

**REJOICE! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**CHRIST'S RESURRECTION: A LOGICAL EVENT**

The Orthodox world rejoices today as we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. While we bask in the radince of this glorious day, however, we must be ware o the fact that much of the world remins hardened and unmoved by the observance of Pascha. Yes, there are those who would insist that the story of Christ's Resurrection from the dead is simly that: a story fabricated by his followers and handed down from generation to generation.

Is it preposterous for us to believe that Christ could have risen from the dead? No one denies that Jesus Christ actually walked this earth - - historians have been able to verify what the Gospels tell us. So if He lived, taught, preached, worked miracles, was arrested, put on trial and ultimately crucified, **WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS BODY?** Our Lord's tomb had a huge boulder placed in front of its entrance, and was sealed with the imperial seal of Rome. It was guarded by Roman soldiers, who were trained killers. Is it logical to believe that the Apostles - - who ran and hid when Jesus was arrested - could have overpowered the guards and stolen their Master's Body? Highly unlikely! To suggest that the Myrrhbearing Women could have pulled off such a "grave robbery" is even more illogical. It is inconceivable to suggest that the guards may have failed to do their jobs. They would have paid for such a blunder with their lives.

In reality, the **MOST LOGICAL** explanation of what happened to Christ's body is what we proclaim this morning: **CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD!** In 2000 years, no one has been able to prove otherwise. The truth of Christ's Resurrection, which is the cornerstone of our Holy Orthodox Faith, will continue to stand up to the scrutiny of skeptics and unbelievers. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**