



*Anglican Orthodox Church*



**OUTTER DARKNESS, OR EFFULGENT SUNLIGHT – WHICH IS IT?**

***"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light..."*** .Romans 13:12

Imagine the great tragedy of being cast into utter darkness for all time and eternity. No more would our eyes be privileged to view the intrinsic beauty of God's Creation. No more would we be able to take a step in sureness of where our foot would fall. No longer would we have the vision to recognize loved ones or behold their dear likeness. Our prospects would be too horrible to contemplate! But such will be the destiny of those who have been exposed to the Great Day Star and averted their hearts and minds away in rejection.

**Two thousand years ago, outside the City Gates at a Hill called Calvary, the world was cast into all-pervasive darkness. This darkness occurred at the 6<sup>th</sup> hour when the Son of Glory hung upon the cross-beams of a cruel cross. The Great Father of Mercy and Lights averted His loving eyes from His only Begotten in abject sorrow and hurt. There was a physical darkness which covered the land for the next three hours of agony...until the Great Redeemer had completed His mighty act of Redemption for you and me. The physical darkness reflected a deeper darkness that has prevailed from the moment that our Father Adam defied the one commandment God had given and partook of the forbidden fruit in the Garden. At the end of the three hours of darkness on the cross, Christ commended His Spirit unto God and finished the Salvation Plan. But Christ also entered into that utter darkness of death, His unconquerable Soul was cast into the darkness of the Garden Tomb where it lay for three days and three nights. Our Saviour endured the Darkness of Death vicariously for us. That is the purpose of our observation of Lent – to contemplate the sorrow and suffering of Christ and His sacrifice.**

***".....weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning!"*** (Psalms 30:5)

**But all the powers of Darkness, marshaled against this King of Glory, could not hold Him in the prison of death. On the third day, according to the Scriptures, the Almighty One broke the bonds of Death and Hell to emerge from the Tomb and made our redemption possible. With a burst of intense Light, the Light of the World emerged from His grave garments and defeated the powers of darkness forever. What an event, and what a Saviour!**

**May each of us have a most blessed and glorious Easter to conclude this present season of penitential observance.**

**In Christ,**

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