

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

CHRIST IS RISEN! Today we celebrate the joy of Pascha! Let the flowers of spring exhale their sweetest fragrance for this a day of happiness. On Good Friday, Christ was crucified and died on the Cross. Sadness and inexpressible grief hovered in the air. But today we no longer see before us a suffering Christ, but a glorious Christ.

It was in a small rocky tomb, in Joseph's garden, that our Lord revealed His divine power. He proved by His glorious Resurrection that He was greater than man. Man knows that he cannot, by his own power, rise from the dead. This is the great triumph of Christ, trampling down death with death. Truly, the Lord is Risen and has slain death. This is why Pascha is the greatest event on the liturgical calendar.

By His glorious Resurrection, Christ has completed the work of salvation. He has confirmed our Holy Faith, for as St. Paul tells us: *"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty."* (1 Cor. 15:14). Pascha fulfills our hope in Christ's teaching and promises. We should give thanks for his blessed evidence of our Christian faith. No wonder we sing with great joy the words of David: *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad therein."* That is because the crucifixion has been displaced by the Resurrection.