

## “Let the Sea Be Shaken and the Fullness Thereof!”

*Light-Wrought children of the Church:*

“**O sing** unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth”; “for the Lord hath done marvelous things”; “sing unto the Lord, bless His name, shew forth the glad tidings of His salvation from day to day.”<sup>1</sup>

**Today, the** regeneration of man is accomplished and creation participates therein, keeping feast with joy and exultation.

Christ, God and man united in a single New Creation, the New Adam, reveals to us the regal and God-befitting grandeur of man, the true Man.



**Today, our** Savior, to Whom God the Father bears witness and Who is confirmed by the Holy Spirit, undertakes, as the Head of creation, to guide it to its true calling, that is, to freedom and deification in the Uncreated Light of the Holy Trinity.

**Today, therefore,** “Let the sea be shaken and the fullness thereof,” “let the rivers clap their hands”!<sup>2</sup>

**Let the** sea be roiled and shaken and let it leap for joy. Let the lakes, the fountains of water, and all sea creatures be vibrant with exultation. Let all of the rivers applaud together in jubilation with their swift currents.

**Yes, indeed,** amid all-embracing and universal joy, creation is renewed by the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. And at the same time, Christ, the Archetype of man, begins His ministry, His

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 95:1-2; 97:1.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 95:11; 97:7-8.

“work.”<sup>3</sup> He becomes an “example”<sup>4</sup> for us as He journeys towards His voluntary Passion.

**The Lord** “no longer calleth us servants,”<sup>5</sup> for “He hath remembered His mercy.”<sup>6</sup> He has remembered His promise concerning mercy, compassion, Grace, love, and tenderness, in becoming the Good Shepherd and, as well, the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world.

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*Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:*

**This year**, we are celebrating the joyous Feast of the Holy Theophany at an historic turning- point that involves a national crisis and an impasse in our society: the State and its citizens, the rulers and the ruled, are coming into conflict with each other—a relationship which leads, day by day, to a deadly polarization.

• **“It** is time for the Lord to act.” Our Orthodox ethos is an inexhaustible wellspring for strength and vision, for inspiration and action. Let us not despair; let us not opt for violence.

Taking inspiration from the Great Servant of humanity, our Savior Christ, let us make it our immediate priority to rediscover our human dignity in Christ, disregard of which, at a personal and a social level, has brought us to this crisis and impasse.

**It is** now an opportune time for us to become more profoundly aware that we are called “each to bear the other’s burden, in life and in death”;<sup>7</sup> to see, in the person of the other, God, Who is poor and homeless, destitute, an émigré, defenseless and pregnable;<sup>8</sup> and to offer our hand, not just extend it, “with natural, direct tenderness,”<sup>9</sup> with a feeling of loving-kindness and self-sacrifice.

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<sup>3</sup> St. John 4:34; 17:4.

<sup>4</sup> St. John 13:15.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. St. John 15:15.

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 97:3.

<sup>7</sup> Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, *Ὁ Εὐάλωτος Θεός* [The pregnable God] (Athens: Ekdoseis “En plo,” 2008), pp. 30, 31, 82, 83.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

• **“This** is the first lesson that Christ gives us, as He embarks today on His ministry”<sup>10</sup> and calls us, at the beginning of the new year, to minister to the unity of our homeland, to the cohesion of our nation, and to the salvation of the world.

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*Light-Wrought children of our Orthodox Faith:*

**As we** sail on the sea of the year 2011, may the holy prayers of our much-revered Archpastor, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, protect us, along with the blessing of the venerable members of our Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calender Orthodox Church.

• **Finally**, we feel the need, as we do every year, to thank most warmly all of those participating today in this radiant Feast of our Church and Nation, and in particular the holy Hierarchs and Priests from abroad, the local authorities and other government representatives, the police force and harbor authorities of Oropos, and the traffic police of Malakasa. May our Immaculate Mother, the Theotokos, ever be their Protectress and Guide.

May God be with you!

† *Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi*  
*Acting President of the Holy Synod*



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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*