

## Bishop Matthew of Sourozh guest of Holy Synod of Bishops

At the invitation of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, His Grace, [Bishop Matthew of Sourozh](#), Interim Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, joined the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of at a session devoted to ongoing plans for celebrations marking the 50th Anniversaries of the Granting of Autocephaly and the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska in 2020.

The Holy Synod is [holding its Spring Session](#) at the OCA Chancery May 7-10, 2019.

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Bishop Matthew and asked him to convey his personal greetings to His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow on behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops. He further thanked Bishop Matthew for his visit and friendship, recalling His Grace's [first visit to the Chancery in November 2018](#), shortly after his appointment as Interim Administrator.

In turn, Bishop Matthew conveyed to Metropolitan Tikhon and the members of the Holy Synod the Paschal greetings of Patriarch Kirill. He shared with His Beatitude and members of the Holy Synod that at a recent gathering in Baltimore, the Patriarchal clergy and laity expressed their deep gratitude to the Orthodox Church in America for the fraternal relations which exist between the two churches, and the desire to participate in appropriate ways in the celebrations dedicated to the anniversaries of Autocephaly and the Glorification of Saint Herman.

“The visit of Bishop Matthew to the meeting of the Holy Synod of Bishops underscores the positive relations between the Orthodox Church in America and the Russian Orthodox Church,” noted Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor.

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המשיח קם! באמת קם!  
(HaMashiach qam! Be'emet qam!)

*Hebrew (modern)*

## Harisutosu hukkatsu ; jitsu ni hukkatsu.

*Japanese*

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### Commemoration of the Apparition of the Sign of the Precious Cross Over Jerusalem, in 351 AD

Commemorated on [May 7](#)

The Precious Cross appeared in the sky over Jerusalem on the morning of May 7, 351 during the reign of the emperor Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine (May 21).

At that time the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Christ was merely a creature and not God, was causing great turmoil and division throughout the Empire. Even after the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325, many people were drawn to this false teaching, and the Orthodox found themselves in the minority in many places.

Constantius, the ruler of the eastern part of the Empire, was a fervent supporter of Arianism. His brothers Constantine II and Constans, who were pious Orthodox Christians, ruled in the west. They were both killed in separate battles around 350, leaving Constantius as sole ruler. Also in 350, Saint Cyril (March 18) became Patriarch of Jerusalem and began his zealous struggle against Arianism. In May of 351 a luminous Cross appeared over Jerusalem, stretching from Golgotha to the Mount of Olives, a distance of about five and a half miles. The Cross was wide as it was long, and shone more brightly than the sun. Many people left their homes and workplaces to gather in the church and glorify Christ. The historian Sozomen says that this wondrous sign led to the conversion of multitudes of pagans and Jews to Christianity.

A letter from Saint Cyril to the emperor describing this phenomenon, and admonishing him to become Orthodox, has been preserved. The apparition of the Cross remained over the city for a whole week. The vision of the Cross over Jerusalem strengthened the Orthodox faithful and contributed to the return of many Arians to the Church. It is also a reminder of the awesome Second Coming of Christ, when “the sign of the Son of man shall appear in heaven” (Matthew 24:30).

### Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

She is tired of her dolly, and  
tired of her play, And she  
thinks she will read to her  
mother today.

So, seated on the carpet,  
this little Kitty Brown Reads  
story after story, though the  
book is upside down.  
By M.D.B.



### And Grandma's too...

While we honor all our mothers with words of love and praise. While we tell about their goodness and their kind and loving ways. We should also think of Grandma, she's a mother too, you see.... For she mothered my dear mother as my mother mothers me.  
Author- Unkown



### Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.