



HOLY ASCENSION RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Address: 714 — 13th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Rector: Archpriest Paul Volmensky

Telephone: (916) 443-2271. FAX (916) 443-5079

e-mail: frpaul@lanset.com

Christ is Risen!

Dearest beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,
Celebrating the Feast of Feasts – the
Resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the
death of death, the destruction of hell. We celebrate
“the beginning of another life eternal.”

According to Orthodox Tradition, the experi-
ence of the Church, the power of death is annihilated
by the death of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This tri-
umphant victory over death for the benefit of man-
kind took place at the moment that the soul of Christ
united with His Divinity destroyed death. Freeing
Adam and Eve from death and hell, all of us taste of
the fruits of the Resurrection and salvation. For just
as the fall of the First Man, Adam, brought death to
the world, so too by virtue of the unity within man-
kind, we all partake in our forefather’s restoration.



We gain the opposite of death. We gain life... a life very different, to many unfa-
miliar. It is not fully expressible in words, it is never completely attained by reason, but
assimilated by the mind (nous). It is without end... eternal. It is life on such a scale that it
is only a beginning of life.

Having heard such a joy, who would want to be deprived of such a glory and pow-
er?

Dear brothers and sisters, “let us purify our senses and we shall behold Christ, radi-
ant with the unapproachable light of the Resurrection.” Let us endure all sorrows, as long
as is necessary. Let us cleanse ourselves of all defilement of flesh and spirit, not admitting
the slightest movement of the heart that could estrange us from Christ.

Hell is embittered, and all those born on the earth rejoice and are glad.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

*Archpriest Paul Volmensky
Pascha, 2012*