

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Holy Spirit who Proceeds from the Father

The Holy Fathers made a distinction between the interior life of the Most Holy Trinity and the revelation of the Trinity in creation. In the Most Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit proceeds (in Ukrainian, *iskhodyt*; in Greek, *exporeutai*) from the Father - the one and only source of the Most Holy Trinity. When the Holy Fathers spoke about the action of the Persons of the Trinity and creation, they professed that the Father sends the Holy Spirit "through the Son." St. Cyril of Alexandria, professing this very same faith, explained this *sending* of the Holy Spirit "through the Son" as the fact that the Holy Spirit "comes from (in Ukrainian, *pokhodyt*; in Greek, *proenai*) the Father and the Son." This interpretation was emphasized by the Fathers of the Council of Florence: "Some [were] saying the Holy Spirit, comes from the Father and the Son, others saying the Holy Spirit comes from the Father through the Son. All were aiming at the same meaning in different words." This opinion was also expressed in the Articles of the Union of Brest: "The Holy Spirit...proceeds from one Source, as if from a wellspring, from the Father, through the Son." (# 98)