



**St. Nicholas
Orthodox Church**

102 Ross Avenue
San Anselmo, CA
94960
(415) 454-0982

*Diocese of the West
Orthodox
Church in America*

Fr. Stephan Meholick,
Pastor
protodeacon George Golitzin

www.stnicholasmarin.org



Χριστος Ανεστη!
Христос воскрес!
المسيح قام!

Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

May 2024

THE PASCHA OF THE LORD

By Father Alexander Schmemmann

All Christianity is the experience of faith repeated again and again as if for the first time, through its incarnation in rites, words, music, and colors. To the unbeliever, it may indeed seem like a mirage; he sees only incomprehensible ceremonies, and he understands them only outwardly. But for believers, all of this radiates from within, and not as proof of his faith, but as its result, as its life in the world, in the soul, in history. Therefore the darkness and sadness of Holy Friday is for us something real, alive, contemporary; we can cry at the Cross and experience everything that took place in that triumph of evil, treachery, cowardice, and betrayal; we can contemplate the life-bearing tomb on Holy Saturday with excitement and hope. And therefore, every year we can celebrate Easter, Pascha, the Resurrection. For Easter is not the remembrance of an event in the past. It is the real encounter in happiness and joy, with Him whom our hearts long ago knew and encountered as the life and light of all light. Easter night testifies that Christ is alive and with us, and that we are alive in Him.

The entire celebration is an invitation to look at the world and life, and to behold the dawning of the mystical day of the Kingdom of light. "Today the air is filled with the fragrance of spring," sings the church, "and all creation rejoices in its renewal..." It rejoices in faith, in love and in hope.

This is the day of resurrection, Let us be illumined by the feast,
Let us embrace each other, Let us call "brothers"
even those that hate us, And forgive all by the resurrection,
And so let us cry:

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling down death by death,
And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.