of the last judgment, for it leads us all again into paradise. And now at this time in which we all take up the cross of our world suffering under this pandemic, we beseech thee, look down upon those adversely affected by this pandemic: give rest to the departed, health to the ill, support to the impoverished, and peace to the troubled. Assist those who are sacrificing themselves out of love for their neighbor, especially healthcare workers and providers of essential services, and our hierarchs and civil leaders. And vouchsafe that we may celebrate thy glorious Resurrection.
- Then “Through the prayers of the holy fathers O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us.”

Great and Holy Friday

The major event for today is taking Christ down off the cross and placing Him in the tomb. This is when the shroud (winding sheet, plaschanitsa, epitaphios) is brought into the middle of the church.

Preparation

- Download the needed materials from the OCA site: the Gospel reading, recording and text of the Troparion and icon of the Crucifixion and line drawing of the shroud (Plaschanitsa).
- Read and discuss the Gospel reading
- Make your own shroud – or have your children make it. You can use images from the internet or the line drawing provided on OCA site.
- Discuss the significance of the words around the edge of the shroud.

Service (lights down low)

- Begin service as above: “Through the prayers of our holy fathers... Trisagion prayers.
- Wisdom! Let us attend! The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
- Slowly, clearly, and loudly read Matthew 27:1-61
- Sing, play, or read the Troparion (“The noble Joseph ...”)
- While the Troparion is being sung, someone slowly and solemnly brings in the shroud and places it on the center of the table.
 - Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. O Lord Jesus Christ our God, thou has become the son of Mary, O Son of God, our Savior and thou has been nailed to the cross, though thou art God incarnate, in order that thou might save those in affliction; take pity on sinners, since thou art powerful and good; grant slumber to all those who put their hope in thee. With the thief we cry out to thee as though we were on the cross, “remember us in thy kingdom.” Consider all of us worthy of thy choir of Saints, O Christ, since we have taken the seal of thy cross for unity in paradise. Look down upon those adversely affected by this pandemic: give rest to the departed, health to the ill, support to the impoverished, and peace to the troubled. Assist those who are sacrificing themselves out of love for their neighbor, especially healthcare workers and providers of essential services, and our hierarchs and civil leaders. And vouchsafe that we may celebrate thy glorious Resurrection.
- Then “Through the prayers of the holy fathers O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us.”
- Then each member of the family comes up one by one, crosses themselves and bows down before the shroud twice, venerates the shroud (kissing it), then crosses and bows down before the shroud one more time and then moves away from the shroud.

Great and Holy Saturday

In the morning: This is the day when Christ is in the tomb. The Church sees this as a day of rest. It is truly the seventh day. Our Lord has completed His work on earth: “It is finished” and now he rests.

Often, parishioners keep vigil over the body, peacefully reading psalms. The matins service of the day, also known as Lamentations, is focused on Psalm 119.

We recommend that after your family has their breakfast, you quietly come to your “little church”, venerate the shroud as the previous evening, and then take turns peacefully reading the psalms for a little while, children (Ps. 23) and adults (Ps. 119 and any others they might want to add). After you have read for a while (15-30 minutes) then venerate the shroud again and peacefully leave and go about your day. Try to stay focused on Christ in the tomb, His coming resurrection and peacefully go about your Pascha preparations – preparing the house and your food for tomorrow’s celebration. Avoid ‘worldly distractions’.

Saturday evening: typically Christ's Resurrection is proclaimed during the 'midnight' service. So start this service as late as practical for your family.

Preparation

- Download recordings and music for Irmos of Ode IX, the hymn "Thy Resurrection O Christ our Savior...", Christ is Risen, and the Paschal verses as well as an icon and line drawing of the Resurrection.
- If possible, learn the hymn "Thy Resurrection O Christ our Savior..." by heart so that you can sing it while processing through the house.

Service (keeping the house as dark as you can safely make it)

- Enter your 'little church' and venerate the shroud
- Begin service with: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers ... Trisagion prayers"
- Sing, play, read the Irmos to Ode IX (Do not lament me, O mother, seeing me in the tomb...)"
- Read the Trisagion prayers again.
- Have an adult take the (a) candle from the table and lead the family in procession through the whole house, with everyone singing the hymn "Thy resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing..."
- After you have process through the house, come back into the 'little church'. You or your family should turn on all the lights in the house, light as many candles as you can. Then the adult should say "**CHRIST IS RISEN!**" and the rest respond **INDEED HE IS RISEN!**, saying it three times. Then sing it thrice in whatever languages you prefer.
- Read the Paschal verses. One person reads the 1st verse, then all sing Christ is risen (1x), then read the 2nd verse, and again all sing Christ is risen (1x) and so forth. If multiple people in the household, you can alternate who reads the verses.
- Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. O thou art without beginning and without end, Creator and God of truth Who has put death to death and made man immortal. In the last hour, when thou dost come to resurrect me, for thou wilt come, my Savior, not as now from the tomb, but from the firmament of heaven. Then, seeing Thee, I rise up, O Lover of men, for loving Thee, I possess Thee. And though this earth is covered by the dark cloud of the pandemic, thou art the light of the world, enlighten us all that we may come through this trial glorifying forever thine honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
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- Then "Through the prayers of the holy fathers O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us."
- Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen! (3x)

SUNDAY PASCHA MORNING

Upon waking, wash up, say your morning prayers, turn all the lights in the house on, greet everyone in your household with Christ is risen and then assemble in your “little church”. The Paschal icon should be in the center of your table, standing (or lying) on top of the shroud. If you have any candles they all should be lit. The house, the ‘little church’, and our hearts should be filled with ‘the light of Christ’.

Preparation

- We are blessed at Pascha with some very beautiful hymns and with the Sermon of St. John Chrysostom. Download the following items and become familiar with them and their content before the start of the service:
 - Paschal Troparion (Christ is risen ...); Paschal Verses (Let God arise...), Hypakoe (“Before the dawn ...), Kontakion (Thou didst descend into the tomb ...), “The angel cried to the Lady full of grace ...”
 - Gospel reading (Jn. 1:1-17) and the Sermon of St. John Chrysostom
- If your tradition is to have an Easter basket, then prepare the basket, download the prayer for the blessing of baskets and have holy water available if you have it.

Service:

- Begin with “Through the prayers of our holy fathers.... Amen”
- Then all sing the Paschal Troparion “Christ is risen...” three times
- Then chant the Paschal verses, just as last night, alternating with singing “Christ is risen” (1x) in between each verse.
- Sing, play, read the Hypakoe (“Before the dawn, Mary and women...”)
- Sing, play, read the Kontakion (“Thou didst descend into the tomb, O immortal ...)
- Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! The reading is from the holy gospel according to John.
- Slowly, loudly and clearly read John 1:1-17
- Read the Sermon of St. John Chrysostom
- Sing, play, read: “The angel cried to the Lady full of grace ...”
- Then say: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. Almighty Everlasting God, Compassionate and Merciful, through the lifegiving death of thy beloved son that has annulled death and by his resurrection opened paradise and prepared the way to everlasting life. We beseech thee, illumine us with the light of thy all holy spirit that we may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. And grant us deep faith, certain hope and sincere love for our neighbor that we may live in piety and be accounted worthy of the immortal and blessed life with thee. And though this earth is covered by the dark cloud of the pandemic, thou art the light of the world, enlighten us all that we may come through this trial glorifying forever thine honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- Leader of the service says “Christ is risen!” , others respond “Indeed He is risen”. Do this 3 times.
- Then all sing Christ is risen 3x.

After the Service

- If you have prepared an 'Easter basket' then it is appropriate to bless it by reading the Prayer for the Blessing of Baskets out loud, then singing Christ is risen. If you have Holy Water, then sprinkle it on the basket as you are singing Christ is risen.
- Then set your dining table and begin your Paschal Feast. Before sitting down to eat, all sing the Paschal Troparion (Christ is risen...) 3x. Then enjoy the feast.
- Later in the day call your relatives and friends greeting them joyously with the Paschal greeting:
CHRIST IS RISEN!

APPENDIX 1 TRISAGION PRAYERS

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of
Blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us and
cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O
Good One!

Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
O Master, pardon our transgressions.
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities
for Thy Name's sake.
Lord have mercy! (3 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from the Evil One.

- **APPENDIX II: HIGHLIGHTS OF HOLY WEEK EXPLAINED FOR CHILDREN**

The highlights below are taken from the OCA's Department of Christian Education

Highlights of individual lessons in this unit (upper levels) include:

- **Lazarus Saturday: Jesus raises His friend from the dead.**
Mary and Martha plead with the Lord to come quickly to heal their brother Lazarus. Jesus delays his return until Lazarus is dead four days. Martha confesses her belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live..." Jesus has the power to raise the dead, and raises Lazarus. Jesus is the Resurrection and Life of all people.
- **Palm Sunday: Jesus Enters Jerusalem as a King!**
Jesus enters Jerusalem and is honored as a King. The children greet Jesus waving palms and branches, crying out "Hosanna!" The people shout their praises to Him: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" In our celebration of the feast, the palms we hold are a sign of our allegiance to Christ.
- **Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: Parables of the Bridegroom, Last Judgment and the "End"**
God has made us stewards of His world, to serve and care for it. He calls us to bear fruit by using the talents He has given us. Christ will come to judge the world, and He will come at Midnight, at an hour when we least expect Him. He will come as a Bridegroom, to take us, the Church, as His Bride. God calls us to be prepared, for only those who are ready will enter His Kingdom. The Bridegroom Matins.
- **Holy Thursday: The Supper, Anointing, and Betrayal of Christ**
A woman anoints Christ's feet with oil, as a sign of love, as well as a preparation for His burial. Jesus' enemies seek to kill Him and Judas agrees to betray his Master. Jesus shows the disciples how they must serve others, by washing the feet of His own disciples, and shares a Passover meal with them. He blesses bread and a cup of wine, saying "Do this in remembrance of Me." Jesus teaches the disciples about love, and promises to send them a Comforter, the Holy Spirit, after He is gone. The Mystical Supper
- **Holy Friday: The Trial and Crucifixion of Christ.**
Jesus takes the disciples to a place to pray and tells them that one of them shall betray Him and the others will deny Him and run away. Jesus is arrested and brought before the chief priests and scribes who sentence Him to death for equating Himself with God. He is brought before Pilate, the Roman governor, and then to Herod, to be sentenced to death and killed. Jesus is put to death on a Cross, along with two thieves. Mary, Jesus' mother, and the women followers who served Him stand by the Cross until the end. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take Jesus' body down from the Cross, prepare it for burial and lay Him in a new tomb. The Death & Burial of Christ.
- **Holy Saturday & Pascha: Descent into Hades & Resurrection**
Jesus died in order to give us new life! Through His death on the Cross, Jesus defeated the power of death. Having died as a man, Jesus descended to Hades, the place of death, to destroy death and bring life to those in the tombs. Jesus' Life was more powerful than death. At the moment of His death, the earth shook, the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints were raised. By His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus, who is the Christ-God, gives new life to all who believe in Him and do His will. Although we will die, we know that "death can no longer hold men captive," for when Christ comes again, all those in the tombs will be raised from the dead. Christ the Lord of all

will come to judge the living and the dead, and grant life eternal in the world to come, to all who believe in Him as King and as God. "Christ is Risen!"