

EPISTLE 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."

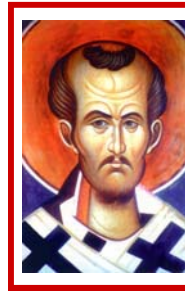
TODAY'S READER: ROBYN ANDRIS

GOSPEL John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Catherine Duble, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios



FROM THE PASCHAL SERMON OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of your Lord; Receive your reward, Both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival! You sober and you heedless, honour 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 Saviour'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 It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was 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 thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art 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.

ALLELUIA!



THE RESURRECTION: AN INFINITE OCEAN OF LIGHT!

In Christ, a man's life can always begin afresh, however burdened with sin. A man can always surrender his life to Christ, so that He may restore it to him, liberated and whole. And this work of Christ is valid for the entire assemblage of humanity, even beyond the visible limits of the Church. All faith in the triumph of life over death,



every presentiment of the Resurrection, are implicit belief in Christ: for only the power of Christ raises, and will raise, the dead. Since the victory of Christ over death, the Resurrection has become universal law for creation; and not only for humanity, but also for the beasts, the plants and the stones, for the whole cosmos in which each one of us is the head. We are baptized in the death of Christ, shrouded in water to rise again with Him. And for the soul lustrated in the baptismal waters of tears, and ablaze with the fire of the Holy Spirit, the Resurrection is not only hope but present reality. The parousia [the Second Coming of Christ - Ed.] begins in the souls of the saints, and St. Simeon the New Theologian can write: "For those who became children of the light and sons of the day to come, for those who always walk in the light, the Day of the Lord will never come, for they are already with God and in God." An infinite ocean of light flows from the risen body of the Lord. To Him be glory unto ages of ages! AMEN

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or “shut-ins,” so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

ORTHODOX INQUIRY

If you or anyone you may know are interested in embracing Holy Orthodoxy and being baptized or chrismated, please contact Fr. Dimitrios at 301-469-7990 or by email at FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

FIFTY PLUS CLUB A blessed Pascha to everyone! Our next meeting isd April 14th. Achilles Adamantiadis will speak on “Preserving the Environment and Protecting Our Health” The Spring festival is fast approaching and we need volunteers for Yia Yia’s Attic. Contact Maria Kopsidas at 301-493-5789.

ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL The annual St. George Spring Festival is fast approaching (April 30, May 1 and May 2). Many volunteers will be needed. Volunteers are also needed to work the festival. Please contact Catherine Sarlis in the Church Office (301-469-7990). Please give of your time to help us prepare for the festival!



Priest George

CONFESSING THE RISEN CHRIST: A LIVING WITNESS

(Priest George Calciu, former pastor of Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Alexandria, VA, was arrested in 1948 until 1964 by the communists in Romania, imprisoned for years and tortured in the cruelest ways — including attempted brain-washing. He died in November, 2006 as a “Living Martyr” The following is an account in his own words.)

“During Pascha of 1981, I was in the prison of Aiud. Early that morning, when the guards were changing shifts, I broke every diabolic rule of the prison by saying to the guard (one of the cruelest): “Christ is Risen!” He hesitated a few moments, in which, like lightning, I saw passing on his face the innocence of childhood, when his mama

or grandma led him by the hand to the Church. After this moment of hesitation, he softly answered me: “Truly, He is Risen!” It was for me the most assuring proof that I was never misled in this regard: the one who was torturing me was confessing the Resurrection of the Lord! I cried in silence with tears of joy.

Later, Colonel Priscaru came to try to prove to me there, behind the bars, in cold and hunger, that it was stupid to believe and affirm the Resurrection of Christ. “Did you see him?” he asked. “I did not see Him Mr. Colonel, but I believe in the Resurrection through the authority of those who saw Him Risen and confessed it: the apostles, disciples, the myrrh-bearing women, soldiers who lay as dead men, millions of martyrs who, in the moment of their martyric deaths, have had the vision of the Risen Christ.

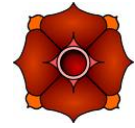
Christ has Risen in your heart even before I or someone else could tell you. And you knew this fact and confirmed it, the same as my guard, when you cried from the deepest unarguable conviction: “Truly, He is Risen!”

HOLY PASCHA THE FEAST OF FEASTS

APRIL 4, 2010



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN! As the Psalmist wrote: “*This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*” Christ is risen from the dead and we are slaves to death no more! Christ is risen from the dead and hopelessness and despair have no sway over us! Christ is risen from the dead, and life itself draws meaning from that One Eternal Life! Our brokenness is repaired, our woundedness is healed, we are lost no more — no matter what our feelings may tell us. Pascha is about HOPE against all odds. It is the story of persistence against the impossible. It is the proclamation of life’s victory over death and therefore our victory with Christ over sin. Rejoice today, for Christ is risen! Lift up your hearts today, for the Lord is truly risen! May the blessings of His rising come upon all of you, this day, and forevermore. AMEN! AMEN!



PASCHAL APOLYTIKION

“Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!”



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