



The Resurrection of our Lord, and His Descent into Hades

*He went and preached unto the
spirits in prison. (1 Peter 3:19)*

In the teaching of the Armenian church, the descent of Christ into Hell is always associated with His Resurrection. This icon in stained glass reflects upon and emphasizes that prefiguration of Christ's own Resurrection and the future resurrection of the dead. It follows the tradition of Armenian iconic images as painted in the churches as well as in the illuminated gospels in which the Resurrection of Jesus is always portrayed with His visitation to Hell.

The descent into Hell represents the ultimate degradation of Christ - and at the same time the beginning of His glory. Our Lord's victory over Hell and the deliverance of Adam and the righteous ones of the Old Testament times are all interwoven in the miracle of the Resurrection. This image of the Savior standing over the imprisoned spirits in Hades is in harmony with accounts found in the gospel narratives. He appears in Hell not as a captive - but as its conqueror and deliverer; He comes not as a slave - but as a Master of Life. His garments are no longer those of His earthly service. They now reflect the light of heaven.

The Savior tramples underfoot the two crossed doors of Hell that He has pulled down by the power of His death over eternal death. He holds in his left hand the Cross - no longer the symbol of punishment and death - but now the symbol of victory over death. Extending his right hand he reaches for Adam, Eve and all imprisoned spirits, resurrecting them from the grave and freeing them from the bonds of eternal damnation. The words of the Easter introit sung on this glorious, festive occasion in the Armenian church echo the very nature of the image portrayed here:

*Christ has risen from the dead,
Trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tomb bestowing life.*

(Introit of the Resurrection, Armenian Divine Liturgy)

Stained Glass Window Donors

It is with deep gratitude and appreciation and a feeling of great satisfaction that we offer our most sincere thanks to the following persons who have made possible the realization and completion of the images of our faith shining forever, fabricated in stained glass.

Arsen Andekian and Family
Edward and Terry Antaramian and Family
Rose Akgulian
Sam and Ann Akgulian
Margaret and Lisa Lucille (Binky) Armaganian
Margaret Armaganian, Mary Pockat,
 Bessy Dadian and Victoria Hansen
Zabel and Virginia Armaganian
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Ardis, Ann and Nancy Anne Cherkinian
Harry and Ardis Cherkinian
Sarkis, Mary and Janet Cherkinian
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Levonian Family and Grandchildren
Mike and Martha Manogian
Hatoun Minasian
Byds, Arthur and Nubar Musurlian
Mrs. Mary Neau and Family
Harold and Mariam Sahakian

Stained Glass Window Committee:

Father Garabed Kochakian
Sam Akgulian
Ardis Cherkinian
Alice Hazarian
Marderos Nersesian

ST. MESROB ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Racine, Wisconsin

PROGRAMME

- Invocation His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
- Welcome. Master of Ceremonies - John Esayan
- Greetings The Honorable Mayor - Owen Davies
- Recitation Araxie Hardy
"Loosavorchee Ganteghuh" - Hovhannes Toumanyen
("The Enlightener's Lantern")
- Remarks Mr. Joseph Klotz
Oakbrook-Esser Stained Glass Co.
- Musical Selections St. Mesrob Junior Choir

Under the direction of Lisa Akgulian
Accompanied by Michelle Grabowski

Gina Korakian	Peter Korakian
Lisa Hagopian	Ryan Weber
Krista Chalekian	Timothy Hammes
Amy Heller	Adam Buchaklian
Mark Hammes	Aaron Chalekian
Marna Nersesian	Chad Vartanian

- Address. Shining Images of Faith
The Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian

PRESENTATIONS

- Message. His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
- Benediction. His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

THE ENLIGHTENER'S LANTERN

(Loosavorcheee Ganteghuh)

In the night, the lighted lantern
Is from the heavens suspended;
The Enlightener's unquenched lantern
From the somber Armenian skies.

Ropeless it is suspended, high
O'er the summit of Arakadz,
And from that mighty altar spreads
Its saving light o'er all the world.

It gave its light for centuries
And will ever burn unconsumed,
No one ever filled it with oil
But the Saint with his crystal tears.

No human hand can reach that height,
The awe-inspiring mountain peak,
No winds can extinguish that light,
Not even the dragon tempest.

When the sable-night envelopes
The beautiful land of ours,
And when within the timid heart
Suspicion, fear and terror reign;

Only he whose heart is loving,
Innocent, unswerving in faith,
Only he who fosters bright hopes
For the future of his people,

He alone will see the torch
Ever-burning from the heavens,
You'd say the luminous eye of God
Watches always from the heavens.

SAINT MESROB ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Racine, Wisconsin

The Pastor, Parish Council and Stained Glass Window Committee of the Saint Mesrob Armenian Church offer their deepest gratitude and sincerest thanks for the goodwill, charity and love expressed by the following donors as they have made possible through their sponsorship the completion of the Stained Glass Window Project. Each window indeed is a treasure of our Faith and their donations make possible for this treasure to be transmitted to future generations.

"He seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an image that will not move." (Isaiah 40:20)

Arsen Andekian and Family
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Bessy Dadian and Victoria Hansen
Zabel Armaganian and
Virginia (Armaganian) Madajian
Harry and Marianne Armaganian
Lucine Azarian
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Jack and Margaret Kirkorian
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Harry and Betty Levonian
Altoun Levonian
Mike and Martha Manogian
Sarkis and Arshelios Mikaelian and Family
Hatoun Minasian
Byds, Arthur and Nubar Musurlian
Mrs. Mary Neau and Family
Harold and Mariam Sahakian

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General Chairman. Mr. John Esayian
Banquet Chairman Mr. Sarkis Akgulian
Hospitality, Courtesier. Mrs. Susan Esayian
Publicity. Mr. Marderos Nersesian
Photography Mr. Peter Sherinian
Reception Daniel and Marge Korakian
Treasurer. Mr. Ardis Cherkinian
Program Ms. Lisa Akgulian
Security. Mr. Sarkis Cherkinian
Advisor. Ms. Alice Hazarian

The Saint Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, Wisconsin

Announces

A Pastoral Visit by Our Diocesan Primate HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN

April 16 and 17, 1988

Schedule of Events

Saturday April 16, 1988

Evening Worship and Ordinations

7:30 p.m.

The Order of Sub-deacon (Gisa-sargavak) will be conferred upon Mr. James Hardy

The Four Minor Ranks (TBIR) will be given to:

Paul Barsamian

Timothy Hammes

Adam Buchaklian

Peter Korakian

Aaron Chalekian

Mark Nersesian

Joseph Gabrielian

Haig Tcheurekdjian

Mark Hammes

Chad Vartanian

Ryan Weber

A Reception will follow in the Church Hall

Sunday April 17, 1988

Matins

9:00 a.m.

Pontifical Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m.

Requiem Prayers

11:45 a.m.

Dedication of Stained Glass Windows
and Blessing of Donors

12:00 noon

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN

Celebrant

Srpazan Hayr will formally dedicate and bless our stained glass windows and offer prayers for the souls in whose memory they have been donated.

Following services a dedication banquet and special program will be held.

GIOVANNI DE RANGO SUPPER CLUB

3 Mile Rd. and Main Street

2:00 p.m.

RSVP by April 10

- Shining Images of Faith -

Armenian Iconographic Art Presented in Stained Glass

We are pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of the book SHINING IMAGES OF FAITH published by the St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of Racine, Wisconsin. This volume will contain the replications of the stained glass windows gracing the holy sanctuary of St. Mesrob Church executed in accordance with the iconographic art style of miniature painting from the ancient Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts. Each window will be presented with an appropriate theological commentary and explanation authored by the pastor of St. Mesrob, The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, who himself is an artist and painter of religious art.

This book indeed will be a treasure to add to your library. The ancient art of Armenian Miniature Illuminations has been beautifully translated into the art of stained glass by the Oakbrook-Esser Stained Glass Company of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The design, detail and preparation of these shining images of faith were executed by the artists of Oakbrook-Esser and under the supervision of Father Kochakian.

Truly the Christian Faith as proclaimed in the Holy Gospels and through the lives of the Saints of the Armenian Church come alive through this stained glass art form. This book will be available for purchase in the very near future.