



St. Michael Youth Program

April 2016

Journey to the Empty Tomb at Pascha* [PAAS-kah]

Home Discussion

* The word Pascha [PAAS-kah] is the Aramaic word for Passover. It is the Christian Feast of Christ's Holy Resurrection: Our celebration of Christ's victory in passing through Death to Resurrected Life by way of the Cross.

During Great and Holy Week (April 25-29) review Jesus' final days before His Crucifixion and Death beginning with washing His disciples feet following the Passover meal. Read: John 13. What lesson was Jesus teaching the disciples by washing their feet?

God's love and His forgiveness of our sins is demonstrated to us by His Crucifixion and celebrated on Holy Pascha in the joy of His Resurrection.

Memory Verse

[Jesus said] "I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
(John 11:25-26)

Hymn of Raising Lazarus

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ our God. Wherefore, we like children carry the banner of triumph and victory and we cry to Thee: O Conquerer of death, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who cometh in the Name of the Lord!

Calendar

April 3 - The Veneration of the Holy Cross (Mid-Lent); We begin our journey to Christ's empty tomb by following Him to the Cross and learn what it means to "take up our cross." [Mark 8:34-38; 9:1]

April 10 - Commemorating St. John Climacus; Jesus tells his disciples that He will be betrayed by sinful men killed and will rise after three days. [Mark 9:17-31]

April 17 - Commemorating St. Mary of Egypt; Jesus teaches his disciples that one becomes great by being a servant [Mark 10:32-45]

April 23 - Lazarus Saturday; Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead [John 11:1-45]

April 24 - Palm Sunday [John 12:1-18]

April 25-29 - Great and Holy Week: On the evening of Holy Wednesday (April 27) we receive the anointing of Holy Oil - The Sacrament Healing (Unction). On Holy Thursday we participate in the Sacrament of the Last Supper and witness Jesus crucified on the Cross. On Holy Friday we witness Jesus taken down from the Cross by the Pious Joseph, then venerate and pray at His Tomb.

April 30 - Great and Holy Saturday; Jesus descends into Hades and frees all who were held captive by death as we prepare for His Holy Resurrection!

Activity

Remember to continue following the Food for the Hungry offering calendar and plan to turn in your collection at the end of Great Lent.

Learn how to weave a cross from palms on Lazarus Saturday (April 23) and participate in the Palm Sunday procession (April 24) as we remember Jesus' entrance into the City of Jerusalem.

Plan to attend and participate in finding the "empty egg" at our Easter Egg Hunt following the "Agape Vespers" service on Sunday, May 1st.

Special Events

Lazarus Saturday - At the Liturgy we will learn about our offering of the Bread with prayers. We will also learn how to weave palms into crosses for Palm Sunday.

Great and Holy Friday - A Teen All-night Vigil will begin following the Service of Lamentations with readings beginning at 9 p.m.

Holy Pascha (Sunday, May 1) - Church School Easter Egg Hunt; we search to find the "empty egg" with the message: "Christ is risen!"