

The Forerunner

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HE MUST INCREASE.....AND I MUST DECREASE. (JOHN 3:30)

Fruits of the Resurrection of Christ

By: Bishop Alexander (Meliant)

"As all die in Adam, so in Christ shall all revive" (1 Cor. 15:22). These Apostolic words expound upon not only the physical resurrection of people, but, in the first place, upon spiritual rebirth. As death can be either physical or spiritual (when the soul loses divine grace), so resurrection can be either physical (when the soul returns to its body) or spiritual (when the soul acquires the grace of God). The spiritual death of Adam, coming from the loss of communication with God, preceded his physical death. Death, because of moral damage, has come from Adam to all mankind. The resurrection of Christ constitutes the beginning of our spiritual resurrection, the awakening of spiritual longing in us toward our moral rebirth.

Referring to this spiritual resurrection of believers our Lord said: *"Time is coming, and has already come,*

when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and having heard it — shall come to life" (John 5:25). This is that "first" resurrection which the Book of Revelations discloses (Rev. 20:5). It means that people, after believing in the Son of God, are reborn in the sacrament of Baptism and become able to lead a spiritual life. God's grace becomes active in them and helps them to attain perfection. That is why the Apostles consoled Christians, reminding them that they, as opposed to non-believing gentiles, have already resurrected with Christ (Col. 3:1).

Spiritual resurrection in this life shall serve as a foundation for the physical resurrection, which shall come through the power of God Almighty on the last day of this world. Thenceforth, the souls of all the dead shall return to their bodies, and all mankind will come to life, no matter where and how each person died. The Lord predicted the universal resurrection, saying: *"The time is coming, when all lying in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who did good shall go into the resurrection of life, and those who administered evil shall go into the resurrection of condemnation"* (John 5:28-29). On that day the appearance of each person will reflect his or her inner state: some of the resurrected will be bright and joyous, but others will appear hideous and awful as walking dead.

One should discern between the **universal** resurrection, which will happen at the end of the world, and the **particular resurrections**, which the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples performed during their lifetime. Several examples would be the resurrections of Jairus' daughter, the son of Nain's widow, the four-day-dead Lazarus, and so forth — all were cases of temporary awakening from death. As we know, some years later all those resurrected died again as all people do. However, at the time of universal resurrection, all people will rise up from the dead to live with their resurrected bodies forever. The resurrection of the dead on the last day of the world will be universal and



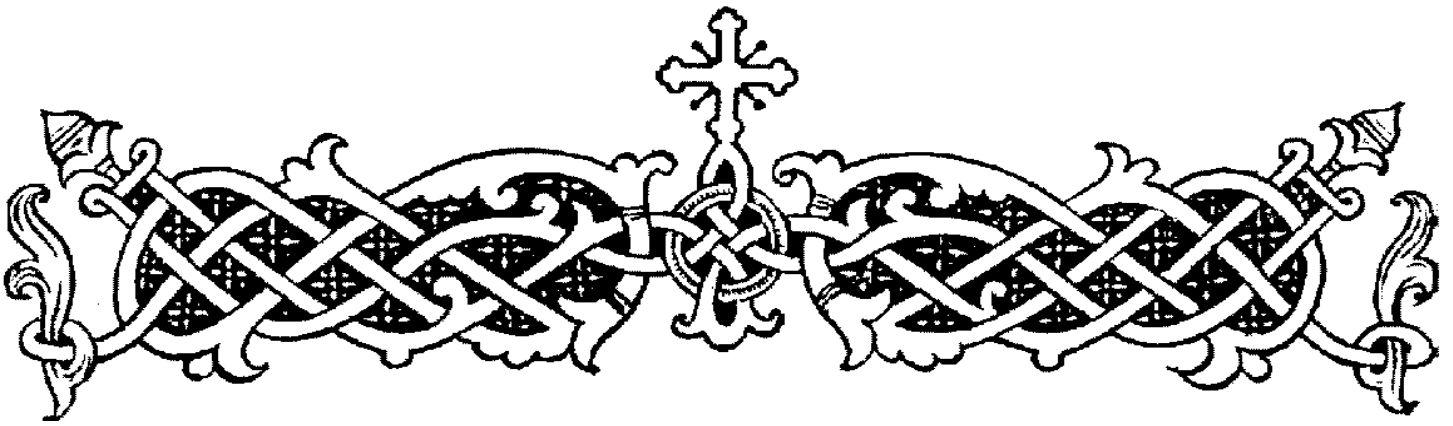
simultaneous, both for the righteous and for the sinners. Then all the dead *"shall come forth: they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation"* (John 5:29)

From the Scriptures one has to conclude that the appearance of the resurrected righteous will be different from that of resurrected

sinners. The resurrected bodies will be essentially the same ones that belonged to their souls in this early life. As the Apostle says: "*THIS corruptible must put on incorruption, and THIS mortal must put on immortality*" (1 Cor. 15:53). But at the same time, they will be transfigured. The bodies of the righteous will be incorrupt and immortal. They will be completely free from weakness and from the infirmities of the present life; they will be spiritual, heavenly, similar to the body of the resurrected Christ. Life after resurrection will be like the life of the angels. As for the sinners, their bodies also will rise in a new form, but while receiving an incorrupt and spiritual nature, at the same time they will express in themselves the condition of their souls.

The celebration of Easter is marked by Orthodox Christians so joyfully because during the Paschal days they feel, more than at any other time, the reviving power of Christ's resurrection, the power that has dethroned the prince of darkness, liberated souls from the abyss of hell, opened the doors to paradise, defeated the bonds of death, and poured new life into the souls of believers.

It is significant that during Easter the Paschal joy, to a greater or lesser extent, is felt by so many people — not only those of profound belief, but also those who are cool-spirited and aloof from God. On this day all creation rejoices at the victory of life over death.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Wednesday, April 1st – Presanctified Liturgy – 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 4th – Lazarus Saturday Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Sunday, April 5th – PALM SUNDAY

- **Festal Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Tuesday, April 7th – Bridegroom Matins – 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 9th – **HOLY THURSDAY**

- Vespereal Liturgy – 9:00 AM

- **Matins with 12 Passion Gospels – 6:00 PM**

Friday, April 10th – **HOLY FRIDAY**

- **Vespers with Burial Service – 3:00 PM**

- **Matins with Lamentations – 6:00 PM**

Saturday, April 11th – **HOLY SATURDAY**

- Vespereal Liturgy – 9:00 AM

PASCHAL SERVICES

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th – 10:30 PM

Monday, April 13th – Bright Monday Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, April 18th – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 19th – St. Thomas Sunday

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Grave Blessings

Greenwood – 2:00 PM

Union – 3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 22nd – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 25th

- Adult Education Class – 4:00 PM

- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, Apr. 26th - Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

Fr. Nikolai out of town Tues, Apr. 28th – Thurs. Apr. 30th

MAY

Saturday, May 2nd

- Adult Education Class – 4:00 PM

- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 3rd – Sunday of the Paralytic

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 6th – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 9th

- Adult Education Class – 4:00 PM
- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 10th – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 13th – Daily Vespers - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 16th

- Adult Education Class – 4:00 PM
- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 17th – Sunday of the Blind Man

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Monday, May 18th - Perogie Workshop

- **Morning – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
- **Evening – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Tuesday, May 19th – Perogie Workshop and Pickup

- Workshop – 8:00 AM – Done
- Pickup – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, May 21st – ASCENSION – Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, May 23th

- Adult Education Class – 4:00 PM
- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sun., May 24th - Sunday of Fathers of the 1st Council

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 28th – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 30th

- Memorial Liturgy – 9:00 AM
- Adult Education – 4:00 PM
- **Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, May 31st – PENTECOST SUNDAY

- **Festal Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
- **Kneeling Prayers – Immediately After Liturgy**

ALTAR CANDLES

Sunday, February 15th - donated by Valerie Kennedy for the health and well-being of Natashka Miller, on her 2nd birthday!

Sunday, February 22nd - donated in memory of all those who have lost their lives in the Russo-Ukrainian war in the Donbas.

3 Candles by at the Golgotha: were donated last week by Matushka Helen Ziatyk in memory of Xenia Krawchak.

Sunday, March 1st – were donated in memory of John and Theresa Klos

Saturday, March 7th – were donated by Fr. Paul and Matushka helen Ziatyk, in memory of Pauline Ziatyk

Sunday, March 8th – were donated by Barbara and Bob Haight for the health and well-being of Becky Hanes on her birthday.

3 Candles at St. Panteleimon – were donated by Dorothy and Donald Chlodney for the health and well-being of Michael Kremer on his birthday.

Wednesday, March 11th – were donated by Alexis Parshook for the health and well-being of Nikolas Parshook on his birthday.

Sunday, March 22nd - are donated for the health and well-being of Dylan Havaran and Miya Lauher on their Birthdays.

Sunday, March 29th – were donated in memory of the newly-departed Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko.

(Due to a technical Error, the record of some candle donations have been lost. If you donated candles, and do not see them listed, please let Fr. Nikolai know so he can add a correction to the next edition of the Forerunner.)

Falling Asleep

Anastasia Klimenko fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, February 28th.

George Labecki fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Marie Markovic fell asleep in the Lord, on Wednesday, March 4th.

Please remember to keep them all in your prayers. May God grant them rest where there is no more pain, nor sorrow, but life everlasting!

Perogie Making

The next Perogie workshop will be May 18th and 19th.

THANK YOU!

STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER

Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Leon and Ellie Parshook, Joan Hughes, Donald Rywak, Andrew Rusnak, Donald and Dorothy Chlodney, Bruce Parshook, Alexis Parshook, Bob and Barbara Haught, Valerie Kennedy, Mark and Susan Kennedy, and Debbie Bia

PEROGIES

Donald and Dorothy Chlodney, Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Leon and Ellie Parshook, Becky Hixson, Deacon Joseph and Matushka Catherine Rabickow, Donald Rywak, Evelyn Herrick, Kita Georgevich, Bruce Parshook, Alexis Parshook, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Harry Papaila, Janet Breckenridge, Mark and Susan Kennedy, Valerie Kennedy, Jean Trebilcock, and Alan Miller

ROLLS

Barbara Haught, Donald and Dorothy Chlodney, Fr. Nikolai, Kita Georgevich, Hope Cain, and Joan Hughes

VIGIL DONATIONS (12/7 – 3/15)

Alan Kennedy – 14

George Eror – 2

Nicholas Sprock – 1

Megan Kennedy – 1

Eror, Scott, Scarano, Sprock Families – 1

George Sprock – 2

Andy Kubiak – 1

Mary Eror – 1

Christine Cieslak – 2

Michael Wanchisen – 2

Eva Weremeychik – 1

Peter and Julia Wanchisen – 1

John and Theresa Klos – 1

Anna Sprock – 1

Paschal Donation

As is always the case, the Church relies on the donations of all those within her family to help fund her general operation. Please consider donating during this Paschal season using the attached envelope. May God bless preserve and keep you all!



CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!