

ENCYCLICAL

for the All-Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Our Journey Towards the Eighth Day and the Resurrectional Beneficence of the Mother of God

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Light-Wrought Children of the Church:

“THIS is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”¹

“[O]ld things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...”²

New is the tomb. New are the linen cloths. New is the Resurrection of Our Savior. New is our kind. New is Heaven. New is the earth. New is the creation. New are all things.

Let us look around ourselves! All things are delightful! All things are fragrant! All things are dew-laden! All things are most graceful and wholly gladsome!

They, too, look as if they have risen with Christ, as if they have been restored to life from the deadness of winter, and they leap in exultation, as they offer the finest and most excellent gifts of sweetest spring to the life-bestowing Tomb.

All things are new! Let our anthems to our most comely and glorified Savior, Who shines like the Sun, be also new.

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“Let us sing unto the Lord a new song”!³ And henceforth, “[let us] walk in newness of life”!⁴

The path towards the new life in Christ is now open. God is risen and His enemies are scattered!⁵



¹ Psalm 117:24, *Septuaginta*.

² II Corinthians 5:17.

³ Cf. Psalm 149:1, *Septuaginta*.

⁴ Romans 6:4

⁵ Cf. Psalm 67:2, *Septuaginta*.

We have now been given the most sublime gift: to partake of the Risen Body of Our Lord; to partake of Divine Glory through His immaculate Flesh; and to partake of the true Life through His humanity, renewed and one with God.

The human nature of our Savior is made manifest through the Resurrection

as a frontier between the Creator and rest of creation; and, receiving all the fullness of the Glory and blessedness of God in itself, it [Christ's human nature] commingles⁶ it in a certain fashion, and in this way through itself imparts this Glory and blessedness to all of the blessed, both Angels and men.⁷

O glories! O splendors! O grandeur of the Holy Resurrection of Our Lord! Truly, this is the **Day** which the Lord hath made! Now, indeed, this **Day**, the Sunday that is glorified by God, is an image of the Age to Come; but then, it will be the Eighth Aeon of the Future Life.

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“[L]et us rejoice and be glad in it!”⁸

And henceforth, all of the glories of the Resurrection of Our Divine Savior Christ are accessible to each and every one of us through our fervent and heartfelt love for Him, the One, the Unique, the Beloved.

Loved by us as His friends, He communicates His Glory to these, His friends.

“Ye are my friends.... Henceforth I call you not servants.”⁹

Today, through the vibrant flame of Love for Our Lord, we worship His Resurrection in exultation and gladness, for Hades is destroyed, as is Death, the **“last enemy.”¹⁰**

Thus, our body, which was heretofore deadened by the enmity of the **passions**, is henceforth vivified and deified; our soul, which was before deadened by **sensuality**, is henceforth vivified and deified; and our spiritual mind, which was previously deadened by **worldly toil**, is henceforth vivified and deified.

⁶ In Greek: συγκερνᾶ: συγκιρνεί, ἀναμειγνύει.

⁷ St. Nikodemus the Hagiorite, *Γυμνάσματα Πνευματικά* [Spiritual exercises], Study XXXII, §1 (Thessalonica: 1971), p. 272.

⁸ See note 1.

⁹ St. John 15:14-15.

¹⁰ I Corinthians 15:26.

The “last enemy” has been destroyed, and it is constantly undergoing destruction by humility, love, and chastity, which inundate our existence through ascetic **action** and Divine **vision**, purification, and illumination, through our participation in the Nature of Our Savior, which is *one with God*. For He it is Who lives and reigns in our hearts and helps us to walk in “**Newness of Life**.”

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We also have, as our fellow Companion, Guide, and Protectress on this regenerating course towards the Eighth Day of the Future Life, the Mother of God, the Immaculate *Theotokos*.

Today, she who is full of Grace rejoices and delights in the Arising of her Offspring; yet, both unceasingly and at all times does she rejoice, when accompanied by her children, for, as the Mother of Mercy and Charity,

‘through her hands pass all of the Graces of God, both in Heaven and on earth, both to Angels and to men,’ ‘in proportion to the love that they have towards her.’¹¹

The Beneficence of the Mother of God “raiseth up her children, and they grow rich.”¹² They are everlastingly enriched by the wealth of Divinity, Life, Peace, Light, Patience, and Hope, “that they might obtain a better resurrection.”¹³

The Resurrectional wealth of the Beneficence of the Mother of God vouchsafes us to rejoice in afflictions, to be rich in poverty, to be consoled in infirmities, to be glad in tribulations, to maintain hope in the face of impasses, and to *endure valiantly* whatever befalls us by God’s loving and healing Providence.

Yes, our journey, the journey in **Martyrdom and Repentance** of all who love Christ and His Mother, is—especially today—the glorious journey of those in the Sacred Apocalypse “**which came out of great tribulation**,”¹⁴ but a journey done in patience and thanksgiving.

May the Light of the Resurrection, the Grace of the Three-Sunned Godhead, be conveyed by the Queen who so loves mankind to Christ-loving Christians who love the *Theotokos*, through the inestimable prayers of Metropolitan Cyprian, our Grace-endowed Elder and Father,

¹¹ St. Nikodemos, *Γυμνάσματα Πνευματικά*, p. 278.

¹² Proverbs 29:28, *Septuaginta*.

¹³ Cf. Hebrews 11:35.

¹⁴ Revelation 7:14.

that the Father might be glorified, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Amen!

May the Grace of the Mother of God and her joy at His Resurrection be always with you.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Holy Resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ 2008

Your humble supplicant
before our Risen Lord,

† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi,
Acting President
of the Holy Synod in Resistance

