



Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church ✠ Српска Православна Црква Светог Луке

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*Our Savior, the Orient from the East, has visited us from on high, and we, who were in darkness and shadow, have found the truth, for the Lord is born of the Virgin!*

### The Exapostilarion of the Nativity

Today, dear brothers and sisters, we rejoice together because the darkness of fear and shadow of spiritual ignorance have been dispelled through the Nativity of our Savior! The perfect knowledge of God and the good news of salvation have been revealed to us through the birth of God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of love and mercy, the Creator of the Universe, decided to take on the human nature and become equal to us in everything but the sin, and thus raise us back once again to the full fellowship with God, which has been foreordained for us by virtue of being created in God's "image and likeness."

This perpetual message of hope and encouragement is especially meaningful to us as we have emerged from a long pandemic and are struggling in various ways, especially trying to regain our spiritual footing and equilibrium. The examples of selfless love and self-sacrifice which our Lord Jesus set for us in the manner of his birth and his subsequent ministry serve as an important lesson to us. His meekness and humility exemplified in the Cave of Bethlehem, serve also as the guiding light in our lives.

Dear Saint Luke parishioners, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us be illumined by the feast of Christ's Nativity! Let us learn and put into action the lessons of Christmas so that our Savior may be born in the manger of our hearts and thus revive and reinvigorate them spiritually. May He ever reign there, dispelling all sorrows, fears, discord, and divisions shining forth the incorruptible light of His Evangelic Truth.

Christ is Born! Indeed He is Born!

Your intercessor before the newly-born Savior,

V. Rev. Protopresbyter Vasilije Vranic, PhD,  
Episcopal Dean of Washington Deanery