

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**

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Sunday, January 9, 2022

**Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8 - 8:50 AM**

Today is Sunday, January 9, 2022

**CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM
ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ! СЛАВИТЕ ЕГО!**



*Blessed night of
Christmas ... Flocks
graze peacefully in the
fields of Bethlehem.
Near them are
shepherds, "vigilant
and fearing the night
watch over their flock"
(Luke 2, 8).*

There is a legend
according to which
these humble and
believing workers
talked on a quiet night

about exactly when the Messiah, the Savior of
the world, would come. *And suddenly - the
Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone on them. ...*

A person cannot meet with the inhabitants
of the mountain world without trepidation and
fear - the shepherds "were afraid with great
fear." But where did the Heavenly Messenger
begin his gospel? - *"Do not be afraid! I
proclaim to you great joy, which will be for all
people"* (Luke 2:10). And the Church has
accepted and keeps and announces to her
faithful children every year on the bright days
of the Nativity of Christ this joy.

Two thousand years have passed. ... For two
thousand years the Holy Gospel has been
proclaimed to the world - and in it the Church
annually, again and again preaches the gospel
of the Nativity of Christ and proclaims the
angelic doxology: *"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will to men."* (Luke
2:14). . . .

When on the holy Christmas night heaven
descended to earth and the earth became
heaven, for God appeared in it incarnate
according to the Holy Gospel, only the humble
Bethlehem shepherds heard the angelic praise
and bowed to the Born One. The rest of the
human race slept deeply, not knowing and not
suspecting what had happened that night, and
what the angels were singing about. And now,
in our sorrowful and difficult days - how many
people who sleep in deep spiritual sleep do not
hear the gospel of the Church! They do not
heed the angelic chant - it does not reach them.

The holy angels sang about peace - "and
peace on earth" ... Truly so! For Christ came to
earth, Whom the prophet called the "Ruler of
the world"; He came, Who, at parting with His
beloved disciples, said to them: "Peace I leave
you, My peace I give you ..." (John 14:27). Oh,
if only humanity, listened to these words and
pondered over them!

From the Bethlehem manger shines the
Light of the knowledge of God - but many do
not see it; He who deigned to lie down in this
manger is calling us: *"Come to Me, all who
labor and are burdened, and I will give you
rest"* -

Once upon a time, in the early days of the
spread of Christianity, the Apostle Peter
warned the early Christians: "Save yourself
from this perverse generation" (Acts 2:40). By
"a perverse generation," the apostle meant both
the stubborn enemies of Christianity and the
entire pagan world, which then became
extremely coarse and perverted. By the time of
the Nativity of Christ, paganism spiritually
outlived itself and died...

Beware, faithful son of the Church, of this terrible spiritual destruction - save yourself from this corrupted generation!

It is in these bright days that the Church remembers the Nativity of Christ and glorifies the Savior born into the world. Strive, then, with your faith, to the manger of Bethlehem, following the simple and pure-hearted shepherds and wise men, who bowed all their

wisdom and knowledge before this manger. Bring your gifts to the Divine Infant - faith in Him, hope in Him and love for Him, and then a wonderful angelic praise will sound in your believing and devoted soul: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men" ... *(excerpted from a sermon by Metropolitan Philaret (Vosnesensky), 1981)*

С глубокой радостью приветствую Преосвященных собратьев-архипастырей, всечестных отцов, монашествующих, прихожан и богомольцев наших церквей, рассеянных по всему миру, с праздниками Рождества Христова, Крещением Господним и Новолетием! Да пошлет всем нам Господь радость о пришествии в мир Сына Божия. И подвиг веры, и ея плод в наши дни должен быть этой радостью, от слышания ангельского славословия и торжества Воплощения Бога Слова. Минувший год для многих из нас был тяжелым и скорбным, но и он был с различными благословениями и дарами, за которые нам следует возносить благодарность Благодетелю нашему. Мы достигли этого праздничного времени потому, что нас не оставлял Промысл Божий. Если нам удалось до сего времени нести возложенные на нас обязанности, то потому только, что Сам Господь подавал нам здоровье, силы, пищу, питье, одежду и вместе изливал на нас помощь Свою и терпение в прохождении своего жизненного пути. А сколько, сверх этого, сообщено нам благодатных даров в церковных Таинствах, в посте, молитве и таинственной жизни Церкви!

Святки всегда вызывают в верующем сердце чувства любви и благодарности. Вознесем и мы в эти дни свою благодарность Богу, принесем Ему и ближним свою любовь и свой Рождественский дар храму, в котором

мы удостоиваемся дивной, личной встречи со Христом и спасительного общения с Ним. Откроем же свои сердца, дорогие отцы, братья и сестры, примем пришедшего на землю Сына Божия, поклонимся Ему с волхвами и возрадуемся о Его любви и милости к нам. Аминь.

С любовью о Христе Родившемся,
+ИЛАРИОН

Митрополит Восточно-Американский и
Нью-Йоркский
Первоиерарх Русской Зарубежной
Церкви

Рождество Христово 2021/2022