

Hey⁺⁺
kids!

APRIL
2019

BYZI KIDS

Having fun the BYZIKIDS way.



Kids IN SERVICE

It might seem odd for little children to leave their homes so late past their bedtimes on Great Pascha -- to drive through the dark night long after dinner and stand singing songs until after midnight. But holy children, like you, have worked hard to prepare for this day and you share the glory of Jesus' resurrection, as well.

"Lent is a hard time," said 15-year-old Sebastian Byrum, who has served as an acolyte at Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean, Virginia since he was 10. For many children, school gets harder this time of year and keeping the fast can be emotionally taxing, but Sebastian looks forward each year to serving in the Holy of Holies on Great Pascha. "While serving at the altar, you realize it was all worth it. It was all leading up to Christ's resurrection," he said.

When the lights come on in the church late at night, you may hear your priest say the words of St. John Chrysostom:

WHEN THE LIGHTS COME ON IN THE CHURCH LATE AT NIGHT, YOU MAY HEAR YOUR PRIEST SAY THE WORDS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:

*If any be a devout lover of God,
let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.
If any be a faithful servant,
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
If any have wearied himself with fasting,
let him now enjoy his reward.
If any have labored from the first hour,
let him receive today his rightful due.*

Children, like adults, love God and are His faithful servants. You may have fasted just like your parents through Lent and served Christ in many ways.

The Melkite children at Holy Transfiguration serve in many ways during Lent and play an important role in leading the congregation in worship during Pascha.

A convert into the Melkite church, Sebastian was first invited to serve as acolyte immediately after his baptism which happened to be on the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha. He loves serving so much, he hopes to become a priest. "I want to serve a parish and to be a vessel that brings others closer to God," he said.

About fifty men serve in rotation as acolytes at Holy Transfiguration, of those, about thirteen are young boys. Sometimes the procession majestically stretches almost the whole length of the church.

"Obviously everyone wants to serve on Great Pascha," Said Subdeacon Alexei, who supervises the acolyte duties at the parish, "but there is only so much space in the Holy Place! Not only does Pascha have a unique liturgy, but there is so much energy after the build up during Great Lent and Great Week."

Joseph Chrusch, age 10, also cherishes his times of service and hopes he can be an acolyte on Pascha, "It's a great honor," he said.

Joseph's brother Gregory is only 6 and not yet old enough to be an acolyte. But there is still a place for him to serve. Gregory eagerly waits for his turn to serve as Deacon's Helper by holding the book while the deacon changes around his stole during the Our Father. At Holy Transfiguration there are about fifteen boys between the ages of 5 and 8 who take turns as Deacon's Helper. Gregory asks his mommy to check the bulletin every week to see if it's his turn again.

But the boys are not the only ones trusted with liturgical duties during Great Week.

Did you know that when little girls, process on Great Friday as myrrh bearers, they are representing all the women in the congregation who wish to anoint Christ's body?

> Article continued on next page

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ARTWORK BY LILLIAN BARON (C) 2019

Kids IN SERVICE (CONT.)

Grown women and mothers look to their daughters as they crawl under the tomb and mystically enter into Christ's death. As they go, the rest of the congregation stoops in humility with them.

Sylvia Dorham supervises a junior guild at the church for young ladies. "As the future mothers of the next generation of Christians, it's crucial that we teach girls and young women their priceless roles in the church: service, hospitality, faithfulness, and kindness," she said. "The best way to learn is to apprentice! Involving girls in every aspect of service to the community prepares them to take on the responsibilities that create an atmosphere where individuals are nourished and flourish."

The same is true of all the children who will join the Pascha celebration -- even the littlest.

Reader Kevin Burke holds his 19-month-old son Peter as he chants the prayers with the other readers during Liturgy. Peter is just enjoying being near his daddy and does not know that he is teaching the rest of the congregation how to pray.

All the children have practiced the Paschal hymns so that their voices may boom out the victorious songs on this late night. Kristen Berg supervises the children's choir but she says their beautiful harmonies are not rehearsed as a group. It comes from the older children who know and delight in the hymns. "Children of all ages gather around the clerics — their own special place in the Church," She said. "Some already have most of the Liturgy memorized, while others follow along with the book and take the Troparion handouts. Some of them can't even read, but they know important parts like 'AAAAAAMEN' and every 'Lord have mercy.'"

All through Lent the children have prepared. They helped clean the church, decorate the tomb with carnations, dyed eggs in memory of the miracle of Mary Magdalene, prepared the candles that everyone will carry to represent the light of Christ, and served meals.

Now, the preparation and the fasting is over and everyone -- especially the children -- may shout out, "Christ is risen!"

- Written by Judith Jolma



Pascha Basket Cover

MAKE YOUR OWN

All you need:

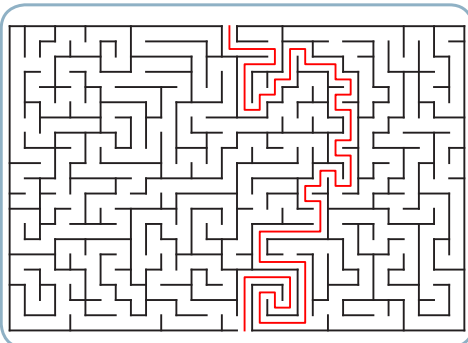
- Fabric markers
- A man's plain white handkerchief

We know that Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life, because He knew that He would give us the gift of the Eucharist, which would look, smell, feel and taste like bread...even though it really isn't. It is Him! When we make the Pascha bread that we will eat on the feast of His Resurrection, we remember that Jesus chose to take something so simple and so universal to us as bread and transform it into something powerful.

When we take our Pascha bread to the church to be blessed, we will cover it with a very special cloth to remind us of the burial shroud, but instead of being sad, our cloth will be decorated with beautiful designs and bright colors to reflect the joy that we feel when we see Jesus resurrected from the dead!

When my children were little, we would prepare the Paskha dough together and then, in order to give Mommy some time to craft the braids that would adorn our loaves of bread, each child got his own little lump of dough and an empty, washed-out tuna can in which to pan and bake his very own little Paskha. Some were big, some were small, some had braids, some had... something else?...on top. Each was unique and perfect and the proud creation of my little bakers who would proudly carry it, in its own little basket, to church to be blessed.

While the little loaves are in the oven, the bakers can decorate their own little basket covers with crosses, flowers and the words, "Christ is Risen!"



Hey
kids!

ANSWER KEY
TO
MAZE
(UPSIDE DOWN)

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Willow Treats

FOR PALM SUNDAY



Here are some pussy-willows that you can eat. They are easy and fun to make. You can make up a bunch for your family, or even double the recipe and make a whole basket of them to share!

Ingredients

- A container of pretzel rods
- A large bag of chocolate chips, melted and spooned into a tall jar
- A bag of mini marshmallows (White ones are best, but the multi-colored ones are a pretty alternative)

Preparation

Melt the chocolate and pour or spoon it into a tall jar.

Dip each pretzel rod into the chocolate, leaving the end for holding, and set it onto a baking tray that has been lined with parchment, or wax paper.

Arrange the mini-marshmallows by setting them in the chocolate to look like the catkins of a pussy-willow.

Allow them to dry and set completely.

Tip

Once they are completely dry, you can arrange them in a nice basket to take to Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday and share with your friends afterward!

Lazarus was a very well-known man in Bethany, and there must have been many guests at the funeral and many mourners with his sisters at the cemetery garden when Jesus came there to perform this miracle.

What a spectacle it must have been! How often does someone see a man, especially one who had been dead for four days, wake up and come back to life? I'm sure they all RAN home (at top speed...I know I would if I saw someone come out of a tomb!) And I'm sure they told absolutely everyone they met about what Jesus had just done. People were so impressed by this miracle, that they all resolved that Jesus should be their king. They would meet Him as He entered the city for Passover! They began setting to work, organizing their friends to line the streets to meet Him, and collecting palm branches and olive branches to wave at Him.

We will go to Divine Liturgy and hear the Gospel account of the Entrance into Jerusalem. We will be given blessed palms and willow branches to carry and wave during the Liturgy in celebration of the feast! We will march in procession with them in honor of those who marched along with Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem that day! Did you know that our ancestors in the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe lived in a climate that is much colder than it was in Jerusalem? There are no palm trees there, nor olive trees for that matter. At this time of the year, spring is only just starting to show any signs at all and the only living thing outdoors may be a pussy willow tree that is just starting to flower. This is why our people bless and carry willow branches, and not palms on Palm Sunday.



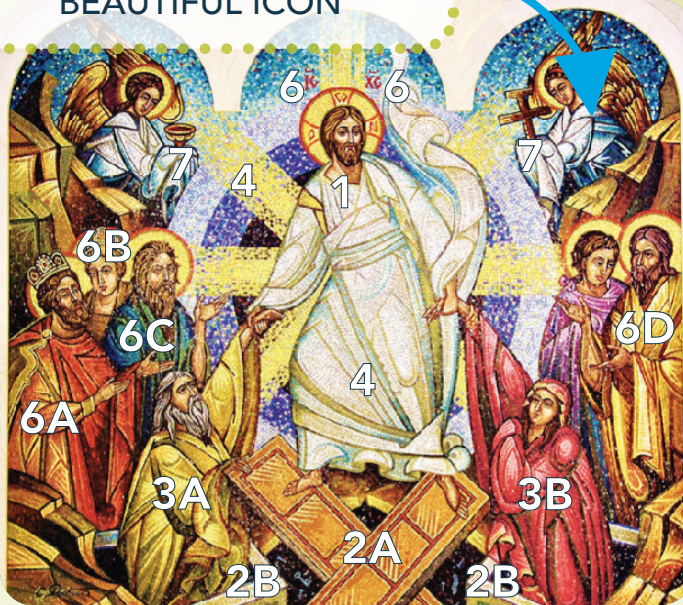
A FAST FRIENDLY RECIPE FROM BYZIMOM.COM!

I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I"CON

THE DESCENT INTO HADES

We see many icons similar to this one on Pascha. Sometimes we call this icon the Resurrection of Christ but it actually has better names than that. It can be called "The Descent into Hades." or "The Harrowing of Hades." It is really showing what happened on Holy Saturday. It shows what took place after *Our Lord died on the cross but before he rose from the dead.*

LET'S STUDY THIS BEAUTIFUL ICON



So, just what exactly is Hades?

Hades is sometimes called "the place of the dead" or the "underworld" or the "Bosom of Abraham". You might even hear the Hebrew word for Hades which is "Sheol". It is the place where the good people of the Old Testament went to wait for Our Lord to save them. Remember, the Old Testament people died *before* Jesus died to save us. They had to wait. Their bodies were in the tomb but their souls waited for Our Lord to lead them from darkness to Paradise. You might hear your Western friends talk about Our Lord descending into "hell." But what they really mean is Hades.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS WE SEE:

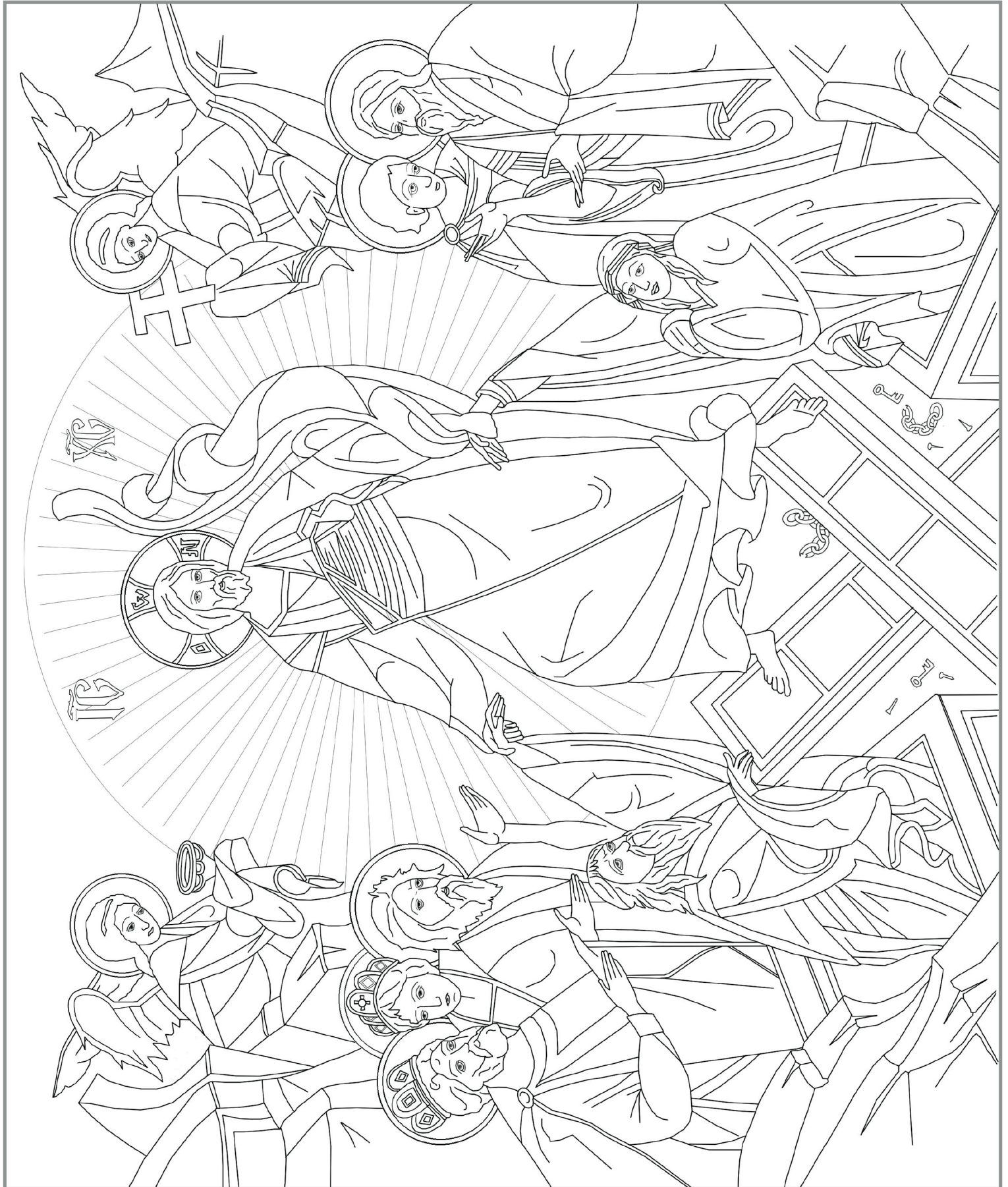
1. We see our Lord, victorious over death, who has descended into Hades (Hell or Sheol) to bring to Heaven the good people who were waiting there.
2. We see our Lord standing victoriously on the gates of (2A) Hades which he has broken down. We see (2B) keys, locks and chains on the ground which Jesus has broken to set us free.
3. We see Jesus pulling (3A) Adam and (3B) Eve by their wrists from their graves. He pulls all the other good people along with them and takes them to be with Him in Heaven.
4. We see a big halo around Jesus. His clothes are shining bright with His glory.
5. The people on the left of these icons are (6A) King David, (6B) King Solomon and (6C) St. John the Forerunner. Sometimes we see (6D) Moses and the prophets on the right.
6. We see the letters IC XC which is the abbreviation for Jesus Christ.
7. We see angels holding a cross and a chalice reminding us of our salvation.

♪ On Pascha we will joyfully sing, ♪
*"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
 and to those in the tombs, giving life."*



The Descent into Hades in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA

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"Based on the beautiful mosaic of the Descent into Hades in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA"

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St. Lazarus

SWEET BUNS



Ingredients

- 1 package of dry yeast
- 2 cups warm water (about 100 degrees)
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 1/2 cup coconut (or other) oil, melted
- 5-7 cups of flour



Preparation

Add the warm water to the yeast and sugar in a large mixing bowl and allow it to sit 10 minutes or so until the yeast begins to bubble (proof). Add the salt and oil, and then the flour, mixing in the last cup or so only if necessary, to make a workable dough. Knead 10 minutes until smooth and elastic. Cover with plastic wrap and allow the dough to sit in a warm place until doubled in bulk, (about an hour). Once our dough has risen and doubled, we can roll it out and use a gingerbread-man cookie cutter to make little Lazarus. Give him two raisin eyes, then place him on a greased baking sheet and cover him with a clean white cloth...poor fellow. It is time to mourn the death of our friend, Lazarus.

While he's laid out (in a warm place) you can read the bible story, so we know exactly what has happened to Jesus's bestfriend. (John 11:1-45) How would you feel if you were standing in the cemetery and had just seen someone call out a man who was buried there for four days? What would you do? Well, first I would probably run until I couldn't run anymore! But then, I would think about what I just saw. No wonder they wanted to make him a king! What power! What influence! They all shouted and waved and welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as a triumphant king! All but the Pharisees...THEY wanted the influence! THEY had the power! And to them, Jesus only got in their way.

After the story, you can place our poor friend Lazarus in the tomb...I mean, the oven...and bake at about 375 degrees, for about 12-15 minutes or so, just until he's risen (and slightly golden brown!).

When the timer goes off and he's done, the children may imitate Our Lord and shout, "Lazarus, Come forth!", before you open the oven door...they always love to do that. Once the Lazarus Buns are completely cooled, you can mix up his winding sheet glaze.

Winding Sheet Glaze

In a medium mixing bowl, combine: 1 cup powdered sugar a dash of vanilla or almond flavoring water Add one Tbsp of water at a time, to make a glaze of a "white glue" consistency. Spoon it into a plastic bag. Cut the tip off the bag and then pipe on his Winding sheet, making sure not to cover his eyes!

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