

**ENCYCLICAL**

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**FOR THE ALL-GLORIOUS RESURRECTION  
OF CHRIST OUR SAVIOR**

Resurrected from the Dead  
Through Love and in Love

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

**ON THIS DAY**, as on every Sunday of the yearly festal cycle, we experience the profound and renewing joy that “Christ is Risen!”

This joy, this mystical gladness, which powerfully permeates our existence, constitutes a mystery and, at the same time, a proof that our Lord and our God “is truly Risen.”

Countless people throughout the ages have had, and continue to have, a personal relationship with the Resurrected God-Man. They have encountered Him and have heard Him exhorting them: “Rejoice!”; “Peace be unto you!”; “Be not afraid!”; “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I, myself!”<sup>1</sup>

They are those with whom Christ “travels” on their earthly journey. They are those whose hearts are burning—that is, “afame”—as they journey with Him and converse with Him; they are those whose “eyes are opened and who know Him...in the breaking of Bread”<sup>2</sup> and the drinking of Wine, that is, in the Communion of His Body and Blood in the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist.

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**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR SAVIOR** is the revelation and the outpouring of, and our participation in, God’s mercy and love for mankind: in total and self-sacrificial love, since true love is indissolubly bound up with sacrifice and death.

Why do we honor the Cross of Christ? Because it is proof that our Lord and God loves us so completely, so totally, and so unreservedly that He identifies with us; exists, lives, and dies with us, in our stead and for our sake; descends into Hades; and thus appears, to the eyes of the world, as a humiliated, powerless, marginalized, forsaken, and defeated God!

The dynamic outpouring of this love of Christ in His Body, His Holy Church, is the reason for the preternatural joy of the Resurrection. This joy, which is experienced mystically, gives proof of our Savior’s Resurrection.

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**THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION**, our Lord has put an end to grim Hades and the dreadful Hell of our separation and alienation from true Life. His self-sacrificial love has bridged the chasm between Heaven and earth and united God with man.

In this way is revealed to us the central message of the Gospel in all of its magnitude: that

“death is inseparable from love.”<sup>3</sup>

The Holy Apostle Paul exhorts us: “[B]e ye tenderhearted one to another, ...put on...tender mercy, ...be ye followers of God, ...and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”<sup>4</sup>

We must proffer our love as our Lord offered His, that is, without being intimidated even by death itself, without hesitating to descend self-sacrificially into the Hades and Hell of our brother’s tragedy, trials, and suffering.

The joy of the Resurrection will abide permanently in our hearts only when we pass through that death which is called love and which enables us “to lay down our life for our friends.”<sup>5</sup>

The Cross and the Resurrection, death and love!

These constantly remind us that we are called to be resurrected from the dead through love and in love. For it is here that existence and love, as a communion of persons, coincide, according to the image and likeness of the Communion of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May the joy of the Resurrection inundate our beings, through the intercessions of the most blessed *Theotokos* and the inestimable prayers of our Divinely-sealed Elder and Father, Metropolitan Cyprian, that we might be a ceaseless offering and sacrifice to God, for an odor of spiritual fragrance. Amen!

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

**Holy Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, 2009**

Your humble supplicant  
before our Risen Lord,

† **BISHOP CYPRIAN OF OREOI,**

Acting President of the  
Holy Synod in Resistance

## Notes

1. St. Matthew 28:10; St. Luke 24:36, 39.
2. Cf. St. Luke 24:13-35.
3. [Metropolitan] Antony Bloom, *Στὸ φῶς τῆς Κρίσεως τοῦ Θεοῦ* (In the light of God’s judgment) (Athens: Ekdoseis “En plo,” 2009), p. 155.
4. Ephesians 4:32, 5:1-2; Colossians 3:12.
5. Cf. St. John 15:13.

**N.B.:** The Reverend Parish Priests are asked to read the present Encyclical immediately after the Holy Gospel at the Divine Liturgy of Pascha.