

Epistle (*Resurrection*)

(Acts 5:12-20)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

“Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

Gospel (Resurrection)

(John 20:19-31)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, **“Peace *be* with you.”**

When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”**

And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.**

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **“Peace to you!”**

Then He said to Thomas, **“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”**

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, **“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”**

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

THE CATECHETICAL PASCHAL ADDRESS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(Edited by Anthony M. Coniaris)

If any be a devout lover of God, let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.

If any be a faithful servant, let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.

If any have wearied himself with fasting, let him now enjoy his reward.

If any have labored from the first hour, let him receive today his rightful due. If any have come after the third, let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness. If any have come after the sixth, let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near. If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let him not be afraid because he comes so late. For the master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh in the same way as to him who has labored from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.

Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord. First and last, receive alike your reward. Rich and poor, dance together. You who have fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice today. The table is fully laden; let all enjoy it. The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry.

Let none lament his poverty; for the universal Kingdom is revealed. Let none bewail his transgressions; for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the Savior has set us free.

He has destroyed death by undergoing death.

He has despoiled hell by descending into hell.

Hell was filled with bitterness when it met thee face to face below;

filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing;

filled with bitterness, for it was mocked;

filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown;

filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.

It received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O Death, where is thy sting? O hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art cast down.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

Announcements:

PASCHAL ALTAR CANDLES: The following Altar Candles were presented by the following:

In Memory of Grandparents:

Simon and Izza Joseph

Andy and Eva Malaga

by Toni & John Costella

In Memory of:

Jereme Joseph Dudzinski

by Mom & Dad

A Note from Parish Council: Due to an increase in the cost of candles, it has been decided to increase the minimal donation for the 6 day candles from \$3 to **\$4 beginning Sunday, May 1st (St. Thomas Sunday)**.

Fr. Stephan has received a couple of requests to start a Catechumen class. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Fr. Stephan.

Reminder: Please have the courtesy to inform others if you have potentially exposed them to Covid. It is still imperative that we remain vigilant to keep safe and healthy.

Please keep in your **PRAYERS** three of our diocesan priests who have been dealing with health issues during the past several months - Fr. Andrew Matychak, Igumen David Lewis, and Igumen Patrick Carpenter.