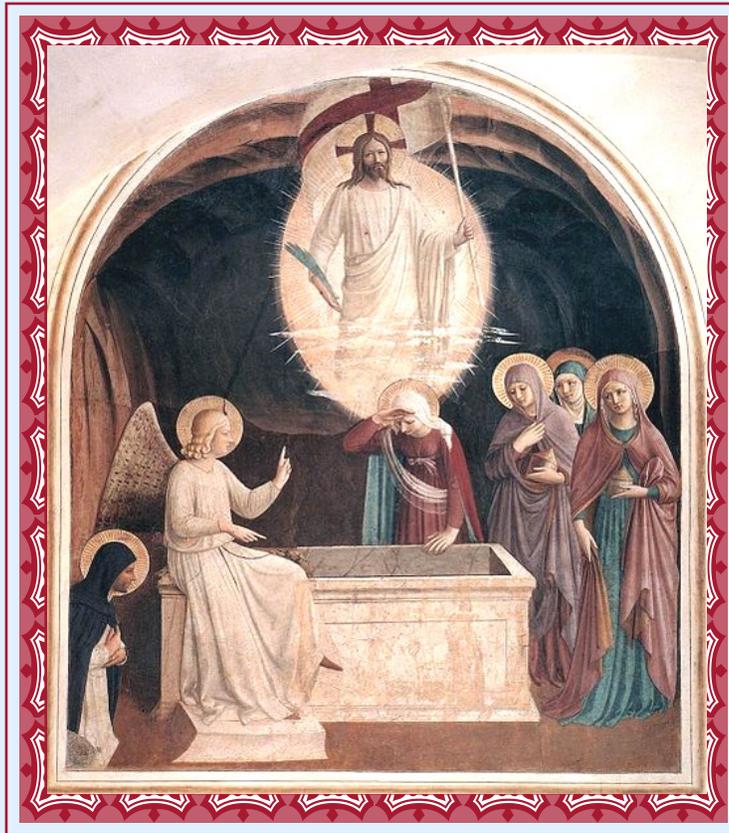


# From the Heights: Monastic Musings from the Mountains

PASCHA, 2014

Volume II, Issue 4

## Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



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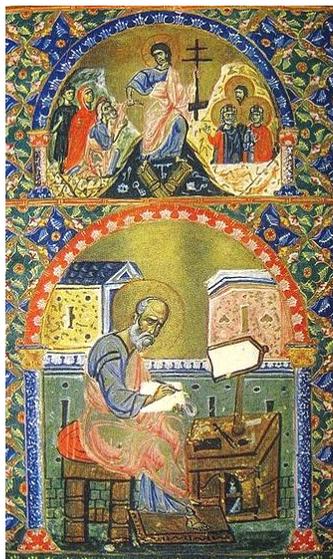
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O frightful murder! O unheard of injustice! The Lord is disfigured and he is not deemed worthy of a cloak for his naked body, so that he might not be seen exposed. For this reason the stars turned and fled, and the day grew quite dark, in order to hide the naked person hanging on the tree, darkening not the body of the Lord, but the eyes of men.

Yes, even though the people did not tremble, the earth trembled instead; although the people were not afraid, the heavens grew frightened; although the people did not tear their garments, the angels tore theirs; although the people did not lament, the Lord thundered from heaven, and the most high uttered his voice.

But he arose from the dead and mounted up to the heights of heaven. When the Lord had clothed himself with humanity, and had suffered for the sake of the sufferer, and had been bound for the sake of the imprisoned, and had been judged for the sake of the condemned, and buried for the sake of the one who was buried, he rose up from the dead, and cried aloud with this voice: "Who is he who contends with me? Let him stand in opposition to me. I set the condemned man free; I gave the dead man life; I raised up the one who had been entombed.

"Who is my opponent? I," he says, "am



Resurrection and  
St John the Evangelist,  
Vani Gospels, 12th Cent.

## Easter Carol

This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to life this morrow!

✠

Had Christ, who once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day Prison,  
our faith had been in vain:

But now is Christ arisen!

✠

My flesh in hope shall rest,  
And for a season slumber:  
Till trump from east to west,  
Shall wake the dead in number.

✠

Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
Since Jesus cross'd the river:

Lover of souls, from ill

My passing soul deliver.

— George R. Woodward, 1894

*A delightful video of this Easter Carol may be seen and heard at:*

<http://chantblog.blogspot.com/2011/04/this-joyful-eastertide-kings-college.html>

### Christ is Risen, *con't from Page 1*

the Christ. I am the one who destroyed death, and triumphed over the enemy, and trampled Hades under foot, and bound the strong one, and carried off man to the heights of heaven. I," he says, "am the Christ."

"Therefore, come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins. I am your forgiveness, I am the Passover of your salvation, I am the lamb which was sacrificed for you, I am your ransom, I am your light, I am your saviour, I am your resurrection, I am your king, I am leading you up to the heights of heaven, I will show you the eternal Father, I will raise you up by my right hand."

This is the one who made the heavens and the earth, and who in the beginning created man, who was proclaimed through the law and prophets, who became human via the virgin, who was hanged upon a tree, who was buried in the earth,

who was resurrected from the dead, and who ascended to the heights of heaven, who sits at the right hand of the Father, who has authority to judge and to save everything, through whom the Father created everything from the beginning of the world to the end of the age.

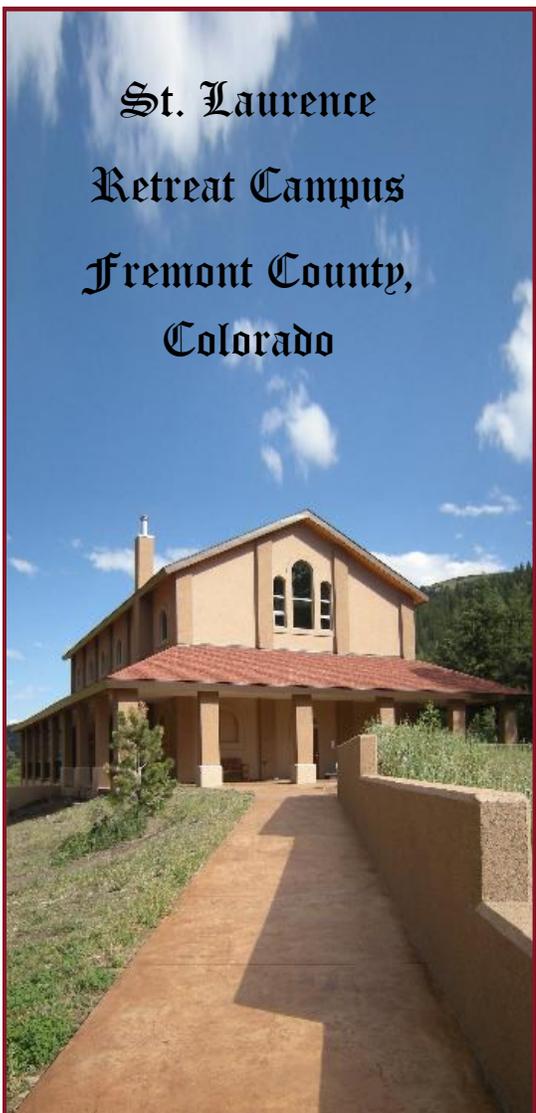
This is the alpha and the omega. This is the beginning and the end – an indescribable beginning and an incomprehensible end. This is the Christ. This is the king. This is Jesus. This is the general. This is the Lord. This is the one who rose up from the dead. This is the one who sits at the right hand of the Father. He bears the Father and is borne by the Father, to whom be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

— From the *Peri Pascha* (On the Passover) by St. Melito, Bishop of Sardis, d. c.180 A.D.

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 News and Events
 

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St. Laurence  
Retreat Campus  
Fremont County,  
Colorado

**April 12:** Joseph Van den Brink and Sandra Tillman, of St Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church, Edmonton, Alberta, were invested as novice oblates by the Rev. Elias Ferzli, acting on behalf of Prior Theodore. Many years!

**April 13:** A spring snow-storm prevented the monastics from attending Palm Sunday Liturgy at St Augustine's, Denver. Services, including a procession in the snow, were held in the St Laurence Oratory.

**April 16:** The monastics travelled to Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery (OCA-Romanian), Lake George, to join Mother Cassiana and Father Seraphim for the Holy Wednesday Liturgy of the Presanctified.

**April 19:** Fr Giovanni's twin sister, Anna Lynn Ching, arrived from New Mexico to spend Pascha with us. She joined us for the Easter Morning *Missa Cantata* at St Augustine's, Denver, her first-ever Western Orthodox Liturgy.

**August 8 — 10:** *Mark your calendars!* Second Annual Benedictine Fellowship Pilgrimage at the St Laurence Center. *Our Guest Speaker this year will be His Grace Bishop JOHN, Vicar Bishop for the Antiochian Western Rite Vicariate.* More information will be available soon.

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Come away to a quiet place ... and rest awhile" (Mk6:31)

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The monastic Community of Our Lady and Saint Laurence is ready and willing to welcome individuals and groups for spring, summer, and fall retreats.

The scenery is lovely, the weather congenial, the hospitality warm, and the prayer sincere — come and join us in taking advantage of the gracious gifts of

God in nature, in fellowship, and in worship at the St Laurence Center!

Check out the information on our web site:

[www.saintlaurenceosb.org](http://www.saintlaurenceosb.org)

*We look forward to welcoming you!*

— Monk Theodore, Guest Master  
[office@saintlaurenceosb.org](mailto:office@saintlaurenceosb.org)

“The hospitality

warm,

and the prayer

sincere —

come and join us”

Community of Our Lady and Saint Laurence

The **Benedictine Fellowship of Saint Laurence** is an independent, non-profit corporation established for religious and charitable purposes. All donations are tax deductible.

The Fellowship was founded to promote monastic life and spiritual renewal and worship according to the traditions of Orthodox Catholic Christianity, under the inspiration of the *Rule of Saint Benedict*. In order to further this ministry, the Fellowship operates a retreat center where people can seek renewal through combining worship, contemplation, and work.

The **Community of Our Lady and Saint Laurence** is an *unofficial community* of monastics, following the ancient *Rule of St. Benedict*, worshipping according to the Orthodox Western Rite approved by the Holy Synods of Moscow and Antioch. We live and work at the Retreat Center operated by the Fellowship in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. While we are, individually, affiliated with the Antiochian Orthodox Western Rite Vicariate, as an organization we are not, at present, a canonically erected monastic community of any Orthodox Jurisdiction. We endeavor to support ourselves with regard to food, medical care, transportation, and personal needs through our work for the Fellowship and through other crafts or services, and through donations from the faithful.

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Visit us on the Web:

[www.saintlaurenceosb.org](http://www.saintlaurenceosb.org)

Seeking and  
Serving God in the  
Way of St. Benedict

*Place address label here.*