

New Life in Christ

Do you remember the name of the feast that the Jewish people celebrate when they remember how God saved them? (see Exodus 12:1-14, 21-32; 13:17-15:2,19-21). Write it here in the line on the left below: On the right, insert the words: Christ the New Passover!

In the Orthodox Church, we remember that Jesus Himself celebrated the feast of Passover with His disciples before His death on the Cross (see Mark 14:12-25). After Jesus celebrated that feast, He was arrested and put to death. But three days later, Jesus arose from the dead and His friends and followers celebrated with great joy. They knew that Jesus had truly crushed the power of death and has the power to give new life to us — life everlasting in His Kingdom.

We celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead on Pascha. (Pascha means *Passover* or *passage*.) Read the following verse and underline the two sets of key words that explain what kinds of *passage* Jesus Christ made possible for us by His death and resurrection.

On this day of resurrection, be illumined, O people!
Pascha (passover), the Pascha of the Lord.
For from death to life and from earth to heaven
has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory!
Christ is Risen from the dead! (Ode 1 Paschal Kanon)

Write them here: _____ and _____

When we are baptized, the priest prays these words:

Wherefore, O Lord, manifest thyself in this water, and
grant that he/she who is baptized... may be transformed;
that he may put away from him the old man...
and...may be clothed upon with the new man...
that being buried, after the pattern of thy death, in baptism,
he may, in like manner, be a partaker of thy Resurrection;
and... having preserved the gift of thy Holy Spirit,
he may... be numbered with the firstborn whose names are written in
heaven, in thee, our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

How does Baptism put away the "old man"(person) in us? What does the "old man" in us mean?

In our baptism, we say that we "die" to sin, and "arise" to new life in Christ in the baptismal waters. How can we explain this death and new birth in water?

The baptismal hymn says: "**As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.**" What does it mean to "put on Christ"?

At our Baptism, we were given a white robe or garment, as the priest said: "The servant of God (name) is clothed in the Robe of Righteousness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Then the baptismal Troparion was sung:

**Grant unto me the robe of light, O Most Merciful Christ our God,
Who dost clothe thyself with light as with a garment.**

What does the word "righteous" mean? _____? What does it mean for us to clothe ourselves with LIGHT? _____

Does being a "new person in Christ" change our behavior? How?

When we receive the Holy Chrism, we are anointed with the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, eyes, nostrils, lips, ears, chest, hands and feet, and are "**sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" What does this say to you about how we are to treat our bodies and live as Christ wants us to live? Note one or two ways you might do God's will with each part of your body:

Forehead (mind) _____

Eyes _____

Nostrils _____

Lips _____

Ears _____

Hands _____

Feet _____