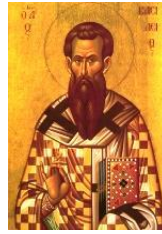


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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THE RESURRECTION

The changeable parts of our Sunday services in the Octoechos are concerned with Christ's resurrection. During the forty days of Pascha these resurrection hymns are not sung only on Sundays, but every day. On the five Sundays of the season, they are combined with the hymns of Pascha itself and the specific commemorations of the day.

The texts in each of the eight tones are different but they all speak of the paschal mystery. The examples cited here are all taken from the first and second tones, but the ideas which they express are representative of the other tones as well.

Some of these texts recall the events described in the Gospels: the sealed tomb, the stone rolled away, the angels' message to the women and the news they brought to the Apostles. Thus, we hear the following at Vespers on Saturday evening: "The myrrh-bearing women came with haste to Your tomb, with their myrrh and their lament. Not finding Your most pure body, they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder. They told the Apostles that the Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy."

At Matins on Sunday this is sung: "The soldiers keeping watch over your tomb fell down as dead, O Savior, at the lightning brightness of the angel who appeared and proclaimed the Resurrection to the women." We also hear this hymn in which the composer adds a striking image: "The women, coming early to Your tomb trembled at the sight of the angel. The tomb shone with life and this wonder struck them. And so going back to the disciples they proclaimed the Resurrection."

Meaning of the Resurrection: Every Saturday evening vespers includes thirteen resurrection hymns in addition to the familiar troparion. Over fifty others are prescribed for Sunday Matins. This arrangement gives ample scope for composers to add theology and poetry to their proclamation of this mystery.

The greatest effect of Christ's death and resurrection is that Death's power to separate us from God is now destroyed. Death now need not affect more than the body – our spirits can pass with Christ through bodily death to eternal life. The hymns of the Octoechos constantly sing of the annihilation of Death: "granting life, He has slain Death... He has resurrected Adam, as the Lover of mankind..." (Tone 1 vespers hymns).

"You have transformed the shadow of death into life eternal," we sing at matins (Tone 1), "breaking the chains of man's mortality... granting to the human race life eternal and great mercy..." "You raised up human nature, which was held captive and You enthroned it with Your Father in heaven..." (tone 2).

The New Testament introduces the concept that Christ descended into the depths "... *and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient*" (1 Pt 3:19, 20). The Octoechos echoes this teaching in many hymns: "...in Your power you descended into Hades and snatching, as from a mighty monster, the souls of those who awaited Your coming, You placed them in Paradise." "*Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death*" (Jas 1:15) and so the Octoechos often connects the resurrection to the defeat of sin. 'Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the cross and... has delivered us from our transgressions...' (tone 1 vespers).

Images of the Resurrection: Since this bestowal of eternal life is beyond our senses, the Church often uses images to describe it in a manner our senses can grasp. The destruction of Death's power is often depicted graphically. "O Christ, you put to shame him who held them in thrall and showed him naked and destitute by your Divine Rising" (tone 1). "O Christ the gates of Death opened before You in fear and the gatekeepers of Hades were filled with dread at the sight of You. You smashed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron. Then You burst our chains asunder and led us out from the darkness, away from the shadow of death" (tone 2).

(April2021Leaflets)

SUNDAY 2nd AFTER EASTER

Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18, 2021

PARISH SERVICES

Holy Liturgy: Monday-Friday 8:30AM

Holy Liturgy: Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM

Matins/Orthos: Sunday 9:00AM

Holy Confession: Monday 4-6PM

Vespers: Saturday 3:00PM

Holy Rosary: Sunday 10:30AM

HEALING PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayers needed for our friends MaryAnn Astour, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Jean Murad, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 17

† Eugene Hutchinson, By Cheryl Kopyt and Family

† Julia Nassimos, By Bruce & Sally Hodsoll

† John Gazzal, By Edward & Carmela Nassimos

† William Chanatry, By Janet Chanatry & Family

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 18

† Eugene Hutchinson, By Cheryl Kopyt and Family

† Julia Nassimos, By Bruce & Sally Hodsoll

† Abdallah Ghryeb, By the Hesham & Najwa Marji

† John Gazzal, By Keith & Kathy Williams

† William Chanatry, By Janet Chanatry & Family

NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 24

† Eugene Hutchinson, By Cheryl Kopyt and Family

† Julia Nassimos, By Bruce & Sally Hodsoll

† John Gazzal, By Edward & Carmela Nassimos

† William Chanatry, By Janet Chanatry & her Family

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 25

† Eugene Hutchinson, By Cheryl Kopyt and Family

† Julia Nassimos, By Bruce & Sally Hodsoll

† Abdallah Ghryeb, By the Hesham & Najwa Marji

† John Gazzal, By Dave & Pam Williams

† William Chanatry, By Janet Chanatry & Family

RECENT RECEIPTS

Weekly Collection April 10/11: \$ 604.00

Memorial Services: \$ 50.00

St. Pauly Textile: \$ 297.97