

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA



Christ IS Risen!

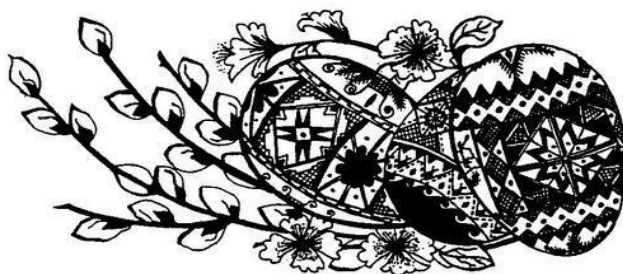
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Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Participant Workbook Ages 8 -12

Table of Contents

3	Session One - Introduction: Christ IS Risen!
4	Session Two - Preparation: The Lenten Spring Has Come
8	Session Three- Great Lent Services Part 1
12	Session Four- Great Lent Services Part 2: O Lord and Master of My Life
16	Session Five- Holy Week Part 1: Today He Who Hung The Earth Upon the Waters
20	Session Six- Holy Week Part 1
26	Session Seven- Pascha: O Death Where Is Your Sting?
32	Session Eight – Symbols and Traditions for Pascha
34	Session Nine - The “Pentecostarion”: The Feast of Feasts
40	Session Ten - Sunday: The Lord’s Day
44	Session Eleven - Repentance: A New Start
48	Session Twelve - With Faith and Love



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Session One: Introduction - Christ IS Risen!

Indeed He IS Risen! This short, but powerful phrase is our theme this year. Throughout the next two weeks we'll look at what it means to us. We'll learn about Pascha, when we traditionally greet each other this way, the events leading up to and following Pascha, as well as the many ways in which this truth applies to our life all year long. Let's start with the meaning of the words- Christ IS Risen! Indeed He IS Risen! They are simple, but tell the most important message there is to tell.



CHRIST: There are lots of ways to talk about or describe Jesus, but for this message- Christ is Jesus, the Son of God, an equal part of the Trinity and who was born on earth as a man to be the Messiah who was foretold by the prophets in the Old Testament.

IS: We don't say Christ 'rose' or 'has risen' like it happened many years ago and now it's over. His resurrection was completed many centuries ago, but the most important part of the Resurrection is that it opened heaven to us, and it is and will always be open to us. He will never be 'un' risen.

RISEN: We will learn more about the events of Holy Week and Pascha later, but for now it is important to know that Jesus was born here on earth, His earthly body was crucified on the cross, and then He appeared again risen from the dead.

These three words wrap up the most important aspect of our beliefs. It isn't just a happy way to greet your Orthodox family and friends, it is a statement of faith. Saying "Christ IS Risen!" shows that you believe in Him, in His Resurrection, and in God's power to defeat Satan, allowing us into heaven.

When you respond to someone with "Indeed He IS Risen!" it is not just a polite reply... it's an agreement. You are saying, "Yes, I too believe in Him, in His Resurrection, and in God's power to defeat Satan, allowing us into heaven."

What else can we learn about Christ and His Resurrection? You don't have to be a theologian, someone who studies and becomes an expert in the faith, to let the world know that Christ IS Risen, but the more we learn about the reasons why we say it, the more we can share with others. Let's begin!

For the grace of the feast is not limited to one time, nor does its splendid brilliancy decline; but it is always near, enlightening the minds of those who earnestly desire it.

-St. Athanasius

