

Why is the Gospel read in various languages
at the Agape Vespers?

The fruit of faith in the Resurrection of the Lord is Love in His Name; therefore, this day is called “Sunday of Agape”, a day dedicated to Christian principles, especially to forgiveness and charity. The Gospel according to John is read in various languages, proclaiming the Good News of Resurrection all over the universe without discrimination.

April 23rd - St. George the Great Martyr and Triumphant

If April 23rd falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of St. George is celebrated on Bright Monday. George was a military tribune, illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he heard that Diocletian was preparing a persecution of Christians, he publicly denounced the Emperor, and for this he was tortured and beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia. His remains were taken to Lydda, the homeland of his mother.

April 29th – Bright Friday
Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring

(Greek: Ζωοδοχος Πηγη - Zoodochos Pigi) or Life-Giving Spring is an epithet of the Holy Theotokos that originated with her revelation of a sacred spring in Valouki, Constantinople, to a soldier named Leo Marcellus. He later became Byzantine Emperor, and built a church on this site, which witnessed many miraculous healings over the centuries, becoming one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Greek Orthodoxy.



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Great and Holy Pascha

Elizabeth the Wonderworker; Savvas the General of Rome
Nicholas the New-Martyr of Magnesia

Hymn of the Feast

Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Mode 4

When the women with Mary had come before dawn, and they found that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel, “Why do you seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One who exists in everlasting light? See the grave clothes in the sepulcher. Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has risen and put death to death; for He is the Son of God who saves the human race.”

Kontakion of Pascha

Through You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out “Rejoice” to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

The Week after Easter is a Fast Free Week

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



