

CONFESSION: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Liturgy other days, by appointment
HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, any time
BAPTISM: by appointment
MARRIAGES: six months notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made
FUNERALS: by appointment

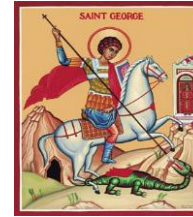
LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK: APRIL 16-APRIL 23

16 April EASTER SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Paschal Procession, Easter Matins Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Artos and Easter Baskets.
17 April BRIGHT MONDAY	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
23 April THOMAS SUNDAY PARISH FEAST DAY	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Distributing of the Artos

PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Savior, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

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**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ПАРАФІЯ СВЯТОГО ЮРІЯ
 NEW WESTMINSTER EPARCHY / НЬЮ-ВЕСТМІНСТЕРСЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ**

**2414 Vanier Dr, Prince George, BC V2N 1T7
 Parish Administered by: Rev. Iurii Tychenok**

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It is with great joy and happiness that we greet you with our sincere and cordial wishes during this Paschal Season!

May the Risen Lord grant you all, His Heavenly Graces, Health, Happiness, and Peace!

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY

СВЯТА І ВЕЛИКА НЕДІЛЯ ПАСХИ

Після того, як священник виголошує “Благословенне Царство” й люди відповідають “Амінь”, священники співають Тропар один раз, а люди його повторюють. Далі священники співають першу половину, а люди завершують другу. Так робимо щодня, аж до середи перед четвергом Вознесіння. Тропар: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (x3).

Антифон 1

Воскликніте Господеві, вся земле! Співайте ж імені його, віддайте славу хвалі його. * Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас. * Скажіте Богові: Як страшні діла твої, задля великої сили твоєї підleshуються тобі вороги твої * Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас. * Вся земля нехай поклониться тобі і співає тобі, нехай же співає імені твоєму, Всевишній. * Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові. І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Єдинородний Сину

Антифон 3

Нехай воскресне Бог і розбіжяться вороги його, і нехай тікають від лиця його ті, що ненавидять його * Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував. * Як іще зає дим, нехай іщезнуть, як тане віск від лиця вогню. * Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував. * Так нехай погинуть грішники від лиця Божого, а праведники нехай возвеселяться. * Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував.

Вхідне: В церквах благословіть Бога, Господа, ви – з джерел ізраїлевих.

Тропарі і Кондаки

Тропар: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував.

+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові. І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (глас 8): Хоч і у гріб зійшов ти, Безсмертний,* та адову зруйнував ти силу,* і воскрес еси як переможець, Христе Боже,* жінкам-мироносицям звістивши: Радуйтеся,* і твоїм апостолам мир даруєш,* падшим подаєш воскресіння.

Замість Трисвятого: Ви, що в Христа хрестилися, у Христа зодягнулися. Аلیلуя! (x3)

+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові. І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

У Христа зодягнулися. Аلیلуя!

Ви, що в Христа хрестилися, у Христа зодягнулися. Аلیلуя!

Прокімен (глас 8): Це день, що його створив Господь,* тож радіймо і веселімся в нім.

Стих: Сповідуйтеся Господеві, бо він благий, бо на віки милість його.

EASTER SUNDAY

After the priest has exclaimed, Blessed be the Kingdom... and the people have responded, Amen, the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half, and the people conclude it. Paschal Troparion Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life (x3).

First Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise. Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us. *Say unto God, “How awesome are Your works!* Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You.” Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us. *Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,* let it sing to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.

+Glorify... Now... Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face. *Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. *As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. *Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. *So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad. *Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Entrance: In the churches bless God, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

+Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One,* yet You destroyed the power of Hades;* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!* and giving peace to Your Apostles:* You, who grant resurrection to the fallen.

Instead of Holy God All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. You have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8 This is the day which the Lord has made,* let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Апостол: (Ді 1,1-8): Першу книгу я написав, о Теофіле, про все, що Ісус робив та що навчав від початку аж до дня, коли вознісся, давши Святим Духом накази апостолам, яких собі вибрав. Він показував їм себе також у численних доказах живим після своєї муки, з'являючись сорок день їм і розповідаючи про Боже Царство. Тоді ж саме, як споживав хліб-сіль із ними, він наказав їм Єрусалиму не кидати, але чекати обітниці Отця, що її ви від мене чули; бо Йоан хрестив водою, ви ж будете хрищені по кількох цих днях Святим Духом. Отож, зійшовшися, вони питали його: «Господи, чи цього часу знову відбудуєш Ізраїлеві царство?» Він відповів їм: «Не ваша справа знати час і пору, що їх Отець призначив у своїй владі. Та ви приймете силу Святого Духа, що на вас зійде, і будете моїми свідками в Єрусалимі, у всій Юдеї та Самарії й аж до краю землі.»

Алилуя (глас 4): Стих: Ти, воскресши, помилуєш Сіона.

Стих: Господь з неба на землю споглянув.

Євангеліє: (Ів 1,1-18): Споконвіку було Слово, і з Богом було Слово, і Слово було – Бог. З Богом було воно споконвіку. Ним постало все, і ніщо, що постало, не постало без нього. У ньому було життя, і життя було – світло людей. І світло світить у темряві, і не поїняла його темрява. Був чоловік, посланий Богом, ім'я йому – Йоан. Прийшов він свідком – свідчити світло, щоб усі з-за нього увірували. Не був він світло – був лише, щоб свідчити світло. Справжнє то було світло – те, що просвітлює кожную людину. Воно прийшло у цей світ. Було у світі, і світ ним виник – і світ не впізнав його. Прийшло до своїх, – а свої його не прийняли. Котрі ж прийняли його – тим дало право дітьми Божими стати, які а ім'я його вірують; які не з крові, ані з тілесного бажання, ані з волі людської, лише – від Бога народилися. І Слово стало тілом, і оселилося між нами, і ми славу його бачили – славу Єдинородного від Отця, благодаттю та істиною сповненого. Свідчить про нього Йоан, і проголошує, промовляючи: «Ось той, про кого я говорив: Той, що йде за мною, існував передо мною, був раніше за мене.» Від його повноти прийняли всі ми – благодать за благодать. Закон бо був даний від Мойсея, благодать же й істина прийшла через Ісуса Христа. Ніхто й ніколи Бога не бачив. Єдинородний Син, що в Отцевому лоні, – той об'явив.

Замість Достойно: Ангел сповіщав Благодатній: Чистая Діво, радуйся. І знову кажу: Радуйся. Твій Син воскрес тридневний із гробу, і мертвих воздвигнув він; люди, веселіться. * Світися, світися, новий Єрусалиме, слава бо Господня на тобі возсіяла. Радій нині і веселися, Сіоне. А ти, Чистая, красуйся, Богородице, востанням рождення твого.

Причасний: Тіло Христове прийміть, джерела безсмертного споживіть. Алилуя * алилуя * алилуя.

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Alleluia, Tone 4 verse: When you rise, You will have compassion on Sion.

Verse: The Lord looked down from heaven to earth to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free the sons of those put to death.

Gospel: John 1:1-17 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hymn to the Mother of God The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn Receive the Body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Замість Благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господне: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував.

Замість Ми бачили світло істинне: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував.

Замість Нехай сповняться: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (x3).

Замість Будь ім'я Господне: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (x3).

Під час відпусту “Христос воскрес” співається один раз (на просту мелодію) замість “Слава Отцю...” Тоді знову співається Тропар “Христос воскрес”, як і на початку Літургії, але з додатковим закінченням. Тропар: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (x3).

І нам дарував життя вічне, поклоняємось його тридневному воскресінню.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD grant many, happy and blessed years in good health and salvation to **Michael Lutz** on his birthdaj (April 11th), **Teresa Wichlach** on her birthday (April 12th), **James Hovitt** on his birthday (April 15th), **Sofia Flore** on her birthday (April 16th), **Stefania Starzyk** on her birthday (April 17th), **Miryam Obarianyuk** (April 18th), and to all our parishioners, their family members, our guests and visitors, and all the faithful who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – **Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2017 Saint George's Ukrainian Catholic Church Praznyk / Parish Feast Day. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **10:00 a.m.**

SILENT AUCTION We will be having a Silent Auction April 23rd at our Feast Day. Please donate something for the auction. Example: wine, glasses, knife set, mixing bowls... More information Roze Marie 250 564 3577, Carol 778 416 7280.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: OCTOBER 12 - 24, 2017 Walk in the footsteps of Jesus; an unforgettable experience with Fr, Joe Ostapowich, Sr. Angelica SSMI, brother & sister pilgrims. For details and price call Myrna Arychuk at [604 - 617 - 7200](tel:604-617-7200)

SUNDAY April 9th collection: \$ 481,00 CAD. **May God bless you all and all your families with many long years.**

SPECIAL PETITION We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Instead of “Blessed is He Who comes...” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of “We have seen the true light...” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of “May our mouths be filled...” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life (x3).

Instead of “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life (x3).

At the dismissal, instead of “Glory be to the Father...” we chant: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. **After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims “Christ is risen” (x3). and we respond “Truly, He is risen” each time. Then, the Troparion “Christ is risen” is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition:** And to us he has granted life eternal,* we bow down before his resurrection on the third day.

EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER VIBRANT PARISH APPEAL



“... We need your urgent and immediate support to guarantee the viability of our Eparchy for future generations of your children and grandchildren. We want to ensure the survival of pastoral services including the celebration of the sacraments in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition, such as Divine Liturgies, Baptism, Marriages, Funerals and the great Feasts, which means so much to us...”

+Ken (Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster)

WAYS TO GIVE

- CHEQUE

(Please make your cheques payable to the Eparchy of New Westminster)

- BEQUESTS

(You have the ability to leave a legacy that will commemorate your love of God by remembering the Eparchy in your will)

- GIFT OF PUBLICLY TRADED STOCK

(Please contact the Chancery office for further details on how to make a gift of stock)

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2017 Easter Pastoral Greetings of Bishop Ken Nowakowski



Chancery Office Eparchy of New Westminster

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Pascha is approaching - the defeat of sin and the end of death, Easter is coming, and with it a new life and rebirth. This is why St. Paul says: '...the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far-gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.' (Rom. 13: 11-12). May that light of Easter embrace our souls, not as a fleeting moment of happiness, but as rebirth and life granted by the power of God." (Ukrainian Catholic Confessor of the faith Patriarch Josyf Sliypj)

When Patriarch Josyf reflected on these words of St. Paul to the Romans he reveals the urgency that with which we must run to the empty tomb of Christ and receive the great news that Christ is Risen!

Each Easter morning in our Eastern Catholic parishes throughout the world our priests pronounce the famous Easter homily of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople and we hear the following timeless words:

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen and life is liberated!

So, dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ do not delay, do not prolong your sleep but run to the Cross, wash your sins away and sing joyfully today that our Lord Jesus Christ is not dead, but is Risen! Call your family send a message to your friends who need to know that you are witnessing to the Resurrection of our Lord.

"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life!" May Christ who dwells in our hearts, our families and in our vibrant parishes, give life to all. On this Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, I pray that God's love fills your heart and, through you, the hearts of all.

+Ken (Nowakowski)

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life,
Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church**

Christ is Risen!



*Like a yearling lamb, our blessed crown, Christ,
was sacrificed of his own will for all, a Pasch of cleansing.*

*And from his tomb he shines on us again, the splendid Sun of righteousness
From Ode 4, Paschal Canon*

Beloved in Christ!

Today throughout the whole Universe the joyful good news resounds with one voice: "Christ is risen!" In these words are found the power and profession of the central truth of the Christian faith. "Truly He is risen" is the response of those who believed in the resurrection of our Savior and in His victory over hell and death. Our faith in the Risen One is our faith in that resurrection which we all can personally experience. Indeed, it is because of our faith that we become Christians, that is, partakers in the eternal life of our Divine Savior, who today emerges from the sealed tomb in glory. It is for this reason that St Paul the Apostle affirms: "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved (Rom 10:9-10). We celebrate an event to which the holy apostles bore witness. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit in our paschal services we can experience that which was experienced by the women myrrh-bearers at the tomb and by the apostles who personally encountered the risen Savior and were His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Today, on this light-filled feast, let us once again unite ourselves to Him and proclaim to Him in the words of the Apostle Thomas: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28).

Like a yearling lamb, our blessed crown, Christ

Who is this Christ, whom we find risen from the grave? First of all, He is the incarnate God who conquered death and whom the gates of Hades could not contain. Our Paschal Matins service likens Jesus Christ to the paschal lamb, offered in sacrifice for the liberation and salvation of the chosen people. On that first paschal night, the death-bringing angel in Egypt passed by those whose house was marked by the blood of the paschal lamb, and then began the exodus of the chosen people from slavery to freedom. The risen Lord Jesus Christ is our true paschal Lamb, as St. John the Theologian attests when in the words of the Baptizer already at the beginning of the

Gospel he bears witness to Jesus: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn 1:29). Indeed, He is the One, who this night with His light dispelled the darkness of the slavery of sin and leads behind Him all of us from death to life and from earth to heaven.

If in our Holy baptism we have mystically died and risen with Christ, if we partake of His Body and Blood, that is, if we consume the Pascha of the New Covenant, and are signed by the blood of Christ, then death bypasses us, “passes over,” and the doors of heaven are opened before us. Each time we pray the Divine Liturgy we become partakers of the resurrection, that is, of that life which today shines upon us from the empty tomb. And this life of the Risen One is a blessed crown for us, children of God, a sign of our dignity and our vocation to be His witnesses in the world and proclaimers of His Gospel.

Was sacrificed of his own will for all, a Pasch of cleansing;

To celebrate the Christian Pascha for us today means to be capable to rise up and awaken to action by the power of the Risen One, that is, to be capable of personal paschal self-sacrifice for the good of one’s people, their freedom, and a better future. Gazing at the faces of our Ukrainian soldiers-heroes, who gave up their lives for their people, we can rest assured that the Heavenly Father accepts their sacrifices in the name of His Son. Indeed, in them through the risen Christ we already have victory over evil and a healing of spiritual and bodily wounds.

To celebrate the Christian Pascha for us today means to carry the victory of life to where death rules. To sincerely confess that Christ is “truly risen” means to believe that through our personal commitment and effort it is truly possible to overcome corruption and untruth in our society, that the kind of country we will have depends, in fact, on us: will it die, a victim of the merciless powers of this world, or will it stand up, awaken, be renewed and arise to an authentic life worthy of a person created in the image of God.

Christ, who today breaks the chains of death and emerges from the tomb, is our exodus from slavery. He purifies us from sin, from addiction, from circumstances, temptations and manipulations of a small group, whose members consider themselves the stewards of this world. He cleanses us from all that imprisons us and takes away our life. He, the risen Lord, is our exodus from our historical circumstances: in Him we will find victory in the war and overcome those who instigate and support it. Christ is also our gateway, our door (see Jn 10:7, 9). He is our way, truth and life (see Jn 14:6). He grants us freedom for the fullness of life, of love of God and neighbor, of building our own future in our God-given land. In the light of Christ’s resurrection let us not allow ourselves to be fooled by empty words and false promises, nor by the helplessness

of those who lack faith in the truth and justice of the Gospel, and who only complain about their own fate.

And from his tomb he shines on us again, the splendid Sun of righteousness

Difficulties and discomforts are the experience of every pilgrim on the paschal path. Let us not seek to avoid toil and personal sacrifice on this path to victory. We often are tempted to distance ourselves from the reality that surrounds us, shift responsibility on others, are quick to see evil rather than good, seek a “victim” upon which we might transfer all our burdens. We select for ourselves not a pure Lamb who calls us to personal participation in the victory over evil, but a scapegoat upon which we place all our sins, weaknesses, fears, our unwillingness to take upon ourselves responsibility for the fate of our people. We would like for someone to do everything for us, look for “someone” who will take our difficulties upon himself and who will pay the price for our welfare, so that our adversities might “pass over us” without our personal effort. We hear when people whisper: “Let others go and defend the Fatherland, but I want to feel secure. Let others change the county where I live for the better, as long as I myself don’t have to change.”

Christ, on the other hand, calls us to a different way of life. He rose from the dead in order to bring about a change in us, first of all, to move and raise me first, and through me everything and everyone in my surroundings. If I want a better society, country, world, then first of all I myself must become a better person. And the day of this great transformation, when our Sun rises, is indeed today! Today is our Great Day, our *Velykden!* Let us become great in our risen Savior. Christ has shone forth from the grace and is our Sun of righteousness. Enough complaining, it is time to act! The Sun is rising and new day is dawning. In the light of its rays we are given an opportunity today, this very day and time. Let us not waste it!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I greet you all with today’s glorious feast of Christ’s Resurrection, with the day of liberation from death and evil, and of the opening of the door to life, hope, and love. I wish you all the peace of Christ, that peace which is given us by Christ’s victory over evil and untruth, that peace for which every Ukrainian heart longs in the midst of war. Once again to all of you, in Ukraine and throughout the world, I send my heartfelt greetings. I sincerely wish every Easter blessing, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV