

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West**

17840 Sky Park Circle, Irvine CA 92614 (949) 851-8933

Church Office Hours: M-F, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Website: [www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org)

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Dn. Nicholas Mamey, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Church Office Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

## **CHRIST IS RISEN**

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**APRIL 19, 2020**

**GREAT AND MOST HOLY PASCHA**

## DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Feast Tone 5:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Arabic: Al-ma-sih qam min bai-ni l-am-wat, wa-wa-ti-a l-mowt bil-mowt, wa-wa-ha-ba l-hayah, lil-la-dhi-na fi l-qu-bur (sung alternately with Psalm verses in between).

## THE PASCHAL ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel.

People: Save us O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Feast Tone 5:** (slow melody, in Greek, see p. 26 in the Pascha service book)

**The Hypakoe of Pascha Tone 4:** They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them, why seek ye him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for he is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

**Kontakion of Pascha Tone 8:** Down to the grave O thou wentest immortal Lord. Yet didst destroy the power of hades and art risen with vict'ry crowned, O Christ our true God; And hast hailed with glad greeting the women that came with myrrh; And unto thine Apostles hast graciously sent thy peace, O Lord that grantest the fallen to rise with thee.

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**“As many as have been baptized into Christ...” replaces “Holy God...,”**

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**Prokeimenon** (Ps. 117:24, 29) This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

## Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented

himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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

**Alleluia Verses Psalm 101:13, 19.** You O Lord, shall rise and have mercy on Zion. The Lord has looked upon the earth from heaven.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to 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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own, and his own received him not. But to children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. [John bore witness to him, and cried, "This is he of whom I said, 'he who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'"] And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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*After the gospel, the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom is read, followed by the singing of the saint's Apolytikion (Troparion).*

"The Angel cried unto the Lady..."replaces "It is truly meet..."

"Receive ye the body of Christ and taste and see him that is found deathless."  
replaces "Praise ye the Lord..."

“Christ is risen from the dead...” (Once, slowly) replaces “We have seen the true light...”

“Christ is risen from the dead...” (Three times, quickly) replaces “Blessed be the name of the Lord...”

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PLEASE NOTE: TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY for the Departed may not be said as a 9th day, 40th day, 6th month, or an anniversary memorial from Lazarus Saturday through Thomas Sunday. The only Trisagion Prayers of Mercy permitted during that period are those said for the faithful who pass from this life in these holy days. Thus the next Sunday at which the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy can be sung will be May 3.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today** for all those on the frontlines of the struggle against COVID-19, especially doctors, nurses and all healthcare professionals, researchers and, of course, for those who are seriously ill with this virus.

**Until further notice, both Coffee Hour and Church School are cancelled.**

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*After the exclamation of the Ektenia of Fervent Supplication, “For thou art a merciful God...” we add the following*

**Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:**

***O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.***

**Choir: Amen.**

*We then continue with the Second Litany of the Faithful.*

***Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Jamal El-Sayegh, Francois & Maureen Maatouk, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Paul***

*Qaqundah, Theresa Joubran, Paula Rodriguez and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted by violence and disease, especially those affected by the Coronavirus.*

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### **Good Samaritan Fund**

Several years ago, St. Mark Church established a fund for assisting those in need, both within our parish and in the general community. From time to time we ask for contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund, and this is one of those times. If you are in need of assistance or you are aware of someone in our parish that needs financial assistance, please speak with Fr. Michael.

#### Today

*Please remember that even in the midst of this difficult period, the expenses of the parish continue. It is important that we send in our donations and pledges via U.S. mail, or if you prefer to pay by credit card call the Church Office to set this up. We are working to keep our expenditures as low as possible until things return to a more normal state.*

**Sunday April 19, Agape Vespers of Pascha 1:00 p.m.**

#### This Week

**Monday April 20, the Church office is closed**

**April 25, St. Mark Day/Bright Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (Orthros 9:00 a.m.)**

#### Upcoming Services & Events

**The 57<sup>th</sup> Sweetheart Ball Saturday originally scheduled for April 25 has been postponed until Fall.**

**The 2020 Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Parish Life Conference, which was to be held in San Francisco July 1-5 is cancelled.**

#### **THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

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.

*The congregation loudly repeats the word "embittered" each time, as indicated.*

It was embittered, (**embittered!**) for it was abolished. It was embittered, (**embittered!**) for it was mocked. It was embittered, (**embittered!**) for it was slain. It was embittered, (**embittered!**) for it was overthrown. It was embittered (**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.

**The Orthodox Christian greeting of Pascha**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

**AL-MASSIH QAM!**

**HAKKAN QAM! (Arabic)**

**CHRISTOS ANESTI!**

**ALITHOS ANESTI! (Greek)**

**CHRISTOS A INVIAT!**

**ADEVERAT A INVIAT! (Romanian)**

**CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!**

**VOISTINU VOSKRESE! (Slavonic)**

**CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!**

**EN VERDAD HA RESUCITADO! (Spanish)**

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA

*Great and Holy Pascha 2020*

*Before the symbolical ark, David, God's forefather, did leap and dance.  
Let us, therefore, the holy people, seeing the fulfillment of these symbols,  
rejoice with divine rejoicing; for Christ the Almighty is risen.*

*Fourth Ode of the Paschal Canon*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!*

*Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Parish Council members and beloved faithful:*

*During this bright feast of Holy Pascha, let us not be cast down with thoughts of what we lack but filled with divine rejoicing at all that Christ the Almighty has bestowed on us. No longer do we need an Ark or a Temple to come into the presence of God for Christ has descended into Hades and risen from the dead, "that He might fill all things with Himself." No longer do we fear death for Christ is the "First-born from the dead" and "He shall be all things, the first in all things."*

*Beloved in Christ, although we have spent these days in physical distance from one another, let us nevertheless dance and leap for joy at the Resurrection of Christ unites each one of us to God, to one another, and to the inhabitants of the heavens.*

*With fervent prayers for a joyous feast of Pascha and a hastening of that day when we will gather together once again in our churches, I remain,*

*Yours in the Risen Lord,*

**+JOSEPH**

*Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America*

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

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