



73rd Year

April 20, 2025

Pamphlet #16 (3751)

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (Acts 1:1-8)

The Resurrected Lord

In the first book, O Theophilos, 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."

RESURRECTION: THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF GOD

We are already experiencing the all-joyful Pascal atmosphere and living the bliss of the Bright Day. However, we cannot make the grandeur and joy of the Resurrection our own

if we have not first felt the Divine Passion in all its depth. Otherwise, Pascha turns into a traditional, annual festive event, while in reality, it is the proof of the Divinity of Christ, the abolition of death, and an invitation to a new, regenerated life in Christ.

The Resurrection of the Lord is a phenomenon that cannot be approached with logic, nor can it be grasped through the senses. It is the greatest miracle of God, transcending the limits of human understanding and challenging our intellectual faculties. Those who, in the past, tried to approach it through reason, either ended up in disbelief or madness. The Resurrection can only be approached and experienced through the power of faith, which surpasses human limitations and enables us to ascend to spiritual realms that reason cannot interpret.

Martyrdom for faith in the Resurrection

Although the Resurrection of the Lord cannot be proven in a conventional or tangible way, it is nevertheless revealed through its fruits in the life of the world and the Church. The first fruit of the Resurrection is the martyrs, who gave their blood, sacrificed their lives, renounced wealth and human glory, all for the love of Jesus. Could it be that the multitude of Holy Martyrs were martyred for a lie? Could it be that, throughout more than twenty centuries of Church history, countless men and women sacrificed and martyred themselves for a deception?

If Christ were false, He would have been quickly forgotten. If the Resurrection of Christ were an invention of His close circle of disciples, it might have deceived a few naïve people at that time. However, because it is a unique and undeniable event, it continues to inspire and captivate Christians even today. In places where faith is persecuted, many do not hesitate to shed their blood for the risen Christ, emulating the example of the Holy Martyrs.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

The spread of Christian faith

The second fruit through which the Resurrection is revealed is the spread of faith. Throughout history, many religious teachings have appeared in the world. Many philosophical theories and worldly ideologies sought followers. However, none of these endured over time or took root in the hearts of people. They all faded and were forgotten with the death of their founders, because they were human and finite.

Faith in the risen Christ, however, was magnified and expanded through the crucifactory death of the Lord. It became a missionary banner to the ends of the world and continues its journey through history despite the relentless warfare waged by the enemies of the God-man. The perpetuation and spread of the Christian faith are not fruits of human power and abilities, but of the omnipotence of the crucified and resurrected Christ.

Preservation of faith in the Resurrection

There is also a third fruit of the Resurrection, which proves its truth: the preservation of faith, despite the failures and falls of the people within the Church. If our Church were a human creation, it would have vanished many centuries ago, under the weight of the weaknesses and inadequacies of a multitude of its members, who have wounded and continue to wound it to this day. However, the Church remains steadfast and solid, which means that behind the human persons stands the risen Christ, who supports His Church and illuminates its members with the light of His Resurrection.

Let us glorify God, my brethren, who has granted us the Holy Martyrs who proclaim from the depths of the ages and passionately testify, even to this day, that Christ is truly risen!

Archimandrite E. Oik.

TRULY HE IS RISEN!

April 20, 2025: SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA
"THE LIFE-GIVING RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST."

Theodorus the venerable of Trichinas; Athanasius, the venerable founder
of the Great Meteoron Monastery (†1310); Anastasius II of Antioch,
hieromartyr (7th century).

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 – Gospel: John 1:1-17

NEXT SUNDAY: April 27, Thomas Sunday
Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 – Gospel: John 20:19-31

PASCHA OF THE LORD, PASCHA

Pascha of the Lord, Pascha, and once again I will say Pascha, in honor of the Holy Trinity. This is the feast of feasts and the celebration of celebrations, surpassing all others – not only those that are human and coming from below, but even the feasts of Christ Himself and those performed in His honor, as the sun surpasses the stars [...].

Today, we celebrate this Resurrection, no longer as something we hope for, but as a reality that gathers the whole world to itself. Let everyone, therefore, offer as a fruit something different in this season and bring a festive gift, whether small or great, from those things that are spiritual and beloved by God, according to their ability. For a gift worthy of the feast could scarcely be achieved even by the angels – the first intelligent and pure ones, observers and witnesses of divine glory – even if they are capable of every form of hymnody.

Saint Gregory the Theologian

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