

ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

HOLY SATURDAY LATE NIGHT

THE PREPARATION SERVICE – THE CANON OF CRUCIFIXION

April 18, 11:00 p.m.

This service is called the *Pannychis* and relates once again for us to hear all that transpired for our Lord, prior to His Resurrection. It prepares us spiritually, mentally and physically to herald in, in song and prayer His Glorious Bodily Resurrection.

THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA **– MIDNIGHT SERVICE**

Sunday, April 19, midnight on Saturday night

THE RESURRECTION SERVICE AND DIVINE LITURGY

Pascha, the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, is without a doubt, the greatest mystery that mankind has ever witnessed. Ponder the thought: Christ, Who is GOD, DIED; and came back to LIFE! Truly a mind-boggling thought! Nevertheless, this is precisely what we celebrate! The passage of LIFE from the state of

PHYSICAL DEATH to the state of PHYSICAL LIFE. The word PASCHA, which is Jewish, means PASSAGE or CROSS-OVER. Hence, the more proper term for the Feast is PASCHA.

Exactly at Midnight, Fr. George exits from the Altar bearing a lighted Paschal Candle, chanting the hymn:

“Come, receive the Light from Christ our everlasting light, and glorify Him Who is risen from the dead.”

At this point the faithful receive Light from the unending Light of Christ. This signifies our own resurrection and restoration taking us from sin to life.

Following the reading narrating the Empty Tomb, we all join in joyously singing and praying the triumphal Hymn of the Resurrection:

“Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, bestowing life.”

The Resurrection Divine Liturgy is offered and prayed and at the end we receive our Red Paschal Egg as a symbol declaring the Resurrection of our Lord.

Many Faithful take the lighted candle home with them along with a vigil light to keep for seven days. Yet others will take it home and try to keep it lit for forty days, until the Ascension of our Lord into the heavens. And others will take it home, and re-light the pilot light of their stove knowing this flame which prepares meals for them is the Light of Christ and knowing this, they offer a prayer.

The traditional “*Mayiritsa*” or “lamb soup” will be offered immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to join us for this brief Paschal family meal.

Following the service and fellowship, we wind our way home, some carrying the lighted vigil light, where we shall share this love we have with one another

THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA – LATE MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, April 19, 11:00 a.m.

THE GREAT VESPERS OF AGAPE

The Vespers Service of *Agape, Love*, is celebrated for it was out of great love that God sent His Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It was out of love for humankind, that Jesus Christ preached this message of love and fellowship. It was out of love that Jesus Christ accepted to be crucified and resurrected for our salvation. This is the emphasis of this day.

The Gospel is read in many languages to indicate it was for the whole world that Jesus Christ was Resurrected. *The Gospel will be proclaimed in the following languages tomorrow:*

(Front of Altar)

1. Greek
5. English
9. Arabic

(Tomb of Christ)

4. French
8. Romanian
12. Polish

(Choir)

2. Italian
6. Latin
10. Spanish

(Baptismal Font)

3. German
7. Russian
11. Bulgarian

At the end, we once again, hear the joyful exchange of the PASCHAL GREETING, which we say for forty days:

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!
“CHRIST IS RISEN!” “HE IS RISEN, INDEED!”

PASCHA GLENDI (AFTER AGAPE VESPERS)

April 19, 12:30 p.m.

BRIGHT WEEK – SUNDAY, April 19 – Saturday, April 25

This week is known as BRIGHT WEEK, because we celebrate the fact that the “unending light” of the Resurrected Lord permeates and reconstitutes the whole of creation. Everything is sparkling bright, because Death is no more. To help us capture the festive mood of this event, the Church suspends all Fasting during this week.

WEEKDAY FEASTS

EVE OF FEAST OF SAINT GEORGE

April 22, Orthros – 6:00 p.m.;

Divine Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Community Dinner (Bring Food)

FEAST OF LIFE-GIVING FOUNT

April 24, Orthros – 6:00 p.m.;

Divine Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Community Dinner (Bring Food)

Metropolis Pascha Picnic

Diakonia Center – Salem, South Carolina
Saturday, April 25th, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Don't forget next Sunday, April 26:

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Sun. of St. Thomas)

10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes

11:30 a.m. GOYA Meeting

4:00 p.m. Family Fun Cookout (Miles' House)