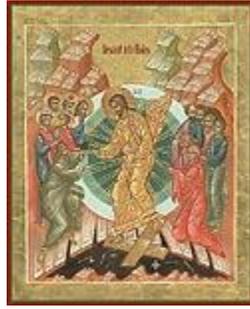


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.  
University of Mt. Union Library Building - Room KHIC 003  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)  
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
May 25, 2014 / 6th Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man/  
Third Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John  
Leave-taking of Pascha-observed  
**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**  
**Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>**



## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

*(After “Blessed is the Kingdom...” and “Amen.”:)*

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling down death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! *(once)*

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling down death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! *(twice)*

**Priest:** *v: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!*

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

**Priest:** *v: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!*

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

**Priest:** *v: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!*

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

**Priest:** *v: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

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

**Priest:** *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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

**The First Antiphon**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise! (Ps 65/66:1-2)

*Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!*

Say to God: "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You!" (Ps 65/66:3) (Refrain)

Let all the earth worship You and praise You! Let it praise Your name, O most High! (Ps 65/66:4) (Refrain)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Refrain)

**The Second Antiphon**

God be bountiful and bless us! Show the light of Your countenance upon us and have mercy on us! (Ps 65/66:1)

*Refrain: O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"*

That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations. (Ps 65/66:2) (Refrain)

Let the people give thanks to You, O God! Let all the people give thanks to You! (Ps 65/66:5) (Refrain)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God ... ")*

**The Third Antiphon**

*v: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!*

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

*v: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!  
Troparion: "Christ is risen from the dead ..."*

*v: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!  
Troparion: "Christ is risen from the dead ..."*

*v: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
Troparion: "Christ is risen from the dead ..."*

**Deacon:** Wisdom. Let us Attend!

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel.

O Son of God, who didst rise from the dead, save us, who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.  
(After the Entrance)

**Troparion** (Pascha)

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

**Tone 5 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 4 Troparion** (St John the Baptist)

Your head was revealed to us by Christ  
as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.  
We gather in honor of this discovery  
with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior//  
Who saves us from corruption through your prayers.

**Tone 4 Troparion St. Nikolai**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 4 Kontakion** (from the Pentecostarion)

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to You in repentance//  
“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

**Tone 8 Kontakion** (Pascha)

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,  
You destroyed the power of death.  
In victory You arose, O Christ God,  
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women//  
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!  
*v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*v. Look upon me and have mercy on me!*

v. Guide my steps according to Your word!

**Gospel:** John 9:1-38

*(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)*

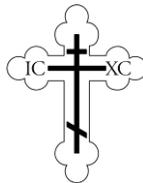
The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: 'Rejoice,  
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.'"

Rejoice, O ye people!  
Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.  
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
in the Resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Hymn**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Instead of "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord," we sing the troparion "Christ is risen ..."  
(once). Instead of "We have seen the True Light" and "Let our mouths be filled ...," we sing "Christ is risen  
..." (once each). Instead of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord," we sing "Christ is risen ..." (thrice). Instead of  
"Glory to You, O Christ our God...", " the priest sings: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by  
death," and the choir concludes: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life." The priest gives the Dismissal,  
and after the singing of "Christ is risen" (thrice), we finish with: "And unto us He has given eternal life. Let  
us worship His Resurrection on the third day!")*



**Great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.** Because of our limited access to our summer chapel in the Library building at Mt. Union, we are unable to have weekday Liturgy for major feasts during the summer months. Hence, Evening Liturgy for Ascension will be this **Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 pm.** celebrated at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1118 Cherry Ave. NE. Canton. Father Michael has invited our Mission Choir to sing responses.

**Leave-taking of Pascha**

This week we leave behind using the greeting "Christ is risen!" While most Feasts have their Leave-taking on the eighth day, Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, has its Leave-taking on the thirty-ninth day. The fortieth day is the Feast of the Lord's Ascension, which marks the end of the Lord's physical presence on earth. He does not abandon us, however. He has promised to be with us always, even until the end of the age (Matt. 20:28). As we sing in the Kontakion for Ascension, *"Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you."*

The services for Leave-taking are celebrated just as on the day of Pascha itself. The daily readings from Holy Scripture, of course, will differ. After the Dismissal at Liturgy, the paschal hymns are no longer sung.

### **The Ascension of our Lord**

Ascension is this Thursday, with the festal Liturgy celebrated Wednesday evening. This is a critical part of our salvation, and contains within it many important dogmatic truths that can only be understood if they are experienced. The major part of this experience is the living of the life in Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but our learning must also begin with and continually involve the worship of the church, as we are always like the Ethiopian eunuch, who told the Apostle Philip that he could not understand the scriptures unless he had someone to explain them to him. The explanation, at the highest level, that we have access to is the holy services, when we stand, and sing or listen with attention and expectation.

We can gauge our understanding of Orthodox Christian teachings and practices by examining over time our attendance and participation in the divine services, especially for the Great Feasts of our Lord and His Virgin Mother.

We only have one opportunity to stand and pray about the Ascension this year with the entire church, triumphant and militant (in heaven and on earth). There is enlightenment awaiting us, and divine change that we can experience.

We live in perilous and difficult times, and we should bear these burdens together. No matter what else we do, we need to pray together.

### **PRAYERS are requested for:**

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been diagnosed with heart problems.

Nell Janik and her husband, George.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

Coffee Hour this Sunday will be provided by Jaga Radosevic.

We need coffee hour hosts. Coffee Hour for the summer needs to be very simple (i.e. coffee, donuts, juice) due to facility constrictions. Any leftovers will need to go home with the host. No one has signed up for June 1 – please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

P.O. Box 193

Maximo, Ohio 44650

email: [stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com](mailto:stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com)

website: [www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com](http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com)