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PASCHA—Christ IS Risen!

Indeed He IS Risen

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier,

Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola,

Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slangenaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Marianne Mulroy, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

REMINDER: The time between Pascha and Saint Thomas Sunday is FAST-FREE! Other than pre-Communion fasting, no fasting is permitted! Enjoy the respite and celebrate the Resurrection with all Orthodox Christians! God Bless!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28 PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST; THE PASCHA
OF THE LORD**

*******Page 179 in the Black Divine Liturgy Books*******

Acts 1:1-8
John 1:1-17

**SUNDAY, MAY 05 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA; ANTIPASCHA; SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS; SAINT
THEODORE THE SYKEOTE-BISHOP OF ANASTASIOPOLIS; APOSTLES
NATHANIEL, LUKE & CLEMENT; SAINT VITALIS OF THE MONASTERY OF ABBA
SERID AT GAZA**

Acts 5:12-20
John 20:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of Charles Cherepko, Joseph Baloga, Daniel J. Pysh, Jr., Nicholas Homyrda, Anna Metrick, Bogdan Mural, Esther Tylavsky, Evdokia Josephine Repa, +Metropolitan Constantine, Metro Warholak, Khorla Joanne Abdalah, Katherine Tomson, Walter Golofski, Jr., Michael Yarmeak, Anna Vangrin, & Stella Cherepko—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, MAY 12 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN;
RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS; NINE MARTYRS AT
CYZICUS: THEOGENES, RUFUS, ANITPATER, THEOSTICHUS, ARTEMAS,
MAGNUS, THEODOTUS, THAUMASIUS, & PHILEMON; SAINT MEMNON THE
WONDERWORKER OF CORFU**

Acts 6:1-7
Mark 15:43-16:8

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 28 APRIL 2019

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST; THE
PASCHA OF THE LORD**

*******Page 179 in the Black Divine Liturgy Books*******



The 2019 Pascha Epistle of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine



2019 PASCHAL LETTER

"Yesterday I was crucified with Him . . . Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him...Yesterday I died with Him; today I am made alive with Him...Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him...Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us our complete selves – the possession most precious to God and most proper...Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us...Let us become Divine for His sake, since for us He became Man...He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom...He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer... He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were thrown down through the fall of sin...Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us...We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with

Him...A few drops of Blood recreate the whole of creation!"-St. Gregory the Theologian,
Paschal Orations

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

With these powerful words of St. Gregory the Theologian from his Paschal Orations we greet each and every one of you, dear Brother Clergy, Monastics and our beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the nations of the world beyond the borders of Ukraine—in the United States of America, Canada, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand and all our faithful in other nations! We also especially greet our Brother Hierarchs, Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine—the Autocephalous Church of the Ukrainian nation, which God has blessed by the Holy Spirit guided and thus, wise decision of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and New Rome, Bartholomew I and the Holy Synod of Constantinople!

We pray the joy of our celebration amongst all of you, our spiritual children, is even more powerful today than ever before because of this powerful accomplishment—returning to the fold of Christ's Body—the Holy Orthodox Church—millions of faithful Orthodox Christians who had been roaming in a spiritual wilderness through no fault of their own. Today they must feel the words of St. Gregory above: *"We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him,"* for they had experienced what felt like spiritual death for so many decades!

"Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us...We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him." Each of us experienced this "death with Him" during our Baptism, descending in the waters of the Sacrament and rising up therefrom into NEW LIFE with Him in His Body, our Holy Church. It is almost impossible to explain in simple human words, the depth of meaning behind all that God in the Holy Trinity has done for in order that we might have hope, refuge and protection throughout our lives—"The Father is my Hope, the Son is my Refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection"—enabling us to survive ANYTHING utilized against us by the fallen angel to tempt us away from the Body.

Once again at this Great and Holy Feast of PASCHA—THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—our true life is confirmed. Death is annihilated, the power of Satan has been trampled down by the One, Who could NOT be held captive to death, Who would be the 'firstborn from the

dead” (Rev. 1:5) and first in the new creation! We are meant to be heirs of the Resurrection, heirs of all things in heaven and on earth. Let us rejoice in that Resurrection! Let us live with a certainty that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has accomplished all for our salvation!

We assure you all, dearly beloved, of our prayers for you at this PASCHA and every single day of life that follows. We will pray that we, together, may co-create with our Risen Lord a new world that comprehends the sanctity of life, not only of our own species, but of all species made in God’s Wisdom. We will pray that we, sooner rather than later, seek to ensure to the best of our individual and communal ability, to preserve the welfare of God’s creation. We beseech you to join us in these prayers so that we all, together, may stand before our Risen Lord with hope, faith and charity filling our lives—for the world around us and all its inhabitants.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!

+YURIJ-Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ANTONY-Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and the Diaspora

+JEREMIAH-Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+ DANIEL-Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ ILARION-Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – Western Eparchy

+ ANDRIY-Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – Eastern Eparchy

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Aleut (Sugpiag):

Kriiiiistuusaq Ungwektuq! Pichinuq Ungwektuq!

Albanian (Tosk):

Krishhti Unjall! Vertet Unjall!

Anglo-Saxon:

Crist aras! Crist sodhlice aras!

Arabic:

Al Maset’h ahm! Hat’em ahm!
and El Messieh Kahm! Kakken Kahm!
and Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Amharic:

Kristos Tenestwal! Bergit Tenestwal!

Armenian:

Christos harjav i merelotz! Orhniale harutjun Christosi!

Byelorussian:

Khristos Uvoskros! Zaprowdu Uvoskros!

Chaucerean Middle English:

Crist is arisen! Arisen he sothe!

Chinese:

Helisituosi fuhuole! Qeshi fuhuole!

Cantonese:

Gaydolk folkwoot leew! Ta koksut folkwoot leew!

Church Slavonic:

Christos Voskrese! Voistino Voskrese!

Coptic (Egypt):

PiKhirstos af tonf! Khen o methmi af tonf!

Coptic (Sahidic, not the Bohairic dialect which is the Coptic church's liturgical language):

Pchristos aftooun! Alethos aftooun!

Czech:

Kristus Vstal A Mrtvych! Opravdi Vstoupil!
and Kristus vstal zmrtvy'ch! Skutec~ne~ vstal!

Danish:

Kristus er opstanden! Ja, sandelig opstanden!

Dutch:

Christus is opgestaan! Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!

Eritrean (Tigre):

Christos Ten-si-OU! Ba-Ha-ke Ten-si-OU!

Esperanto:

Kristo Levig^is! Vere Levig^is!

Estonian:

Kristus on Oolestoosunt! Toayestee on Oolestoosunt!
and Kristus on surnuist ülestõusnud! Toesti ülestõusnud!

Ethiopian:

Christos T'ensah Em' Muhtan! Exai' Ab-her Eokala
and Yasous Taustwal! Aown Tasous Tanastwal!

Finnish:

Kristus Nousi Kuolleista! Totisesti Nousi!

French:

Le Christ est ressuscité- il est vraiment ressuscité!

Gaelic:

Erid Krist! G'deya! n erid she!

Gaelic (Irish):

Tá Criosd ar éirigh! Go deimhin, tá e ar éirigh!
(Phonetic -- Taw Creest Ereen! Taw Shay Ereen Guhdyne!)

Gaelic (Scotch):

Tha Crìosd air èiridh! Gu dearbh, tha e air èiridh!
and Hah Creeist air eh-ree! Goo jeh-ruv, hah eh air eh-ree!

Georgian (IveroPontian):

Kriste aghsdga! Cheshmaritad aghsdga!

German:

Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrhaft auferstanden!
and Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich erstanden!
and Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrhaftig auferstanden!
and Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Greek:

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Hawaiian:

Ua Ala Hou `o Kristo! Ua Ala `I `o No `oia!

Hebrew:

Ha-Mashiah qom! Be-emet qom!
and Ha Mashiyach qam! Ken hoo qam!

Hungarian

Krisztus feltámadt! Valóban feltámadt!

India (Spoken in)

Malayalam: Christu Uyirthezhunnettu! Theerchayayum Uyirthezhunnettu!

Indonesian:

Krisuts Telah Bangkit! Benar dia Telah Bangkit!

Italian:

Cristo e' Risorto! Veramente e' Risorto!

Iyaric Patwa (English dialect used by the Rastafarian subculture of the West Indies):

Krestos a uprisin! Seen, him a uprisin fe tru!

Japanese:

Harisutosu Fukkatsu! Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu!

Javanese:

Kristus Sampun Wungu! Saesto Panjene Ganipun Sampun Wungu!
and Kristus Sampun Wungu! Tuhu Sampun Wungu!

Kikuyu:

Kristo ni muriuku! Ni muriuku nema!

Kpelle (Liberia, West Africa):

Korai aa mu su Saa-yeei! Toya ma, E mu su Saa-yeei!

Korean:

Kristo Gesso! Buhar ha sho Nay!

Latin:

Christus Resurrectus Est! Vere Resurrectus Est!

Lugandan:

Kristo Ajukkide! Amajim Ajukkide!

Micronesian:

Pinglapese -- Kreis Isadar! Oh ketin kalowehdier!
Palauan -- Kristus a mla mekiis! Ngiima dingar!
Chuukese -- Kristus a manaau sefan! A fokkun manan sefan!
Carolinian -- Lios a melau sefal! Meipung, a mahan sefal!
Chamorro -- La'la'i i Kristo! Megahet na luma'la' i Kristo!

Nigerian:

Jesu Kristi Ebiliwo! Ezia o'biliwo!

Navajo:

Christ daaztsáádée' náádiidzáá! T'áání, daaztsáádée' náádidzáá!

Norwegian:

Christus er Oppstanden! Sandelig Han er Oppstanden!

Polish:

Khristus Zmartvikstau! Zaiste Zmartvikstau!

Portugese:

Cristo Ressuscitou! Em Verdade Ressuscitou!

Quenyan (Language of the elves in J.R. Tolkien's writings):

Ortanne Laivino! Anwa ortanne Laivino!

Romanian (Vlkah):

Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Russian:

Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Sanskrit:

Kristo'pastitaha, Satvam Upastitaha!

Serbian:

Hristos Vaskrese! Vaistinu Vaskrese!

Slovak:

Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc~ne vstal!

Slavonic:

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Spanish:

Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado!

Swahili:

Kristos Ame Fu Fuka! Kweli Ame Fu Fuka!
and Khristos amafafouka! Kwaeli amafafouka!

Swedish:

Kristus är Upstånden! Ja Han är Sannerligen Upstånden!

Syriac:

Meshiha qam! Bashrira qam!
and Qom Msheeho (men qabro)! Shareeroyith qom!

Turkish:

HristosDiril-Di! Hakikaten Diril-Di!

Ugandan:

Kristo Ajukkide! Kweli Ajukkide!

Ukrainian:

Khristos Voskres! Voistinu Voskres!

Welsh:

Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd yn wir!

Yiddish:

Eybershter undzer iz geshtanen! Avade er iz ufgeshtanen!

Zulu:

Ukristu Uvukile! Uvukile Kuphela!

From the Matins Gospel of Holy Monday, is the account of Christ cursing the unproductive fig tree.

Fig-trees were symbolic of prosperity (Deut. 8:8; Hab. 3:17; Hag. 2:19), pleasure (Judges 9:11), and security (1 Kings 4:25; 2 Kings 18:31; Isaiah 36:16; Joel 2:22; Nah. 3:12) in the nation of Israel. When the people of Israel would see the fig-trees putting forth the early "green figs", they looked at it as a sign that springtime had come (Song 2:13).

The Bible uses the fruit of the fig-tree as a symbol of Israel. God says, "I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the first-fruits on the fig tree in its season" (Hosea 9:8). God even gave the prophet Jeremiah a vision of the remnant people of Judah as a basket of either good ripe figs, or figs so rotten they couldn't be eaten (Jer. 24:1-10).

And so, it's a sign of judgment upon Israel when God warns that He is going to strike the fruit of the fig tree. In Jeremiah 8:13, He says, "'I will surely consume them' says the LORD. 'No grapes shall be on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things I have given them shall pass away from them'" (Jeremiah 8:13; see also Joel 1:11-12).

All of this is important to understand, because in this Gospel lesson, our Lord uses a symbol that would have been readily understood by the people of Israel: a fig-tree.

We are to learn from the fig tree the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ that bears good fruit.

The fig tree that is covered with leaves but is barren of fruit teaches us the futility of mere surface religion, when there's barrenness of fruit of the Spirit on the inside, that produces nothing.

The promise of the Savior to His disciples, teaches us that real fruitfulness is a product of genuine, active, living faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith in Christ brings God's Grace for salvation.

As we began our Holy Week journey with the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, let's make very sure that we are truly living in vital trust in Him! It's the difference between barrenness and fruitfulness.

In Christ Service, Fr. George L. Livanos, Proistamenos

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for Holy Pascha 2019

Protocol No. 39/19 **April 28, 2019 Holy Pascha The Feast of Feasts**

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

On this glorious Feast of Feasts, we hear in the Gospel of those who came to see the tomb of our Lord. The myrrh-bearing woman came early in the morning of this day to anoint His body, to show their commitment to Christ through an act of love and care. They expressed concern regarding the large stone covering the door of the tomb, but as they approached *there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone....* (Matthew 28:2)

The angel said to the women, *Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen as He said.*

Come, see the place where the Lord lay. (Matthew 28:7) These are the words that filled their hearts with joy. These are the words they took to the disciples with rejoicing. These are the words, *He is risen*, that we proclaim today in our joyful celebration of Holy Pascha and the Resurrection of Christ.

We sing with abundant gladness in our hearts, *He is risen!* We sing these words because through His glorious Resurrection, He has revealed God's power to bestow abundant and eternal life. Christ has defeated death. He has broken the bonds of Hades. He has shown to those in the graves the life that awaits them. Our Risen Lord has won the ultimate victory so that we can be free to enter the everlasting light and life of His glory.

Today, we proclaim *He is risen!* because the power revealed in His Resurrection is not a temporal power. It is eternal. The power of the Resurrection is not confined to one day or one event. It is an ever-present power that fills our celebration. It fills our hearts and our minds. In the presence of the One who holds and offers this power, the power of grace and life, we are both comforted and challenged. In our worship, we experience awe. In our joy we have an eagerness to go out rejoicing so that all the world may know, *He is risen!*

As the women who came to the tomb that morning heard the words of the angel, *He is risen*, we must also hear these words. We must hear them deeply. We must experience the transforming power through our faith in what He has done. We must believe that *He is risen* and our Risen Lord is in our midst, filling our hearts with an everlasting joy. But as we hear these words, we must also affirm that they should be shared. Today, our exclamation is universal. On this day our hearts are united in the joy of Pascha, and together with voices loud and clear we proclaim to all, *He is risen!* Go and tell your family and friends. Go and share the good news in your communities. Go into all the world and proclaim, "It is the day of Resurrection! *He is risen!*"

Christ is risen! He truly is risen!

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† D E M E T R I O S, Archbishop of America