

STUDY REGARDING THE TRADITIONS AND FEATURES OF ORTHODOX ROMANIAN FROM HOLY WEEK

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Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the importance and traditions and customs of Romanian orthodox in the week of Holy Easter. The week is called the Holy Week, and several events of great significance for Christians are worth mentioning, such as the Last Supper during which is discovered of the one who would sell the Lord, the washing of the disciples' feet, but the most important moment is the breaking of the bread and the worship of the glass of wine, the moment when the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist actually takes place.

Keywords: traditions, Christians, Holy Easter, Holy Week

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Easter that we celebrate every year brings the news that our Savior Jesus Christ has risen, conquering the death. The One that three days stood in the grave, rise, resurrected, gave us life. We call the Holy Easter feast after the word which in the Old Hebrew word means passage; because this is the day when God first brought the world from non-existence into existence. In this day God delivered the Israelite people out of the hand of Pharaoh, passed through the Red Sea, and on this day He descended from heaven and dwelt in the womb of Mary the virgin. And now, pulling the entire human race from the bottom of hell, He ascended to heaven and brought it back to the old worthiness of immortality.

The resurrection of the Lord is the guarantee of our resurrection. The Lord Jesus "came in according to the wisdom of the Gospel, that his sheep might live and have abundance" (John 10: 10). The Savior took upon Him all ours, he lived like us, but without sin he suffered, endured even death, to show that He is life-giving for all who believe in Him.

"Since through a man comes death, also through a Man the resurrection of the dead. And as in Adam all die, so into Christ all come to life ..." (Corinthians 15: 20-23). The resurrection of the Lord is also our resurrection with Him. The Holy Easter that we always celebrate with joy is therefore the feast of life and resurrection, being rightly called the feast of the feasts.

Through the greeting "Christ has risen", [3] we proclaim the rising from the dead of the Savior, we are actually confessing our faith in the resurrection of the Lord who sacrificed to us and our salvation.

The feast of the Resurrection is not only of some humans, but of all humans, [4,5]. because Christ suffered, he received the crucifixion and resurrected for the salvation and life of all who believe in Him "for His will is for God to be all in all" (Corinteni 15,28)

"Stretching His two holy hands on the cross, Christ unfolded two wings, right and left, calling to all the faithful and covering them like the hen defended his chickens" (St. Ipolit)

"The resurrection of the Lord is a unique event under the sun, beyond the limits of this world". [6] From death to life he brought us again The Lord with His Resurrection. And here, this resurrection, "the angels praise in heaven". [8]

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to draw up this scientific approach regarding the we undertook studies regarding the practices from churches in Holy week, through a specialized bibliography, but also through our own experience, even taking pictures to be better outline what is happening during the church service in this week especially Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and especially Saturday - when the Lord's Resurrection Service is held).

RESEARCH RESULTS

Jesus the Lord is an example of giving for the others. God loves us so much that "He gave His own Son, One Born, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have Eternal Life (John 3:16).[9,10]

The week before the Easter is called the Holy week, [2] because this week take place several events, such as the Last Supper during which is discovered of the one who would sell the Lord, the washing of the disciples' feet, but the most important moment is the breaking of the bread and the worship of the glass of wine, when the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist actually takes place. The Savior taking the bread breaks it, gives it to His disciples, and says, "Eat it, this is My Body of the new Law that breaks for you for the forgiveness of sins, and also the cup of wine, worshipping it, saying, Drink of it all, this is My Blood, of the new law, which for you and for many is poured out, to forgive sins, adding this commandment to do it for My remembering. It follows the Prayer from the Gethsemane Garden, the Sacrifice of the Savior, His Judgment, His Crucifixion and His Burial, which is why in this Holy Week, Denies are performed, the Holy Gospels are read to remind us of these events from the life of the Savior.

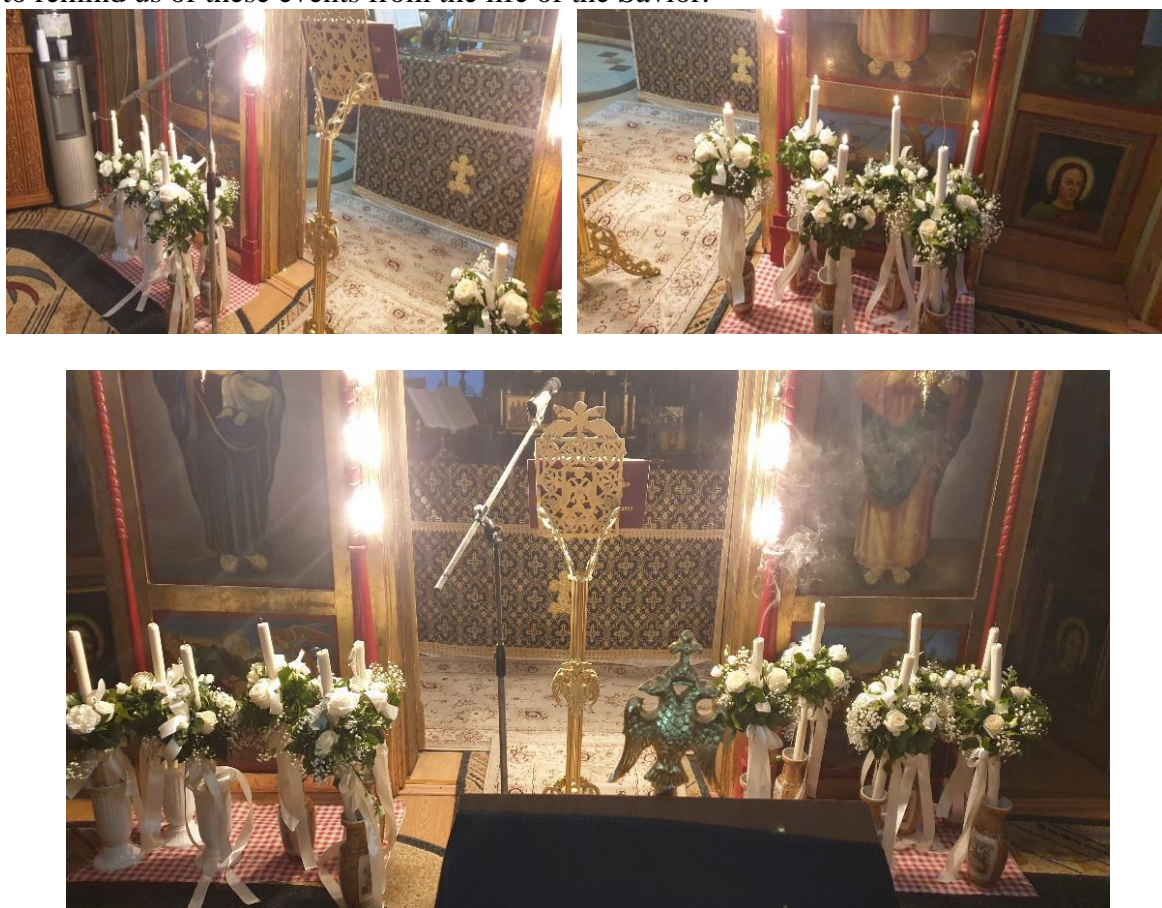


Figure 1. The twelve candles from the Holy Thursday

In the Holy Thursday at Denies, the 12 Gospels [12,13,14,15] are read out (we can exemplify in this regard the Denies of the 12 Gospels from Sacalaz Orthodox Church, where on this occasion come many Christians who live at maximum intensity everything that happens in the church. We consider it appropriate to mention also the 12 candles beautifully decorated with white flowers that are turn each other at the time of reading each of the 12 Gospels).

In the high Holy Friday is made the putting in the grave, are singing, by priests and believers, the three states of the Lord's Burial Service. It sits in the middle of the church of the Holy Grave, on which is placed the Holy Epitaph, a cloth that has the image of the Savior on it.



Figure 2. The Holy Grave with the Epitaph - placed in the middle of the church

Another important moment of Holy Friday's service is represented by the surrounding of the church.



Figure 3. Moments from surrounding the Church on Holy Friday

Holy Friday is followed by the Holy Saturday, when the Lord's Resurrection Service is being held at night, which is, in fact, our resurrection to a new life.[11] On this occasion Christians take the Holy Light of the Resurrection, lighting their candles from the candles worn by the priests. In the last time, believers can enjoy the Holy Light coming directly from Jerusalem.



Figure 4. Calling Christians to Take the Holy Light

By the words "Christ is raised", [3]. Christians testify faith in the Savior's Resurrection, and testify that Christ has suffered and has been buried and resurrected for us

and for our salvation, as we are witnessing in the symbol of faith. [1,7]

CONCLUSIONS

The Holy week (that is, the week before the Easter) is a very important one for Orthodox Christians, because during this week, in the Orthodox churches, services were performed with a special spiritual charge.

The very important moment of this week is on Saturday, when evening after 12 o'clock, Christians are in churches to participate physically but especially spiritually at the Lord's Resurrection Service, which is also our resurrection to a new life. Christians after this moment from the Holy Week will only salute through the words "Christ has risen", at this it is received "True is risen" as a response, so they confess the faith in our Savior's Resurrection, keeping this custom until the Feast of the Lord's Ascension when are greeted with each other in a particular way first, so "Christ has ascended" and the response is "True is ascended", thereby confirming the Lord's heavenly ascension.

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