

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!



Christ is Risen ! Indeed, He is Risen!

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, April 5, 2026

“Easter Sunday”

Reflections for this Weekend

In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, we are presented with a profound revelation of the divine mystery: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). This is not just a statement about the beginning of time, but an invitation into the eternal relationship between the Father and the Son, the very essence of God's being.

The Word, **Logos** in Greek, is not just an idea or concept; it is **Personified**, and this is where the beauty of the mystery unfolds. The Logos is Christ Himself. From the very beginning, He was with God, and He *was* God. In this one truth, John unveils the greatest revelation: the Creator of all things, the one who spoke the universe into being, chose to enter His creation and dwell among us. The Word becomes flesh, making His dwelling among us (John 1:14). God, who has been beyond time and space, becomes tangible, touchable, walkable with humanity.

As we meditate on this passage, we are invited to pause and reflect: **What does it mean that the Word became flesh?** What does it mean that the infinite, all-powerful God chose to become one of us, to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ?

The Power of Presence: In our world, we often find ourselves searching for meaning, peace, or comfort in fleeting things. We look for answers in a world that feels chaotic and filled with uncertainty. Yet, in the person of Jesus, we are reminded that **God is not distant**.

He is present. He didn't just send a message from afar; He came close, close enough to share in our joys and sufferings. This is not a distant God who is out of touch with our daily lives but a God who experienced the full range of human emotion: love, sorrow, joy, pain, and even death. His presence is both a comfort and a challenge, for in His presence, we are called to reflect the light He has brought into the world.

The Light that Shines in the Darkness: John speaks of Jesus as the Light, "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). This light is not like any other light it does not fade or flicker. It is not dependent on circumstances. It **shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it** (John 1:5). The darkness of sin, fear, and despair is no match for the light of Christ. No matter how dark our world may seem, the light of Christ is always shining, always ready to guide us back to hope and truth.

This is a promise that echoes through the centuries. No matter where we are in life, no matter how lost we may feel at times, there is a light that never goes out. This light calls us to move out of darkness into the warmth of God's embrace. It invites us to live in the fullness of truth, to be filled with love, to walk in the light of His grace.

(continue to page 3)

(continue from page 2)

Grace Upon Grace: The opening chapter of John brings us into contact with the most beautiful truth of all: **God's grace is abundant and unending.** "From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another" (John 1:16). This is not a grace that is given sparingly or reluctantly; it is overflowing, a grace that keeps giving. It is the grace of salvation, the grace of forgiveness, the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is the grace that redeems, restores, and renews us. It is the grace that calls us, not because of our worthiness but because of God's boundless love for us.

In Christ, we see God's grace revealed in its fullest form. The law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). This is not just a doctrinal statement; it is a deep truth we are invited to live into. Christ is the fulfillment of the law, not by abolishing it, but by embodying it perfectly. He brings grace and truth into perfect harmony, offering us the chance to walk in both.

The Invitation to Behold His Glory: Finally, John reminds us that in Jesus, we have seen the glory of God "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). The glory of God is not always in the form of the spectacular or the awe-inspiring. It is found in the gentle touch, the compassionate heart, the sacrificial love of Christ. His glory is seen in His humble birth, His healing hands, His forgiveness, and His self-giving on the cross. This is the glory we are called to reflect in our own lives. As followers of Christ, we are invited to behold His glory and then to mirror that glory to the world around us. We are called not just to worship Him in awe, but to live lives that reveal His presence and His love to others.

John 1:1-17 is a profound invitation to encounter the Word made flesh. It is an invitation to come into the light, to receive the grace that is freely offered, and to behold the glory of God in Jesus Christ. As we reflect on these verses, we are reminded that the Word became flesh not just to dwell among us but to live within us. His life, death, and resurrection show us the path to eternal life, and His presence in our lives is the ultimate source of hope, peace, and transformation. Let us walk in the light of His Word, reflecting His grace and truth, and sharing His love with a world in desperate need of His presence.



A heartfelt welcome to all who have joined us today as visitors.

We greet you with joy in the name of the Risen Lord and pray that your time with us has been a moment of grace and renewal. Whether you are here for the first time or returning as a dear friend, your presence is a true blessing to our parish family.

We hope you felt the warmth of fellowship and the beauty of faith shared in love. Please know that you are always welcome here, and we look forward to seeing you again.

May your heart be filled with the deep and lasting joy that comes from knowing and believing:

Christ is Risen from the dead! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

The Courage to Let Go: Embracing the First Step of the Ladder – Renunciation of the World

The spiritual journey begins with a paradox: to truly gain, we must first learn to let go. In the first step of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, John Climacus invites us into this mystery through the call to renunciation of the world. This is not merely a physical departure from places or possessions, but a deeper, interior movement of the heart toward freedom in God.

Renunciation, in its truest sense, is an act of love. It is the quiet decision to place God above all else, not only above material things, but also above our own will, our preferences, and even our fears. It asks us to examine what we cling to for security or identity. What do we rely on instead of God? What do we fear losing? These attachments, even when good in themselves, can subtly take root in our hearts and hinder our ability to trust fully.

This first step is not about rejection of the world as evil, but about seeing it rightly. The world, with all its beauty, is a gift, but it is not our ultimate home. When we hold too tightly to what is temporary, we risk losing sight of what is eternal. Renunciation teaches us to hold everything with open hands, recognizing that all we have comes from God and is meant to lead us back to Him. There is also a profound humility in this step. To renounce is to admit that we cannot save ourselves, that our strength and security do not come from within or from what we possess. It is an act of surrender, a turning away from self-reliance toward complete dependence on God. In this surrender, something beautiful happens: the heart begins to lighten. The burdens we once carried, anxieties, expectations, the need to control, start to fall away.

Yet this step is not taken in a single moment. It unfolds gradually, often through small, hidden choices. Each time we choose patience over frustration, forgiveness over resentment, trust over fear, we are practicing renunciation. Each time we let go of the need to be right, to be praised, or to be in control, we take another step upward.

Christ Himself is the perfect model of this renunciation. He emptied Himself completely, embracing humility, poverty, and even suffering out of love.

(continue to page 5)

(continue from page 4)

And in doing so, He revealed that true life is found not in holding on, but in giving oneself away.

The first step, then, is both the beginning and the foundation of the entire spiritual ascent. It is the doorway to freedom, to peace, and to a deeper communion with God. As we begin, we may feel uncertain or even afraid. But God meets us in that very place, gently strengthening our resolve. Today, we are invited to ask: What is God asking me to release? And can I trust Him enough to let it go?

In that small act of surrender, the climb has already begun.



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.

Dear Parish Members and Friends,

Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес! May this joyful greeting fill your hearts with love, forgiveness, and goodwill in the name of our Resurrected Savior.

As we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, may His joy and peace shine in our homes, families, and lives. Let us embrace one another, forgive those who have wronged us, and open our hearts to His infinite mercy and blessings.

On this Holy Easter Day, I send you my heartfelt greetings and best wishes for good health, spiritual peace, and every good gift from our Risen Lord.

Христос воскрес! Воистину Воскрес!. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Fr. Hugo Soutus

Warm Easter Blessings

To all receiving this Bulletin from afar, though distance kept you from joining our celebration, you were remembered with love and prayer.

To those who are homebound, ill, or far away, know that you are united with us in spirit. The joy of the Resurrection reaches every heart, bringing peace, strength, and comfort. You belong to our community, and you are never forgotten. May the light of Christ's Resurrection shine upon you, filling your life with hope, joy, and abundant blessings.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Ukrainian Catholic Parish
Pastor
Very Rev. Hugo Soutus
Address:
3720 West Maryland Ave.
Phoenix, AZ. 85019

Rectory: (602) 973-3667
Parish: (602) 347-9267
Emergency:
602-329-3281

E-mail:
DMofGod@cox.net

Website:
www.Ukrainianchurch.org

Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, April 5

“Resurrection of our Lord” “Easter Sunday”

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

7:00 a.m. Prayers in front of the Holy Shroud.

Procession around the church — Resurrection Matins

**Note: Today the priest blesses Paschal foods following the Liturgy
And following by the Potluck Easter Community Breakfast**

Monday, April 6

“The Repose of Our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of Slavs”

Epistle: Acts 1:12-17, 21-26. Gospel: John 1:18-28.

6:00 pm In Loving memory of +Lew Wereminskuj and

In loving memory of +Nestor Pulypec from Soutus family

Tuesday, April 7

“Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene”

Epistle: Acts 2:14-21. Gospel: Luke 24:12-35.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, April 8

“The Holy Apostles Herodion and Those with Him”

Epistle: Acts 2:22-36. Gospel: John 1:35-51.

Thursday, April 9

“The Holy Martyr Eupsichius”

Epistle: Acts 2:38-43 Gospel: John 3:1-15.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, April 10

“Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompeius and Others with Them”

Epistle: Acts 3:1-8. Gospel: John 2:12-22.

Saturday, April 11

“The Holy Priest-Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamos in Asia”

Epistle: Acts 3:11-16 Gospel: John 3:22-33.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, April 12

“Thomas Sunday”

“Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parios”

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20. Gospel: John 20:19-31.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends
loving memory of +Maria Ryzdaj from Soutus family