

5/12/20

Christ is Risen!

We are halfway there.

Where?

Pentecost!

The Lord Jesus Christ said that he would not leave us alone after His Ascension into Heaven, but he would send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit. Today, we are halfway there.

During the time between Pascha and Ascension, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit, "Heavenly King." Rather, we begin all services by either saying or singing "Christ is Risen" depending on the service.

We do this because Christ is with us in the flesh. He has not yet ascended to the Father, in the flesh, in return to send us the Holy Spirit.

Oftentimes, the chronology of our Church is not in perfect story book order. For example, we see Jesus's Nativity and about two weeks later His Baptism as a full grown man. This is because it is impossible to try and contain The One Who is. Even though He made Himself subject to our time. He exists outside of time. As St. John the Theologian says, "I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen(Jn 21:25)."

So, this feast of Mid-Pentecost is also sort of out of the order of biblical chronology. We return to a time in Christ's life before the crucifixion where the Jews were seeking to kill Him because he healed the paralyzed man on the Sabbath (this past Sunday). At this point, it is interesting to note that the Jews have a Pascha (Passover) and fifty days later a Pentecost. It was at the midpoint of these two great Jewish feasts that Jesus got up and pronounced, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink(Jn 7:37)."

Once again Jesus has made it clear that He is the fulfillment of the law, the prophets, and the old covenant. He did not come but to fulfill. Fill it up full. There was some fill in the Jewish way, but Christ has filled it up full. This is why He says, "if any man thirst," because people are thirsty for Him. The Truth, The Way, The Life, The Fulfillment of the Law of the Prophets Who has Fulfilled the dispensation of the Father.

Thereby, at this point in the ecclesiastical year, Christ is with us in the flesh. He is telling us to come to Him and quench our thirst. In less than 26 days the living water of the Holy Spirit will be poured within us all. We're halfway there.

Where?

Pentecost!

May He fill our hearts with joy and gladness, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

+Fr. Dean