

Introduction

Christ is risen! He is truly risen!

With that triumphant antiphonal greeting of the Easter season we welcome you to services of our Melkite Catholic Community.

Whether you come as an inquirer or as a visitor we hope that you will grow in your love of God as you join yourself to us in worship and fellowship.

We are a family of Orthodox Christians in communion with the Pope of Rome, Patriarch of the West and Universal Pontiff. Our roots are in the ancient See of Antioch where Peter first governed and where Jesus' followers first adopted the terms "Christian" and "Catholic."

Our name "Melkite" means "Emperor's Men," an early reference to our loyalty to a royal defender of the Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

The Liturgy — the word means "people's work" — reflects this inheritance from earliest times, coming from Jerusalem and Antioch through the hands of Saints Basil and Gregory and, most especially, our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Thus we are a traditional Church, that is, we believe in the permanent and living presence of the Holy Spirit continually inspiring, illuminating, instructing and sustaining the Church in truth.

We are also an Incarnational Church as evidenced by the beauty of our temple worship. From the wall of Icons — holy representations of the Heavenly Court — to the elaborate poetry of the Divine Services, our prayer is set forth in his sight like the incense. Our whole worship is a testimony to the natural world as a medium of communication between creature and creator.

Feel free to sing praise with us or to observe in companionable silence. If you are a Catholic you may take communion with us. If not, do please partake of the *Agape* (Love) bread distributed to all at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Thank you for being with us.

He is truly risen!

Father Daniel

Feast of Athanasius of
Alexandria 1984