



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A parish of the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America

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Great and Holy Pascha

Epistle Reading : Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

Gospel Reading : John 1:1-17

Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium, Sergius II, Patriarch of Constantinople,
Anthousa the Righteous of Constantinople,
Akakios of Kavsokalyvia



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTETE U NGJALL!

With this joyful greeting, I wish you and your families a festive celebration of the bright resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ!

Today we, and in fact the entire universe, are invited to bask in the light and life which emanates from the empty tomb of the savior! The chains of sin and death have been shattered through the cross and resurrection and we, the faithful believers, are the inheritors of this most wonderful mystery! St. John Chrysostom makes this explicitly clear in his renowned paschal homily when he says;

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are 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!”

May God give us the grace realize these words in our lives today!

With love in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Mark

KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTETE U NGJALL!

Me këtë përshëndetje të gëzueshme, ju uroj juve dhe familjeve tuaja një festë festive të ringjalljes së ndritshme të Zotit, Perëndisë dhe Shpëtimtarit tonë Jezu Krisht!

Sot ne, dhe në fakt i gjithë universi, jemi të ftuar të shijojmë dritën dhe jetën që buron nga varri i zbrazët i shpëtimtarit! Zinxhirët e mëkatit dhe të vdekjes janë thyer nëpërmjet kryqit dhe ringjalljes dhe ne, besimtarët besnikë, jemi trashëgimtarë të këtij misteri kaq të mrekullueshëm! Shën Joan Gojëarti e bën këtë të qartë në predikimin e tij të njohur të Pashkëve kur thotë:

“Ku është gjembi yt, o Vdekje? Ku është mburrja jote, o Ferr? U ngjall Krishti dhe ti u hodhe poshtë. U ngjall Krishti dhe demonët ranë. U ngjall Krishti dhe gëzohen Engjëjt. U ngjall Krishti dhe jeta qytetërohet. U ngjall Krishti dhe asnjë i vdekur s’mbeti në varr. Se Krishti, duke u ngjallur së vdekurish, u tregua kulloshtra e të fjeturve! Atij është lavdia dhe fuqia në jetë të jetëve. Amin!”

Zoti na dhëntë hirësinë për t’i realizuar këto fjalë në jetën tonë sot!

Me dashuri në Krishtin e Ngjallur,

At Marku

PASCHA: THE RADIANT FEAST OF THE WORD

Truth is alive, and the tomb is empty! Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen! The Gospel of John rings out with the glorious news that the Light has come into the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it. This is the day of total victory, a celebration that our physical lives are now filled with the "uncreated energy" of God. Like Saint Mary Magdalene, the first to announce the Resurrection, and the Theotokos, who first beheld her risen Son, we are filled with an overflowing joy that cannot be contained!

Taking this light into our homes, we remember that the Word became flesh to seek out the poor, the migrant, and the lonely. Our icons are now windows into a Kingdom where every tear is wiped away and every outsider is welcomed home. Today, we don't just celebrate a story; we celebrate the Treasure of Life itself. Let us embrace one another with the kiss of peace, for Christ is risen, and life reigns!

