



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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<http://EntranceMission.org>

Holy Pascha: Christ is Risen! **April 18-19, 2020**

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Mourn not for me, Mother, as thou beholdest me in the grave; for I, thy Son, whom thou didst conceive in thy womb without seed shall rise and shall be glorified! And being God, I will ceaselessly exalt and ennoble those who in faith and longing magnify thee!

These words of the *Irmos* for the ninth ode of the canon during the Midnight Office are a deeply personal announcement of the Lord's resurrection from the dead.

We have been through a Holy Week like none other in our ten-year history as a congregation. The wondrous Divine Services of the week have all been held, but most of them without the presence of the congregation. We have had to take extreme precautions even when we were able to come to receive the Precious Body and Blood of the Master: masks, individual cups and spoons for Holy Communion, strict spacing of time so that there are no more than four of us in the temple at any time. Our Paschal Communion had to be taken on the morning of the Great Sabbath, the Divine Service at which we changed from dark to light, at which the icon of the Resurrection was brought out in the open. Different though this Holy Week was, Glory to God that we were yet able to come! Glory to God that we could pray the powerful prayers at home and read and/or hear the passion narrative of our Lord. As I write this, we would be getting our

baskets ready to bring to church, grabbing a last brief nap, washing and dressing for the excitement of the Feast of Feasts. But this year, even the Great Midnight Pascal Service will be different, just as Holy Week was different. This year, we will need to take the prayers, the announcements of our Lord's resurrection, the great joy that the Lord is risen into our hearts personally, and we must celebrate the joy of the death of death mystically, personally in our hearts.

This, Brothers and Sisters, is how the Paschal Joy should always be apprehended! Personally, mystically, within our hearts, within our minds, the sure and certain hope that our Lord will raise us from dead to be with Him eternally. Soon, Reader Anthony and I will chant the wonderful 6th tone Irmos in the dark of the altar at our church: *Mourn not for me Mother, as thou beholdest me in the grave; for, I, thy Son, whom thou didst conceive in thy womb without seed shall rise and shall be glorified!*. Each of you will be present with us in our hearts, and we will be present with you in your hearts to celebrate the Feast of Feasts!

Christ is risen! As St. Paul reminds us, it is the one sure hope, the one light that shines in the darkness! Because He lives, we shall live also! Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

- **Great and Holy Saturday**
 - [Paschal Matins \(PM\)](#)
- **Pascha**
 - [Divine Liturgy of Pascha](#)
 - [Propers for the Paschal Liturgy](#)
 - [The Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom](#)

Even on the Great Feast, especially on the Great Feast, remember all who suffer from the terrible COVID-19 virus. [Here is the hyperlink to the brief prayer service I have prepared for that purpose.](#) *May the Lord heal those who are ill, and may He receive the souls of those who have died, granting them mercy, peace, life and salvation.*

In Christ our true God,

Fr. Elias

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