

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!



Christ is Risen ! Indeed, He is Risen!

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, April 19, 2026

“Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women”

Reflections for this Weekend

In the sacred passage of Gospel of Mark (15:43–16:8), we are led from the stillness of death to the trembling dawn of Resurrection. The story begins in the shadow of the Cross, with Joseph of Arimathea stepping forward in courage to ask for the Body of Jesus. In a moment of grief and reverence, love does what fear could not: it dares to act. Even in the silence of apparent defeat, faith quietly prepares for hope.

The sealed tomb seems to declare the final word. A stone is rolled into place. Human expectation ends there. Yet God is already at work in what appears closed, final, and lifeless. This is one of the deepest mysteries of the Christian life: **what we experience as endings, God transforms into beginnings.**

Then comes the dawn of the first day.

The women approach the tomb carrying spices, still bound by sorrow, still expecting death. Their question is simple yet profound: “*Who will roll away the stone for us?*” This is the question of every human heart when faced with what feels immovable, grief, fear, sin, uncertainty. But when they arrive, they discover that the stone has already been rolled away.

God goes before us.

The young man in white speaks a word that changes history: “*He is not here. He is risen.*” The place of death is now empty, not because something was taken, but because something has been transformed. The absence of Christ in the tomb becomes the greatest presence the world has ever known. He is no longer confined to where they expected Him to be.

Yet the message does not end in awe alone. It becomes a mission: “*Go, tell His disciples and Peter.*” Even Peter, the one who denied Him, is specifically named. This is the mercy of the Resurrection: no failure is final, no betrayal is beyond restoration. Grace always calls us personally, even in our brokenness.

And yet the Gospel ends in silence: “*They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*”

(continue to page 3)

(continue from page 2)

This silence is not failure, it is the trembling threshold between encounter and proclamation. It is the moment when the Resurrection is real, but not yet fully lived out.

Here lies the challenge for us.

We, too, stand between the empty tomb and the world that still needs to hear the news. We, too, often carry fear even after encountering grace. But the invitation is clear: **do not remain in silence forever. What has been revealed must be shared. What has been received must become life.**

The Resurrection is not only an event to remember; it is a reality to embody. Every time we forgive, we proclaim it. Every time we rise after failure, we proclaim it. Every time we choose hope over despair, we roll back another stone. So the question becomes deeply personal: What stone still feels unmovable in my life? Where am I still standing in fear, even after hearing the words “He is risen”? The tomb is empty. Christ is alive. And now the silence must give way to witness. Go forth. Speak life. Live the Resurrection.

Christ is Risen ! Indeed, He is Risen!



From The Pastor's Desk!!!

With sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation, we extend our warm thanks to **Fr. Joseph Hutsko** for graciously accepting to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in substitution for Fr. Hugo, who traveled to Detroit to participate in the 60th Anniversary of the priestly ordination of Fr. Wayne.

Fr. Joseph, your willingness to serve, your pastoral care, and your generous spirit are a true blessing to our parish community. We are deeply grateful for your presence among us and for the reverence and devotion with which you lead us in prayer. May the Lord abundantly bless you with many more years of good health, deep joy, and spiritual strength. May He fill your heart with peace and grant you all that is good and pleasing in His sight.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers,

Christ is Risen!!!

Indeed He is Risen!!!

Christ is in our midst!

The Courage to Let Go: Embracing the Third Step of the Ladder – Exile from the World (Pilgrimage of the Heart)

In the third step of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, John Climacus leads the soul into a more hidden and demanding mystery: **exile from the world**. At first hearing, this may sound like a call to geographical separation, to leave behind places, people, and responsibilities. Yet in its deepest spiritual meaning, it is something far more interior and profound. It is the movement of the heart that no longer belongs to the world, even while still living within it.

Exile is the experience of becoming a **pilgrim of eternity**. The soul begins to sense that it is not fully at home in anything created. This is not sadness, but awakening. It is the quiet realization that every earthly attachment, even good and beautiful ones, cannot ultimately contain the fullness of the heart's desire. Only God can.

To live in exile is to carry within oneself a sacred tension: to love the world, yet not be possessed by it; to walk among people, yet remain inwardly anchored in God.

It is to live with a gentle detachment that is not cold or indifferent, but luminous and free. The heart begins to rest not in circumstances, but in the presence of Christ.

This step often brings a subtle loneliness, not the loneliness of abandonment, but the solitude of belonging elsewhere. The soul begins to feel like a stranger to the noise of distraction, to the endless pursuit of pleasure, recognition, and control. Yet in this very solitude, something extraordinary happens: the heart becomes capable of hearing God more clearly.

Exile is not a punishment; it is purification. God gently loosens the soul from what is temporary so that it may learn to desire what is eternal. In this process, illusions fall away. The soul begins to see more clearly the fragility of all that once seemed stable, and the emptiness of what once promised fulfillment apart from God.

Yet this step is not lived in isolation from love. On the contrary, it deepens love.

When the heart is no longer grasping, it becomes capable of loving without possession, serving without expectation, and giving without calculation. Exile purifies love until it becomes transparent, no longer centered on self, but rooted in God.

Christ Himself is the perfect image of this holy exile. "Foxes have holes... but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." He lived fully in the world, yet belonged entirely to

(continue to page 5)

(continue from page 4)

the Father. His entire life was a journey of divine mission, not attachment. Even His love was free, given without being bound, offered without condition, poured out even to the Cross.

To follow Him in this third step is to accept that we are not yet at home. It is to live with eyes lifted upward, even while our feet walk upon the earth. It is to carry within the heart a silent prayer: *Lord, You alone are my true dwelling place.*

And so the question gently arises: Where am I still seeking a permanent home in what is passing? What comforts am I clinging to as if they were eternal? And am I willing to become, in love, a pilgrim of God?

In this holy exile, the soul begins to discover a strange and beautiful truth: when everything earthly becomes provisional, God alone becomes enough. And in that “enough,” the heart finds its true home.



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.

Please remember, in your prayers, all our parish members who are in convalescent homes or are homebound because of illness.

If you would like to reserve a special date for a personal Liturgy or one for your loved ones, please contact the parish office to guarantee the date you would like.

Food for the thought:

Be gentle with others, because every person you meet is fighting battles you cannot see. A quiet heart, a patient word, and a simple act of kindness can become the light that helps someone keep going when life feels heavy.

We often look for meaning in great achievements, but life is most often changed in small, unnoticed moments, when someone feels heard, when someone is forgiven, when someone is simply treated with dignity and love.

Perhaps today, your greatest impact will not be in what you accomplish, but in how you make someone feel: seen, valued, and not alone.

So ask yourself gently:

What kindness can I offer today that may become someone’s quiet answer to prayer?

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 19

“Third Sunday of Pascha of the Myrrh-Bearing Women”

“Our Venerable Father John the Ancient Hermit”

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7. Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8.

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

Monday, April 20

“Our Venerable Father Theodore Trichinas”

Epistle: Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60. Gospel: John 4:46-54

Tuesday, April 21

“The Holy Priest-Martyr Januarius and Those with Him”

Epistle: Acts 8:5-17. Gospel: John 6:27-33.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, April 22

“Our Venerable Father Theodore of Syceum”

Epistle: Acts 8:18-25. Gospel: John 6:35-39.

Thursday, April 23

“The Holy Great Martyr George”

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11. Gospel: John 15:17-16:2

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, April 24

“The Holy Martyr Sabbas Stratelates”

Epistle: Acts 8:40-9:19. Gospel: John 6:48-54.

Saturday, April 25

“The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark”

Epistle: 1 Peter 5:6-14. Gospel: Mark 6:7-13.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, April 26

“Fourth Sunday of Pascha of the Paralytic”

“The Holy Priest-Martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasia”

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42. Gospel: John 5:1-15.

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