

4-28-19 Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom © T. Hardenbrook

Fr. Thaddaeus: Christ is Risen!

People: Indeed He is risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: Christos anesti!

People: Alithos anesti!

Fr. Thaddaeus: Khristos voskrese!

People: Voistinu voskrese!

Fr. Thaddaeus: El Messieh kahm!

People: Hakken kahm!

Fr. Thaddaeus: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen. Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God? Come and receive this beautiful and radiant feast of feasts. Is there anyone who is a wise servant? Rejoice as you enter into the joy of your Lord. Is there anyone who is weary from fasting?

People: Yes!

Fr. Thaddaeus: Come and receive your reward. Is there anyone who has labored from the first hour? Let him today receive his just reward. Is there anyone who came after the third hour? Be glad as you celebrate this feast. Is there anyone who came after the sixth hour? Have no doubts, for nothing is being held back. Is there anyone who delayed until the ninth hour? Come forward without hesitation. Is there anyone who came even at the 11th hour?

Fr. Thaddaeus: Do not be afraid because of your negligence.

Fr. Thaddaeus: For the honor and generosity of the master is unsurpassed. He accepts the last as well as the first. He gives rest to him who comes out the 11th hour just as to him who has labored from the first. He is as merciful to the last as he is gracious to the first. He shows his generosity to the one and his kindness to the other. He both honors our deeds and praises our intentions.

Fr. Thaddaeus: Therefore enter all of you into the joy of your Lord. Both first and last, receive your reward. Rich and poor, dance and sing together today. Sober and slothful, honor this day. You have fasted and you who have not, rejoice today, for the table is overflowing, and everyone shares in the luxury. The calf is fatted. Let no one go away hungry.

Fr. Thaddaeus: Come one and all, and receive the banquet of faith. Come one and all, and receive the riches of his loving kindness. Let no one lament his poverty, for a kingdom belonging to all has appeared. Let no one mourn his failings, for forgiveness has sprung from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the death of the savior has set us all free. By enduring death, he has destroyed death. By descending into Hades, he has taken Hades captive, and he embittered Hades when it tasted his flesh. In anticipation of this, the prophet Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered."

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People: It was embittered.

Fr. Thaddaeus: When encountered you below, Hades was embittered.

People: It was embittered.

Fr. Thaddaeus: For it was abolished. Hades was embittered!

People: It was embittered!

Fr. Thaddaeus: For it was mocked. Hades was embittered.

People: It was embittered!

Fr. Thaddaeus: For it was vanquished. Hades was embittered!

People: It was embittered!

Fr. Thaddaeus: For it was plundered. Hades was embittered!

People: It was embittered!

Fr. Thaddaeus: For it was bound in chains. Hades took up a body and met up with God. It took earth and came face to face with heaven. It took what it saw, and it was struck down by what it did not see. Oh death, where is your sting? Oh Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: And you, oh death, are laid low. Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: And the angels rejoice. Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: And life is abundant and free. Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Thaddaeus: And there are no dead left in the tombs, for Christ, having risen from the dead, became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To him be glory and power unto ages of ages. Amen. Christ is Risen.

People: Indeed He is Risen.