

Rites of the Resurrection and Pentecost

Objectives

To know the rites, feel the joy of the Resurrection and follow the church prayers on these blessed days

References

- ❖ (El La-ale-e El Nafeesa) in explaining the Rites and Dogmas of the Church (Part 2)
- ❖ Rites of the Passion Week, Joy of Resurrection and Pentecost

Scriptural Verse

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!” (**Luke 24: 5-6**)

Lesson Outlines

The Great Saturday (Saturday of Light and Joy)

Apocalypse Night

- ❖ No black decoration but no resurrection decoration either
- ❖ Tune of the Pauline, Psalms and Gospels are a mixture of sadness and joy
- ❖ Praises and Readings of the stories of victory; ex. Moses crossing the sea, Jonah, the three young men in the fire, Susanna, Simon the elder....
- ❖ Many processions around the church with candles declaring that the light has shone over those who have been captured in the darkness
- ❖ Starting prayer with psalms (Agpeya) from the third hour
- ❖ Reading of the Book of Revelation and Anointing with oil
- ❖ Liturgy with no reconciliation prayer (since reconciliation happened by death and Resurrection) but with commemoration of saints and remembrance of the departures (since the Paradise is opened)

that was back in the days where they go home and come back for Liturgy at 3 pm. It is not anymore. You cannot fast after eating and drinking the body and blood of the Lord and DRINKING water after communion

Sunday's Dawn (Resurrection Feast)

- ❖ Prayers start in the evening of Saturday and should last after midnight
- ❖ Reading of the Gospel of St. John
- ❖ Midnight prayer and Procession of the Gospel
- ❖ Raising Incense, kissing allowed
- ❖ The Liturgy is prayed without the psalms of the 3rd and 6th hours
- ❖ Joyful Tune for all the readings
- ❖ Resurrection re-enactment then procession of the Resurrection
- ❖ Holy God: Who has risen from the dead (Repeated the 3 times)

- ❖ The liturgy is a regular one with a joyful tune whenever possible

From Resurrection to Ascension

- ❖ The procession is done in every Liturgy and the deacons go around the Altar 3 times then around the church three times denoting the joy of the heavenly with us and expressing our joy that the Lord is dwelling with us (40 days after the Resurrection)
- ❖ Holy God: Who has risen from the dead (Repeated the 3 times)
- ❖ Joyful Tune and Resurrection Procession (Khrestos Anesty....Jesus is risen) in all events and all occasions including the welcoming of the pope and bishops, the weddings and the funerals
- ❖ No fasting and no mettanias for mercies are allowed
- ❖ Regular prayers with Psalms (Agpeya)

From Ascension to Pentecost

- ❖ Still the joyful tune but procession of resurrection is done
- ❖ “Holy God”: Who has risen from the dead and ascended into the to heavens (Repeated the 3 times)

Rite of the Liturgy in the Feast of Pentecost

- ❖ Regular prime prayer and Procession
- ❖ Lamb offering: Prayer of 3rd hour only without the “Parts” of the hour
- ❖ Regular prayers till the end of Praxis
- ❖ No Synexarium is read but the “Parts” of the 3rd hour with special tune are sung
- ❖ Hymn of dwelling of the Holy Spirit (Pi Ipnevma)- also said in the ordination of the Bishops and in weddings
- ❖ The liturgy is prayed as usual then the congregation returns back in the 9th hour for the Kneeling prayer “El Sagda”
- ❖ Prayer in the 9th hour of the day of Pentecost and consists of 3 Kneeling prayers
- ❖ The 1st and 2nd prayers are done in the 3rd Chorus of the church while the 3rd prayer is done in the 1st Chorus in front of the Altar while the Altar is opened
- ❖ This is the only day in which we are allowed to bow down and kneel on Sunday after having communion to accept the dwelling of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ In this day we commemorate the departures and the priest asks mercy for them while putting incense in fire in a large clay pot – (Remembering the departed is linked to the acts of mercy to the poor in this blessed day before fasting)
- ❖ The great amount of incense used in this day symbolizes the expansion of the aroma of the Holy Spirit in the whole world
- ❖ Absolution and blessing prayer to depart in peace and to be prepared for the Apostles’ Fast the following day

Conclusion

The joy and celebration of this great period of the year should be reflected in our life not only through outside rituals like no fasting and kneeling but it should be a great push to enjoy this great salvation: to proclaim the death and confess the resurrection and ascension of the Lord

Activities /Discussion Points

1. What is the difference between the Gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit? Which one should we ask for? Refer to **1 Corinthians 12** and **Galatians 5: 16 - 26**
2. Why do we not fast immediately after the Ascension but wait till after the Pentecost while Jesus said: “But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.” (**Matthew 9: 15**)?

The last words of the Lord to His disciples were to wait for the Holy Spirit to get power and be able to witness for Him. Our Spiritual activities as Christians cannot start without the Holy Spirit “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (**1 Corinthians 12: 3**)