

Pascha

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): “. . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39). Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is our taste, in this age, of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. Something of this new and unending day is conveyed to us in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day. Together they comprise the symbol of the new time in which the Church lives and toward which she ever draws the faithful, from one degree of glory to another.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Bright Week

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Readings

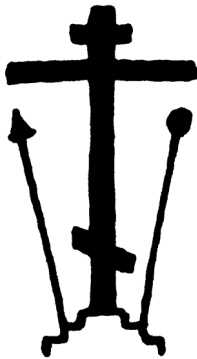
Epistle Acts 1:1-8
Gospel John 1:1-17

Tone 5 Troparia

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

Tone 8 Kontakion

Though Thou didst descend even into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of hades, and didst rise as victor; O Christ God, proclaiming to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice!" bestowing peace upon Thine apostles, and granting resurrection to the fallen.



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, May 2nd– Pascha

- 2:00 PM—Agape Vespers followed by Paschal feast

Monday, May 3rd– Bright Monday

- 6:30 PM—Paschal Vespers

Tuesday, May 4th– Holy Tuesday

- 6:30 AM—Divine Liturgy
- 6:30 PM—Paschal Vespers

Wednesday, May 5th– Bright Wednesday

Fast Free Week

- 6:30 PM—Paschal Vespers

Thursday, May 6th– Bright Thursday

- 8:00 AM—Divine Liturgy
- 6:30 PM—Paschal Vespers

Friday, May 7th– Bright Friday

Fast Free Week

- 10:00 AM—Divine Liturgy at St. Elizabeth in Poulsbo
- 6:30 PM—Paschal Vespers

Saturday, May 8th - Bright Saturday

- 8:00 AM—Divine Liturgy
- 6:30 PM—Great Vespers + Confessions