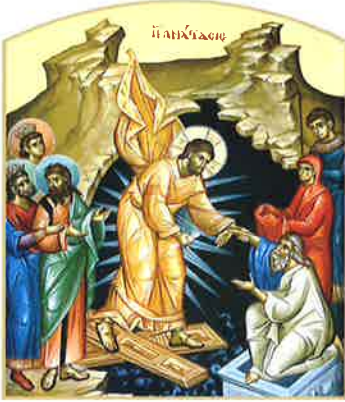


# Christ is Risen!

*"Death has been swallowed up  
in victory.*

*Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where O death is your sting?" 1Cor. 15:54-55*



Dear Parishioners,

The above quote is the climax of St. Paul's theology on the resurrection found in chapter 15 of his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul discourses on three themes of the resurrection. First, the resurrection of Jesus is real and true. Second, the resurrection is significant to all, and the third theme is the spiritual nature of the resurrection.

Upon Jesus' resurrection from the dead, He appeared to Peter and then the disciples and then He appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time. And finally Jesus appeared to St. Paul who considers himself the least of the apostles and unfit to even be called an apostle because he persecuted the Church. Thus, the fundamental Christian belief is that Jesus Christ truly has risen from the dead.

The second point of St. Paul's discourse on the resurrection is that the resurrection is not just for the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ but for everyone. "For if all die in Adam so all will be made alive in Christ." (1Cor15:22) Thus the purpose of the Christian baptism is to die unto Christ's death so that one may live unto Christ in His resurrection. For this reason it is important for all to adhere to the words of St. Paul when he says, "Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more." (1Cor15:34)

The third part to this great passage on the resurrection is the contrast between the physical and spiritual nature of the resurrection. The resurrection is not just a physical event of the body but connected to a spiritual event of the soul. One reads in the Gospels, to what depravity many of the disciples fell, when the Lord, Jesus died on the cross. All of them scattered. Peter, the leader and chief disciple, denied Jesus and then wept bitterly because of his denial. Judas betrayed Him. In the gospel of John, Mary stood weeping outside the empty tomb. All these images speak of the soul being discouraged, empty and lost. Many times this condition of the soul is brought upon by one's own sins or the sins of others. Yet, in the power of the resurrection, the bitter tears of Peter are changed into tears of joy, and Mary's despondency is resurrected into gladness and the discouraged disciples became courageous. Thus, St. Paul says, "So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power." (1Cor 15: 42-43)

As the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ approaches, may the power of the resurrection truly transform lives and bring joy, faith and love to you and your family!

In Christ's Ministry,

Fr. John K. Lardas  
Protopresbyter

# Truly He is Risen!