

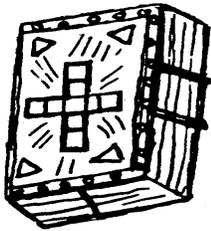
# FAMILY NIGHT: TAKING IT HOME

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” —John 11:25*

## PRAY TOGETHER

*What shall we give in return to the Lord for his gifts? For us he became human and on account of our corrupted nature the Word became flesh and dwelt in our midst. He was the benefactor to those who were ungrateful, the liberator to those in bondage, and the sun of righteousness to those who dwell in darkness. He who was incorrupt ascended on the cross, the light descended into Hades, the life suffered death, and he was the resurrection for those who had fallen. Let us sing to him: our God, glory to you!*

—Resurrection Matins hymn



## MORE ON THE RESURRECTION

<i>According to the Gospel of Matthew</i>	<i>Chapter 28</i>
<i>According to the Gospel of Mark</i>	<i>Chapter 16</i>
<i>According to the Gospel of Luke</i>	<i>Chapter 24</i>
<i>According to the Gospel of John</i>	<i>Chapter 20</i>

## PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

If any man be devout and loveth God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast! If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings because he shall in nowise be deprived therefore. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. And if any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness.

For the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first. He giveth rest unto him who cometh at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who hath wrought from the first hour. And He showeth mercy upon the last, and careth for the first; and to the one He giveth, and upon the other He bestoweth gifts. And He both accepteth the deeds, and welcometh the intention, and honoreth the acts, and praises the offering.

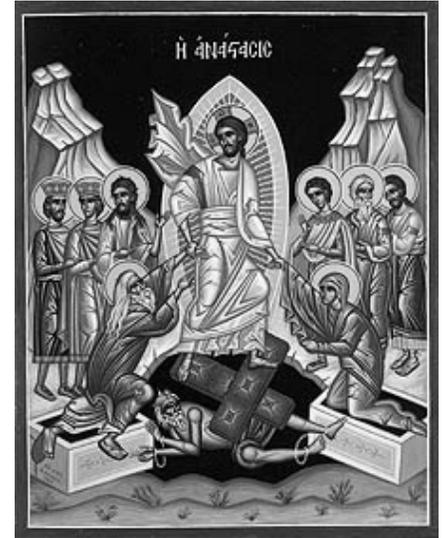
Wherefore, enter ye all into

the joy of your Lord; receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival! You sober and you heedless, honor the day! Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fattened; let no one go hungry away. Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it.

By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions.

It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was



embittered, for it was fettered in chains.

It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is thy sting?  
O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.

Amen.

# FAMILY ACTIVITY: DIANA'S PASCHA STORY COOKIES

To Be Made the Evening Before Pascha

## Items Needed

1 cup whole pecans • 1 tsp vinegar  
3 egg whites • pinch of salt  
1 cup sugar • mixing bowl  
plastic zipper bag • wooden spoon  
wax paper • cookie sheet  
tape • Bible

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300° F.
2. Place pecans in zipper bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested the Roman soldiers beat Him. Read John 19:1-3.
3. Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 teaspoon of vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was on the Cross, He became thirsty. He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
4. Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
5. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus's followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.
6. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know Him and to belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.
7. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks form. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those who sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:16 and John 3:16. Fold in the broken nuts. Drop the mixture by teaspoons onto the cookie sheet covered with wax paper. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
8. Put the cookie sheet in the oven. Close the door and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape, and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus's tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.
9. Go to bed! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and John 16:22.
10. On Pascha/Easter morning, or when you return from the midnight service, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! One the first Pascha/Easter, Jesus's followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

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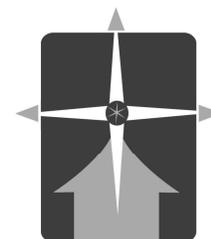
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- *The Passion of Christ* by Veselin Kesich, published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press ([www.svspress.com](http://www.svspress.com)).
- *God Speaks from the Cross* by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, published by Light and Life Publishing ([www.light-n-life.com](http://www.light-n-life.com)).
- *Living in the Light of the Resurrection* by Philip Mamalakis, published in the March/April 2007 edition of the Orthodox Observer ([www.orthodoxobserver.org](http://www.orthodoxobserver.org)).

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

As we approach Pascha, take some time to look ahead to Holy Week and all of the rich services the Church offers. If you don't have a Holy Week service book, speak with your parish priest about purchasing books for family members to follow along in prayer. Next, look at the schedule for services (if it isn't in your bulletin or your parish Web site yet, check with your church office) and decide as a family which services you will attend. Make a commitment to take some time to prepare for each service. To do this, visit [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org). In the "Our Faith" section, click on the "Great Lent and Holy Pascha" link. There are several wonderful articles that explain the days of Holy Week.



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