**The Nativity of the Holy Virgin**

**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**1220 CRANE STREET**

**MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025**

**(650) 326-5622**

**tserkov.org**

**15-е Воскресенье После Троицы – Преподобного Пимена Великого – Глас 6**

**Тропари и Кондаки после Малого Входа:**

**Тропарь Воскресный Глас 6:**

Ангельские Силы на гробе Твоем,/ и стрегущии омертвеша;/ и стояше Мария во гробе,/ ищущи Пречистаго Тела Твоего./ Пленил еси ад, не искусився от него;/ сретил еси Деву, даруяй живот.// Воскресый из мертвых, Господи, слава Тебе.

**Тропарь Xрама Глас 4:**

Рождество Твое, Богородице Дево, / радость возвести всей вселенней: / из Тебе бо возсия Солнце правды Христос Бог наш, / и разрушив клятву, даде благословение, // и упразднив смерть, дарова нам живот вечный.

**Тропарь Преп. Пимена Глас 8:**

Слез твоих теченьми пустыни безплодное возделал еси,/ и иже из глубины воздыханьми во сто трудов уплодоносил еси,/ и был еси светильник вселенней, сияя чудесы, Пимене, отче наш,// моли Христа Бога спастися душам нашим.

**Кондак Воскресный Глас 6:**

Живоначального дланию/ умершия от мрачных удолий/ Жизнодавец воскресив всех Христос Бог,/ воскресение попаде человеческому роду:/ есть бо всех Спаситель,// Воскресение и Живот, и Бог всех.

**Кондак Пимена Глас 4:**

Светлых подвиг твоих, преподобне отче,/ наста днесь святая память твоя,/ души благочестивых веселящи,/ Пимене богомудре,// отче наш преподобне.

**Кондак Храма Глас 4:**

Иоаким и Анна поношения безчадства/ и Адам и Ева от тли смертныя свободистася, Пречистая,/ во святем рождестве Твоем./ То празднуют и людие Твои,/ вины прегрешний избавльшеся,/ внегда звати Ти:/ неплоды раждает Богородицу и Питательницу Жизни нашея.

**Второе Послание к Коринфянам (4:6-15):**

6потому что Бог, повелевший из тьмы воссиять свету, озарил наши сердца, дабы просветить *нас* познанием славы Божией в лице Иисуса Христа. 7Но сокровище сие мы носим в глиняных сосудах, чтобы преизбыточная сила была *приписываема* Богу, а не нам. 8Мы отовсюду притесняемы, но не стеснены; мы в отчаянных обстоятельствах, но не отчаиваемся; 9мы гонимы, но не оставлены; низлагаемы, но не погибаем. 10Всегда носим в теле мертвость Господа Иисуса, чтобы и жизнь Иисусова открылась в теле нашем. 11Ибо мы живые непрестанно предаемся на смерть ради Иисуса, чтобы и жизнь Иисусова открылась в смертной плоти нашей, 12так что смерть действует в нас, а жизнь в вас. 13Но, имея тот же дух веры, как написано: я веровал и потому говорил, и мы веруем, потому и говорим, 14зная, что Воскресивший Господа Иисуса воскресит через Иисуса и нас и поставит перед *Собою* с вами. 15Ибо всё для вас, дабы обилие благодати тем бо́льшую во многих произвело благодарность во славу Божию.

**Евангелие От Матфея (22:35-46):**

35И один из них, законник, искушая Его, спросил, говоря: 36Учитель! какая наибольшая заповедь в законе? 37Иисус сказал ему: возлюби Господа Бога твоего всем сердцем твоим и всею душею твоею и всем разумением твоим: 38сия есть первая и наибольшая заповедь; 39вторая же подобная ей: возлюби ближнего твоего, как самого себя; 40на сих двух заповедях утверждается весь закон и пророки. 41Когда же собрались фарисеи, Иисус спросил их: 42что́ вы думаете о Христе? чей Он сын? Говорят Ему: Давидов. 43Говорит им: ка́к же Давид, по вдохновению, называет Его Господом, когда говорит: 44сказал Господь Господу моему: седи одесную Меня, доколе положу врагов Твоих в подножие ног Твоих? 45Итак, если Давид называет Его Господом, как же Он сын ему? 46И никто не мог отвечать Ему ни слова; и с того дня никто уже не смел спрашивать Его.

**Слово от Феофана Затворника:**

Предложил Господь заповедь о любви к Богу и ближним, и тотчас дополнил ее учением Своем сыновстве Богу и Божестве. Для чего же это? Для того, что истинная любовь к Богу и людям не иначе возможна, как под действием веры в Божество Христа Спасителя, в то, что Он воплотившийся Сын Божий. Такая вера возбуждает любовь к Богу, ибо как не любить столь возлюбившего нас Бога, Который и Сына Своего Единородного не пощадил, но предал Его за нас? Она же доводит эту любовь до полноты совершения или до того, чего она ищет, а любовь ищет живого союза. Чтобы достигнуть этого союза, надо победить чувство правды Божией, карающей грех; без этого страшно приступать к Богу. Чувство же это побеждается убеждением, что правда Божия удовлетворена крестною смертью Сына Божия; убеждение такое от веры; следовательно, вера открывает путь любви к Богу. Это первое. Второе, вера в Божество Сына Божия, нас ради воплотившегося, страдавшего и погребенного, дает образец любви к ближним; ибо то и любовь, когда любящий полагает душу свою за любимых. Она же дает и силы к проявлению такой любви. Чтоб иметь такую любовь, надо стать новым человеком, вместо эгоистического - самоотверженным. Только во Христе человек становится нова тварь; во Христе же бывает тот, кто верою и благодатным возрождением через св. таинства, с верою принимаемые, соединяется со Христом. Отсюда выходит, что чающие без веры сохранить у себя, по крайней мере, нравственный порядок напрасно ожидают этого. Все вместе; человека разделить нельзя. Надо всего его удовлетворять.

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost –– Venerable Pimen the Great –– Tone 6**

**Resurrection Troparion –– Tone 6**

Angelic Hosts were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou didst despoil Hades and wast not tempted by it. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

**Parish Troparion –– Tone 4**

Your Nativity, O Virgin, / Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / Has shone from You, O Theotokos! / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. / By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.

## Troparion (Pimen) — Tone 8

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! / Our Father Pimen, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

**Resurrection Kontakion –– Tone 6**

Having by His life-bestowing hand raised up all the dead out of the dark abysses, Christ God, the Giver of Life, hath bestowed the Resurrection upon the fallen human race; for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and the Life, and the God of all.

## Kontakion (Pimen) — Tone 4

The memorial of your illustrious struggles / delights the souls of the devout today, / Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

## Parish Kontakion — Tone 4

By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; / Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. / And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: / The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!

**2 Corinthians 4:6-15  *(Epistle)***

**6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **8** We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed –  **10** always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. **11** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So then death is working in us, but life in you. **13** And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, **14** knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. **15** For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

**Matthew 22:35-46  *(Gospel)***

**35** Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, **36** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” **37** Jesus said to him, “’You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’  **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” **41** While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, **42** saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” **43** He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: **44** ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’?  **45** If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” **46** And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

**The Life of the Pimen the Great –– from OCA.org:**

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then Saint Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, “Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?” Saint Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home.

Fame of Saint Pimen’s deeds and virtues spread throughout the land. Once, the governor of the district wanted to see him. Saint Pimen, shunning fame, thought to himself, “If dignitaries start coming to me and show me respect, then many other people will also start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shall be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have acquired only with the help of God.” So he refused to see the governor, asking him not to come.

For many of the monks, Saint Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. They wrote down his answers to serve for the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked, “If I see my brother sinning, should I conceal his fault?” The Elder answered, “If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins. If you see a brother sinning, do not believe your eyes. Know that your own sin is like a beam of wood, but the sin of your brother is like a splinter (Mt. 7:3-5), and then you will not enter into distress or temptation.”

Another monk said to the saint, “I have sinned grievously and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is that enough time?” The Elder replied, “That is a long time.” The monk continued to ask how long the saint wished him to repent. Perhaps only a year? Saint Pimen said, “That is a long time.” The other brethren asked, “Should he repent for forty days?” The Elder answered, “I think that if a man repents from the depths of his heart and has a firm intention not to return to the sin, then God will accept three days of repentance.”

When asked how to get rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint replied, “This is like a man who has fire on his left side, and a vessel full of water on his right side. If he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. The fire represents the evil thoughts placed in the heart of man by the Enemy of our salvation, which can enkindle sinful desires within man like a spark in a hut. The water is the force of prayer which impels a man toward God.”

Saint Pimen was strict in his fasting and sometimes would not partake of food for a week or more. He advised others to eat every day, but without eating their fill. Abba Pimen heard of a certain monk who went for a week without eating, but had lost his temper. The saint lamented that the monk was able to fast for an entire week, but was unable to abstain from anger for even a single day.

To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said, “Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well.”

He also said, “If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable.”

The saint said, “It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one’s neighbor.”

“Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness.”

Once, after Saint Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Scetis, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then Saint Pimen said, “We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder.” He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing Saint Pimen’s humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, “Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater.”

He possessed such great humility that he often sighed and said, “I shall be cast down to that place where Satan was cast down!”

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, “Now you have spoken well, and I will answer.” For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

Saint Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called “the Great” as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.