

*A Coptic icon of the Ascension of Christ into Heaven*

**The Thirteenth Annual  
Roman & Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christian  
Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity**

*That they may all be one as You, Father are in Me and I in You.  
- (John 17:20)*

**St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church  
Irvine, CA**

**Friday, May 31, 2019 7PM**

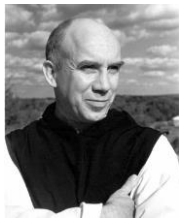
***Orthodox and Catholics Together/Orange County OCTOC.org***

## *The Uniting of the Churches of East and West*



It is legitimate to affirm that the gap between the Catholic and Orthodox Church is not very wide. We have almost everything in common. It seems to me, in fact, that the question we must ask ourselves is not so much whether we can re-establish full communion, but rather whether we still have the right to remain separated. The sin of our separation is very serious. May the Lord open our hearts, convert our minds and inspire in us concrete, courageous steps, capable if necessary of breaking through clichés, easy resignation or stalemate. The deepest nature of the Church demands it.

- *St. John Paul II (1920-2005)*



If I can unite in myself, in my own spiritual life, the thought of the East and the West, of the Greek and Latin Fathers, I will create in myself a reunion of the divided Church and from that unity in myself can come the exterior and visible unity of the Church. For if we want to bring about the unity of East and West, we cannot do it by imposing one upon the other. We must contain both in ourselves and transcend them both in Christ.

- *Father Thomas Merton (1915-1968)*



The whole teaching of the Latin Fathers may be found in the East, just as the whole teaching of the Greek Fathers may be found in the West. Rome has given St. Jerome to Palestine. The East has given St. John Cassian to the West and holds in special veneration that most Roman of the Romans, Pope St. Gregory the Great. St. Basil the Great would have acknowledged St. Benedict of Nursia as his brother and heir. St. Macrina would have found her sister in St. Scholastica. St. Alexis, the "Man of God," the "poor man under the stairs," has been succeeded by the wandering beggar St. Benedict Labre. St. Nicholas would have felt as very near to him the burning charity of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent de Paul. St. Seraphim of Sarov would have seen the desert blossoming under Father Charles de Foucauld's feet and would have called St. Therese of Lisieux "my joy."

- *Father Lev Gillet (1893-1980)*  
*(who wrote under the pseudonym "A Monk of the Eastern Church")*

# *Mission Statement for the Ecumenical Prayer Service at Pentecost*

*(Approved on January 27, 2008)*

*Lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another in love, in all humility, gentleness and patience. Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God who is the Father of all, above all, through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-5)*

The mission of the Ecumenical Service of Prayer for the Christian Unity at Pentecost is to foster a deeper sense of prayer and work for unity among Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Christians by invoking the Holy Spirit to guide us towards that unity which we all confess in the Creed and which Christ prayed for His disciples in the Gospel of John (17:21-23): *May all of them be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You; may they also be one in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me that they may be one as We are one. I in them and You in Me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.*

***Orthodox and Catholics Together/Orange County OCTOC.org***



*Irma Contreras, Program Director*

## *Special Acknowledgements*

Mrs. Dorothea Love	Ecumenical Representative, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Mr. Robert Pipta	Chanter, Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church
Antoinette Miraflor	Music Director, St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church
Mrs. Genie Martin	Paschal Choir Director, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Mr. Larry Orque, Jr.	Music Director, Holy Rosary Filipino Chamber Chorale

***In memory of Professor Charles Frazee (1929-2019)***

***May the Lord Jesus grant him a place among the righteous in His Kingdom!***

Featuring the Choirs of St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church;  
Holy Rosary Filipino Chamber Chorale; The Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church;  
St. Paul's Assyrian Church of the East; St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church;  
and the Coptic Orthodox Youth Singers

The volunteers of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church.

## *Participating Churches*

*St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church (Irvine) -2007 & 2019 Host*

*St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church (Irvine) —2008 Host*

*Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church (Santa Ana)  
—2006 & 2010 Host*

*Mission Basílica San Juan Capistrano-2011 Host*

*The Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church (Anaheim) -  
2012 & 2018 Host*

*Our Lady Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church (Newport Beach)  
- 2013 Host*

*St. Luke's Antiochian Orthodox Church (Garden Grove) - 2014 Host*

*Christ Cathedral, Diocese of Orange - 2015 Host*

*St. Pope Kerollos VI Coptic Orthodox Church (Westminster) - 2016 Host*

*St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church (Laguna Hills) - 2017 Host*

*St. Paul's Assyrian Church of the East (Anaheim)*

*Holy Cross Melkite Catholic Church (Placentia)*

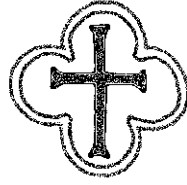
*Holy 40 Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church (Santa Ana)*

*St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church (Laguna Beach)*

*St. Mary & St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church (Yorba Linda)*

*St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church (Anaheim)*





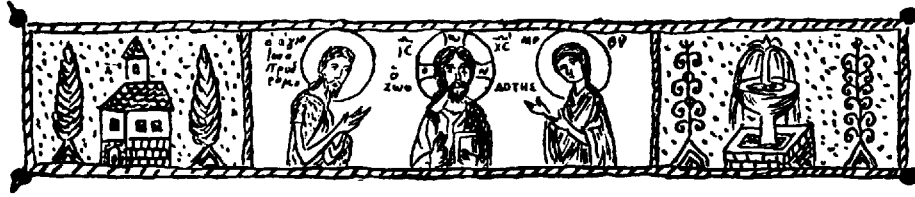
## *Participating Priests*

*(in alphabetical order)*

Fr. Al Baca	Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange
Fr. Karekin Bedourian	Pastor of Holy 40 Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church
Fr. Francois Beyrouti	Pastor of Holy Cross Melkite Catholic Church
Fr. Joseph W. Boules	Senior Priest of St. Mary & St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Kerry Beaulieu	Pastor <i>Emeritus</i> of Our Lady Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church
Fr. Richard Delahunty	Pastor <i>Emeritus</i> of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church
Fr. Ashur Elkhoury	Pastor of St. Paul Assyrian Church of the East
Fr. Andrew Hanna	Parish Priest of St. Mary & St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Mark Hanna	Parish Priest of Holy Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Youhanna Ibrahim	Parish Priest of Holy Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Felimon Mikhail	Senior Priest of Holy Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. John Monestero	Member of the Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Commission for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, St. Justin Martyr Church
Fr. Eamon O'Gorman	Pastor <i>Emeritus</i> of St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church
Fr. Athanasius Ragheb	Senior Priest of St. Pope Kerollos VI Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Anthony Selim	Parish Priest of St. Pope Kerollos VI Coptic Orthodox Church
Fr. Michael Tassos	Pastor of St. Luke's Antiochian Orthodox Church
Fr. Quan Tran	Episcopal Vicar of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange
Fr. Steven Tsichlis	Pastor of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Fr. Stephen Washko	Pastor of the Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church
Fr. Hrant Yaretzian	Archpriest of the Armenian Apostolic Church







## *The Procession and Entrance*

### *The Great Doxology: A Trinitarian Hymn of Praise*

*(Sung by the choir of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church)*

#### *The congregation stands*

Glory to You who has shown us the light! Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, good will among all! We sing our hymns of praise to You; we bless, we worship, and glorify You; we give our thanks to You, our God, for Your magnificent glory. Lord, King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty, Lord, the only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit.

Lord, God, the Lamb of God, Son of the Father Who takes away the worldly sins, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world. You Who are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer and have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God, the Father, Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and praise Your name forever, and to the ages of ages. Grant, O Lord, that on this day, we may be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers: forever Your name be praised, and glorified, Amen. Lord, let Your mercy come upon us, for we have placed all our hope in You.

Blessed are You O Lord, teach me Your commandments. *(3x)*

From generation to generation, O Lord, You have been our refuge. I said, Lord, have mercy on me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Lord, unto You I have fled; Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the source of Life and in Your light, we shall see light. Extend Your loving kindness to those who know You.

Holy is God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages, Amen. Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy is God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

This is the day of resurrection, let us be radiant in the festival, let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers even those who hate us and forgive all things in the resurrection. And therefore let us proclaim: **Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life!**

*The congregation is seated*

## Welcome from the Host Pastor

Father Steven Tsichlis  
(St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church)

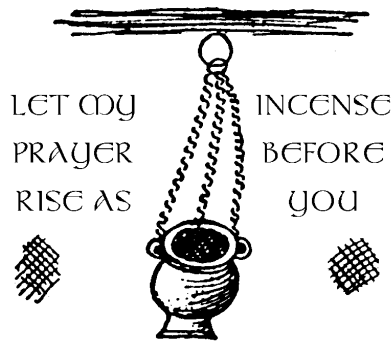


## The Lord's Prayer

*(The congregation is invited to stand and pray the Lord's Prayer together)*

Our Father who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come;  
Thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory  
both now and forever and to the Ages of Ages.  
AMEN!





*The congregation stands*

## **The Raising and Offering of Incense**

*(Led by the clergy of the Coptic Orthodox Church)*

**Priest:** (ESH-LEEL) Let us pray!

**Deacon:** (E-PI EPROSEVKI ES-TATHEETE) Stand up for prayer!

**Priest:** (EE-REE-NEE-PASI) Peace be with you all.

**People:** (KE TO PNEVMATI SOO) And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Beneficent and Merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. For He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Himself, spared us, supported us, and has brought us to this hour. Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the *Pantocrator*, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

**Deacon:** (PROS-EVEK-SASTI) Let us pray.

**People:** (KI-RI-E E-LE-EESON) Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Master, Lord; God the *Pantokrator*, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. We thank You for everything, concerning everything, and in everything. For You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Yourself, spared us, supported us, and have brought us to this hour.

**Deacon:** Pray that God may have mercy and compassion on us, hear us, help us and accept the supplications and prayers of His saints for that which is good on our behalf at all times. And forgive us our sins.

**People:** (KI-RI-E E-LE-EESON) Lord, have mercy.



**Priest:** Therefore, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of Mankind, grant us to complete this holy day and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the council of wicked men and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, take them away from us. And from all Your people. And from this, Your holy place. But those things which are good and profitable provide for us, for it is You who has given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is of one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

**THE VERSES OF THE CYMBALS**  
*(Coptic Orthodox Youth Singers)*

Christ our God is risen from the dead and He is the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep!

Hail to His Resurrection: He who has risen from the dead in order to save us from our sins!

Then He was placed in the tomb according to the prophetic voices and on the third day Christ is risen from the dead!

Hail to Michael the great Archangel, the announcer of salvation, of the Resurrection!

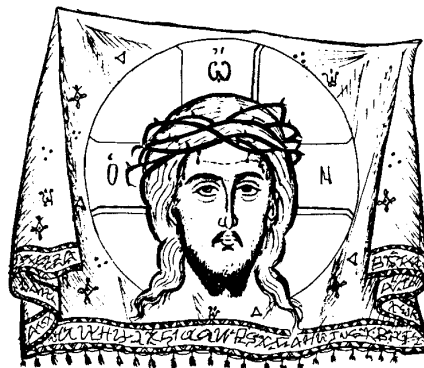
O King of peace, grant us Your peace; establish for us Your peace and forgive us our sins!

Disperse the enemies of the Church; fortify her that she may not be shaken forever!

Emmanuel our God is now in our midst with the glory of His Father and the Holy Spirit!

May He bless us all and purify our hearts and heal the sickness of our souls and bodies!

We worship You O Christ with Your good Father and the Holy Spirit for You have risen and saved us!



## The Litany of Peace

(Prayed by Father Stephen Washko,  
Pastor of the Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church  
with responses sung by the choir of the Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church)

**Priest:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For the peace of God and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For all those who fear God, believe in His Son and have received His Spirit: that our divisions may cease and we may praise and glorify His most holy and majestic Name in oneness of mind and heart, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our Archbishops, Metropolitans and bishops, the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ and for all Christian leaders, that they may serve the Lord and His churches in the fear of God and with faith, wisdom and love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our country, the president, and all those in public service, that they might be strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this parish and city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For all those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, the Sudan, Iran, Iraq, and everywhere in the world, that they may be delivered from violence and strengthened in their witness by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For travelers by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering and for all those in captivity and bitter slavery for their faith, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our deliverance from all persecution, affliction, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the *Theotokos* and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** Almighty and eternal God, the King of the ages and Lord of lords, You are beyond comprehension, yet You poured forth Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we might dare to call upon You as our Father. You ordained that the Paschal mystery of Your Son be brought to completion by His Ascension into heaven and the sending of Your Spirit on Pentecost. As You gathered together into one faith those people from many nations and divided by many languages on the day of Pentecost, so we beg You now: in Your mercy, gather the people of Your Church together by the power of Your Holy Spirit, keeping us devoted to serving You and seeking that unity which Your Son commanded His disciples to have.

For You are the one, true and living God and to You do we offer glory, together with Your crucified and risen Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.



The congregation is seated

## A Reading from the Old Testament

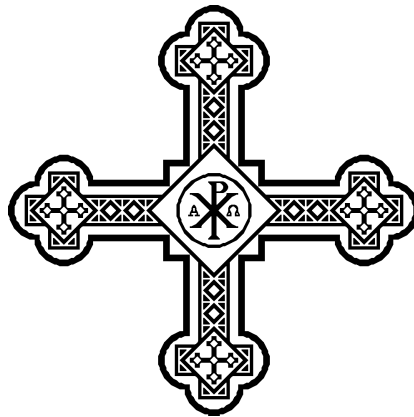
(Introduced by Father Ashur Elkhoury  
and read by the youth of St. Paul Assyrian Church of the East)

**Priest:** Let us listen attentively!

**Reader:** The reading is from the Book of Jeremiah (31:31-35).

**Priest:** Wisdom! Let us listen attentively!

**Reader:** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach their neighbors or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” This is what the Lord says: He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the Lord Almighty is His Name!



## Responsorial Psalm 145

(Sung by the Holy Rosary Philippine Chamber Chorale)

*All join in on the sung refrain between verses:*

Psalm 145: 1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

**Choir & People:** I will praise your Name forever, my King and my God.

**Verse:** I will extol You, O my God and King and I will bless Your Name forever and ever. Every day will I bless You and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.

**Choir & People:** I will praise your Name forever, my King and my God.

**Verse:** The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all His works.

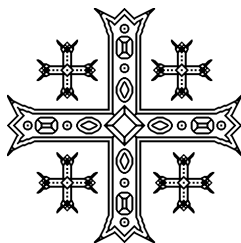
**Choir & People:** I will praise your Name forever, my King and my God.

**Verse:** Let all Your works give You thanks, O Lord, and let Your faithful ones bless You.  
Let them discourse of the glory of Your Kingdom and speak of Your might.

**Choir & People:** I will praise your Name forever, my King and my God.

**Verse:** The Lord is faithful in all His words and holy in all His works.  
The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**Choir & People:** I will praise your Name forever, my King and my God.



## The First Reading from the New Testament

(Read by the youth of the Coptic Orthodox Church and introduced  
by Father Joseph Boules, Priest of St. Mary & St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church)

**Priest:** Let us listen attentively!

**Reader:** Sing to the Lord a new song; sing His praises in the midst of the assembly of the faithful! (*Psalm 149:1*)

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11).

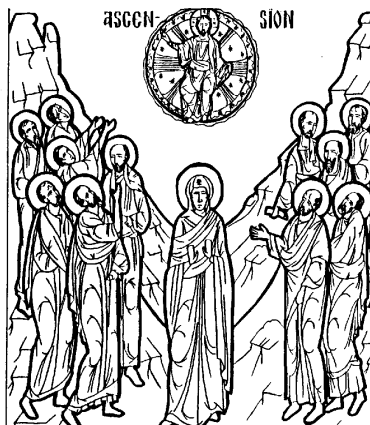
**Priest:** Let us listen attentively!

**Reader:** In my former book, O Theofilos, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day that He was taken up into Heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles He had chosen. After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave them many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave the Apostles this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.”

So when they met together, they asked Him: “Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?”

And Jesus said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After Jesus said this, He was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go to Heaven.”





## Ave Maris Stella

(Sung by the Choir of St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church)

Hail, Star of the sea, nourishing Mother of God  
ever-virgin, the joyous gate of Heaven.  
Release the chains of the guilty, bring light to the blind,  
take away our wrong-doing, demand all that is good.  
Display a pure life, prepare your path,  
So that we may see Jesus and rejoice together always.  
Let praise be to God the Father and glory to Christ the great and to the Holy Spirit,  
one honor in three. Amen.



The congregation stands

## The Gospel Reading

(Read by Father Karekin Bedourian, Pastor of The Holy 40 Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church with responses sung by the choir of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church)

**Priest:** Peace be with you all!

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark (16:1-8). Let us listen attentively!

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

*Jesus is risen from the dead!*

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they might go and anoint the body of Jesus. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side, and they were amazed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here! See the place where they laid Him. But go and tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He promised you.'"

So the women went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. And they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.

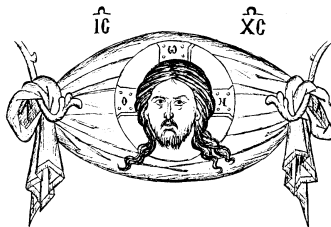
**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

*The congregation is seated.*

## **The Homily**

**by Valerie Karras, Ph.D.**

**The Clergy and Congregation are invited to stand  
and exchange the Kiss of Peace**



## **For You Alone...Sa Iyo Lamang**

**(Sung by the Holy Rosary Philippine Chamber Chorale)**

Lord You've beguiled my heart and soul with the sweetness of Your love  
Take this gift I offer You; my life is Yours forever more

I don't have a need of wealth or fortune or pleasure or dignity  
If I get You to be mine, Lord, I would have everything that I can find

Lord just for You alone, I give my heart  
Just for You alone, I give my soul  
Take my innocence and my misery  
And my obedience - I pledge to you

I've been holding all my feelings  
I've reserved them all for You  
Because the call of love is strong I cannot help but follow You Lord.

## Hymns of Praise celebrating the Ascension of Christ

(Sung by the choir of Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church)

**Chanter:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed He will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Psalm 130:7-8*)

The Lord ascended into heaven to send the Comforter into this world. The heavens prepared His throne and clouds were His ladder; the angels marveled at the sight of a human being more exalted than themselves. Today, the Father receives again in His bosom the One who was in Him from all eternity, and the Holy Spirit gives a command to all the angels: Lift up your lintels, O you gates! O you nations of the earth, clap your hands, for Christ ascends to the place where He had been from all eternity.

**Chanter:** Praise the Lord all you nations, acclaim Him all you peoples! (*Psalm 117:1*)

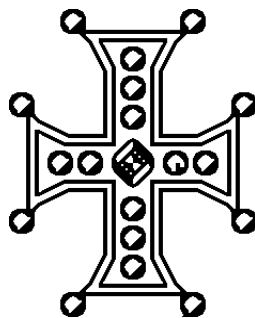
O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at Your Ascension: they were seized with wonder as they beheld You, O God, rising upon the clouds, for You are the One who is seated above the clouds. We sing a hymn of praise to You: Glory to You for Your tender mercy.

**Chanter:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us; He is faithful forever. (*Psalm 117:2*)

O Christ, splendor and glory of the Father, when we behold Your Ascension on Your holy mountain, we sing a hymn of praise to the beauty of Your countenance. We bow down to Your passion, we venerate Your holy Resurrection, and we glorify Your noble Ascension. O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Chanter:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O loving Jesus, while You lived on earth, You were God inseparable from the Father, and yet You truly shared our humanity. Ascending in glory today from the Mount of Olives, through Your great love You lifted up our fallen nature and enthroned it with the Father on high. Therefore, the bodiless powers were amazed and filled with awe at seeing Your great love for all. Together with them, we who live on earth are glorifying Your condescension to us and your ascension away from us. Now we implore you, saying: Through Your Ascension You have filled Your apostles and Your mother with a joy that surpasses every other joy, and through their intercession make us worthy of the joy of Your elect, for You are rich in mercy.



The congregation stands

## The Litany of the Saints

(Led by Larry Orque of the Holy Rosary Philippine Chamber Chorale)

**Chantor: Kyrie eleison   Christe eleison   Kyrie eleison**

Most holy Virgin Mary, Queen of Angels...

**Congregation:** Pray for us.

Archangel Michael.....Pray for us.

St. Peter the Apostle.....Pray for us.

St. Paul the Apostle.....Pray for us.

St. Luke the Evangelist.....Pray for us.

St. Mark the Evangelist.....Pray for us.

St. Ignatius of Antioch.....Pray for us.

St. Justin the Martyr.....Pray for us.

St. Marina the Martyr.....Pray for us.

St. Anthony of Egypt.....Pray for us.

St. Mary of Egypt.....Pray for us.

St. Gregory the Illuminator.....Pray for us.

St. Verena of Egypt.....Pray for us.

Holy Forty Martyrs of Sevastea....Pray for us.

St. Nicholas of Myra.....Pray for us.

St. Athanasius the Great.....Pray for us

St. Basil the Great.....Pray for us

St. Gregory the Theologian..... Pray for us

St. John Chrysostom.....Pray for us.

St. Cyril of Alexandria.....Pray for us.

St. Isaac of Ninevah.....Pray for us.

St. Ephrem the Great of Syria.....Pray for us.

St. Katherine the Martyr.....Pray for us

St. Augustine of Hippo.....Pray for us

St. Cyril and Methodius.....Pray for us.

St. Pope Kerollos.....Pray for us.

The holy martyrs of the Armenian genocide...Pray for us.

*(And to those who have recently been martyred in Egypt, Syria, Nigeria, Iran and Iraq)*

Holy martyrs of Egypt.....Pray for us.

Holy martyrs of Lebanon.....Pray for us.

Holy martyrs of Syria.....Pray for us.

Holy martyrs of Iraq.....Pray for us.

Holy martyrs of Iran.....Pray for us.

Holy martyrs of Nigeria.....Pray for us.

All the saints of God.....Pray for us

*While the hymn below is being sung in Aramaic by the choir of St. Paul's Assyrian Church the youth of our communities will assume their places and prepare to lead the congregation in the renewal of their baptismal vows.*

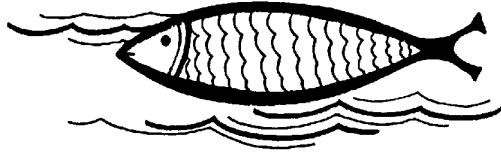
*The Triune God – King of kings  
A Hymn sung by St. Paul's Assyrian Church of the East*

Holy Spirit Whose chariot is fire in fire, and flames  
Who as a fiery tongue sanctified His disciples; Praise be unto His name.  
He has the heights (sky), and abundant ministers  
They all praise: Holy, Holy, Holy art thou; Praise be unto His name.  
Fiery flashes shine around His throne, dazzling the eyes of the created;  
Praise be unto His name.

Circles of light mighty and intense,  
tremble the Cherubim along with the Seraphim, look and bow upon Him;  
Praise be upon his name.

His Sight is magnificently inspiring upon the created beyond measures,  
And His appearance is exalted, from resemblance and comparison;  
Praise be unto Him.

Halleluiah! The watchful ones in heaven cry,  
And the children, Hosanna, cried to him in the depth (earth); Praise be unto Him.  
Roses and the myrtle, lilies of the valley and flowers of the spring,  
Along with the citron, bear and produce for Him; Praise be upon Him.



## The Renewal of our Baptismal Vows to the Lord (Led by the youth of our communities)

The congregation stands

**Youth:** Do you renounce sin so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

**Congregation:** I do.

**Youth:** Do you renounce the lure of evil so that sin may have no mastery over you?

**Congregation:** I do.

**Youth:** Do you renounce Satan, the author of sin and prince of darkness?

**Congregation:** I do.

**Youth:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

**Congregation:** I do.

**Youth:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son, our Lord, who was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the ever-Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, who rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**Congregation:** I do.

**Youth:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**Congregation:** I do.

*(Blessing by Father John Monestero of St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church)*

**Priest:** And may Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by His grace in Christ Jesus our Lord for eternal life.



**And the congregation responds: Amen!**

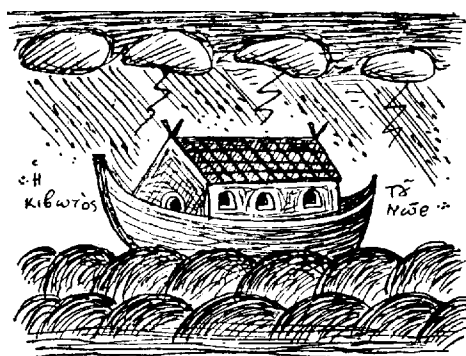
*(Blessing of Water by Father Quan Tran of Christ Roman Catholic Cathedral)*

### **The Prayer for the Blessing of Water**

**Priest:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God and Father, who in Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit has given us the living waters of salvation in baptism to bless and transform us. Look upon us, Your children, with kindness, mercy and compassion. Pour forth Your blessing upon these waters and as the Holy Spirit descended upon the Lord Jesus when He was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, grant that when we are sprinkled with this water, we will be inwardly renewed by the power of Your Holy Spirit and continue to walk in the new life that we received in the waters of our baptism.

For You are a merciful, compassionate and loving God and to You do we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**And the congregation responds: Amen!**



**The blessing of the congregation  
and sprinkling with holy water by the assembled clergy  
while the following hymns are sung  
by the Paschal Choir of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church**

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee before His face. (*Psalm 68:1*)

Today the sacred Pascha is revealed to us. The new and holy Pascha; the mystical Pascha. The all venerable Pascha. The Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer. The spotless Pascha. The great Pascha. The Pascha of the faithful. The Pascha which has opened unto us the gates of Paradise. The Pascha which sanctifies all faithful.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish as wax melts before the fire. (*Psalm 68:2*)

Hasten from that vision O women bearers of good news and say unto Zion receive from us the tidings of Joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Dance and celebrate, and rejoice now, O Jerusalem. For you beheld Christ your King as a bridegroom coming forth from the tomb.

Let the sinners perish before the face of God but let the righteous rejoice. (*Psalm 68:3*)

When the Myrrh-bearing women very early in the morning came and stood before the tomb of the Life Giver, they found an angel sitting upon the stone. And He cried out these words to them saying: "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorruptible among those subject to decay? But go and proclaim the good news unto His disciples!"

This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Psalm 118:24*)

The Pascha of delight, Pascha the Lord's Pascha. The all-venerable Pascha has dawned for us today. Let us embrace each other with joy for it is Pascha. O Pascha delivered from sorrow. For Christ has shone forth today from the tomb as from a bridal chamber and filled the women with joy saying: "Proclaim this unto my Apostles."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

This is the day of resurrection, let us be radiant in the festival, let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers even those who hate us and forgive all things in the resurrection. And therefore let us proclaim: **Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life!**

*Announcement of the reception after the service  
by Father Steven Tsichlis*



## The Recessional Hymn

(Sung by all the choirs and the congregation)

*The chanter sings the refrain which is repeated by the congregation as a whole.*

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in Greek):** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in Latin):** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in Slavonic):** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in Coptic):** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in Aramaic):** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love!

**Verse (in English):** Spirit of Love, Spirit of Truth, God of love and compassion: bring us  
new life, ending all strife, sharing Your word; hear us we pray.

**Refrain:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit and from above send us Your love! (2X)

*The clergy lead the procession out of the Church  
and to the parish event center on the other side of the courtyard.*

**Please join us for refreshments and fellowship  
in the parish event center!**



Ecumenical Services of Prayer for the unity of  
Christians by the Popes and Patriarchs of the  
ancient Churches