



Easter Sunday The Resurrection

This occasion is elaborately celebrated only among the Greeks, the Slavs, and the Poles. It begins at sunrise on Easter Sunday with the entire community participating. The priest removes the monstrance from the Holy Sepulcher and carries it in a procession, the final destination being the high altar, where it is enshrined alongside a statue of Christ holding an Easter banner. During the procession, the faithful joyously sing the ancient hymn, "The glad day has come, which we all so desired" (Wesoły nam dziś dzień nastał, kórego z nas każdy żadał). At the beginning of this hymn, all the bells and organs ring and sound out. Military units fire salvoes. The singing, the bells, the banners, the white vestments, and the unusual atmosphere of joy and warmth fill the heart with shivers of great emotion. At the end of the service, a festive Te Deum Laudamus is sung. In olden times, everyone including royalty participated in the Resurrection procession, which sought to re-create some aspects of the Easter story i.e. the coming out of the grave, the angel meeting the myrrh-bearing women at the empty tomb etc. Some traces of this element are found in the following: "The Real History of the Lord's Glorious Resurrection," old Polish dramas, and old Polish Pascal hymns such as "Christ Is Risen From the Dead."

At the end of this service, all exchange wishes of good health and prosperity. The traditional Polish Easter greeting is: "Christ is risen!" (Chrystus zmartwychwstał. Zaiste zmartwychwstał!)

In the country, all race home from church at top speed for it is believed that the first person home will be the first to complete the tilling of his fields. Young people play a game at Easter involving the cracking of their opponent's egg tip with their own, the winner getting both eggs.