

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Jesus was crucified on Good Friday.

He visited Hades, the place of the dead, on Saturday.

Today He rose from the dead and is alive again!

He brought Adam and Eve with Him, and all godly people who had died.

Christ rose from the dead and opened the gates of heaven to us.

We can live united with God now, and unto ages of ages.

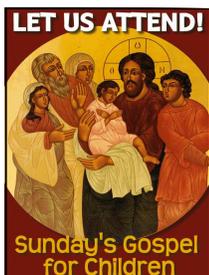
It is a new day!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the center of the icon. Color Jesus' clothing white or gold.
2. Jesus is standing on the doors of Hades, the place of the dead. Jesus conquered death and is trampling, or stomping on the doors. Color the doors brown.
3. Jesus is surrounded by his glory, a bright but peaceful light. Color the area around Jesus blue.



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Pre-12



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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

From the very beginning, our Lord Jesus Christ was with God, because He is God! He created everything. Look around you—all the people, animals, plants, even the Earth itself, He made! Life comes from Him.

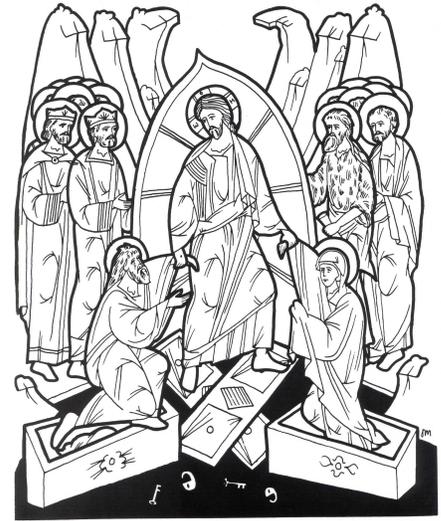
Because of Adam and Eve’s choice to disobey God (and all of our choices to do the same, since then), sin came into the world. This sin keeps people from God. But God’s love for us is so great that He wanted to free us from sin through Jesus.

When Jesus was getting ready to come into the world, God sent John ahead of him. John came to help people see that Jesus was God’s Son, and that they should follow Him.

When Jesus came into the world, even though He made the world, because of sin, the people of the world did not know Him. He was right with His own special people—the Jews—and they did not welcome Him. In fact, they killed Him.

But, just like light shining in darkness makes the darkness go away, so our Lord Jesus Christ shone in the darkness of our sinful world. He entered Hades, the place of the dead, and rescued people, even Adam and Eve, from death!

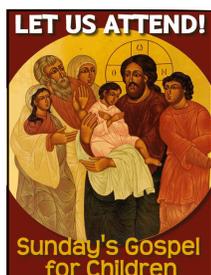
Jesus rose from the dead. He freed us from sin and death. He gave us power to become children of God.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who does life come from? Name some living things He made.
2. Sin separated people from God. Who did God send into the world to free us from the darkness of sin?
3. What is the name of the person God sent right before He sent Jesus? What was He sent to do?
4. When Jesus came to the world, did everyone recognize Him? What did the people do to Him?
5. What does the Gospel story compare Jesus to?
6. Listen for when your priest invites you to “Come receive the light from the Light that is never overtaken by night...” Who is that?
7. When you receive Holy Communion this Pascha, be happy! Jesus the Light has won over the darkness of sin, and He will help you become a child of God! *Christ is risen. Indeed He is risen!*



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IN THE BEGINNING

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 was 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, and his own 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 is 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.

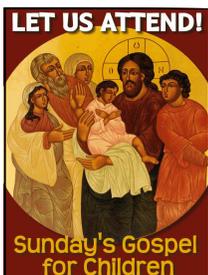


photo by Timm Wenger

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who is the Apostle John talking about in the beginning of this Gospel passage? He calls Him "the Word." Why do you think He is called "the Word"?
2. Re-read the first part of this Gospel passage replacing "the Word" with "Jesus." Does it make sense?
3. How is Pascha proof that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"?
4. The John who is mentioned in the passage is John the Forerunner. What does the Gospel say he was sent to do?
5. When Jesus was on Earth, which He made, among His own people, was He well received?
6. What does Jesus give to people who receive Him?
7. On this glorious Pascha, as you go forward to receive Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion, receive him with joy and a thankful heart! He is giving you power to become a child of God, born of God!

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!



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IN THE BEGINNING

Characters: Narrator, John the Forerunner

Narrator: 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.

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And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and

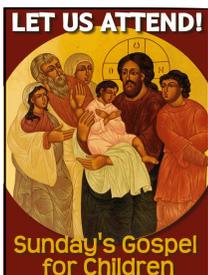
truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John bore witness to him, and cried,

John: This is he of whom I said, 'he who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'

Narrator: 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.



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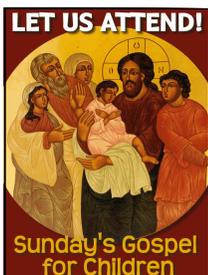
ceived him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who was in the world according to this gospel?
2. What could that mean? List several possibilities.
3. Who did the world come into being through?
4. What could that mean?
5. Given the first two ideas, what could the following mean: "he came to what was his own?" What is his own if he is in everything and everything came into being through him?
6. Given these ideas, does it seem odd to say that he came to his own and his own did not accept him? Why or why not?



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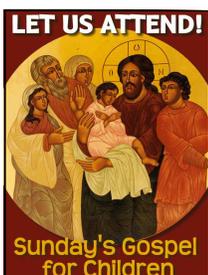


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from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are we celebrating today?
2. Read verse 14 of today's gospel. What does the crucifixion and resurrection of the man Jesus Christ tell us about him? How does this event show us the glory of the Father?
3. What does the word grace mean?
4. How does the paschal event show us God's grace?
5. What does the word truth mean?
6. How does this event show us truth?
7. Why do you think this event is the biggest event we celebrate in our faith?



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