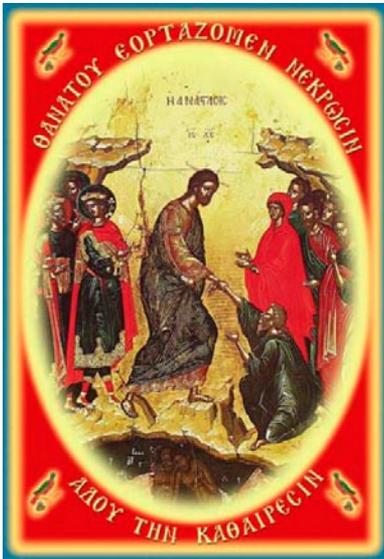


ENCYCLICAL
for the All-Glorious Resurrection of Christ our Savior

**“This Is the Day Which the Lord Hath Made...”
The Renewal of Our Baptismal Resolutions
Amid the Suffusion of the New Light**

*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



Let us rejoice “with joy unspeakable and full of glory”!² Let us suffuse this day, the Queen of Days, the day of our Lord’s Resurrection, with exultation and gladness.

“Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”³

We have died with Christ our Savior and have risen with Him in newness of life. We are now a “New Creation.”⁴ The Grace of the Resurrection has wrought a great and radical change in our nature; it has regenerated us.

“Come, receive Light from the Light that knoweth no evening, and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead!”⁵

Today, the human nature of our Savior, the frontier between the Creator and Creation, becomes the wellspring of Divine Glory, which

¹ Psalm 117:24 (LXX).

² I St. Peter 1:8.

³ II Corinthians 5:17.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Troparion* of the Vigil of Pascha, Plagal of the First Tone.

through the Resurrection is imparted to Angels and men, in the Heavens, upon the earth, and beneath the earth:

“Now are all things filled with light, Heaven as well as earth, and those things in the subterranean regions; let all the creation therefore celebrate the Rising of Christ, in Whom it is firmly established.”⁶

* * *

My Christ-loving Brothers and Sisters:

Today, as the Saints declare, we rejoice and make glad with the Risen Christ; with His Most Holy Mother, the Theotokos; and with our bodies.⁷

We rejoice with our Savior, since through the all-joyous Resurrection of His Divinely enhypostatized Body, He has again taken up His Life, His Authority, His Joy, and His Beauty, all of which had withdrawn and were seemingly lost at His life-giving Suffering.

We rejoice with the All-Holy Mother of our God, since the Theotokos was the first to receive the fullness of uncreated joy at her Annunciation, and again after the Resurrection of her Son, today, from the Archangel Gabriel.

We rejoice with our bodies, since they are glorified, today, together with the risen Body of our Redeemer, Who “is become the firstfruits of them that slept”;⁸ there is bestowed upon them the gift of becoming a Temple of the Holy Spirit and, after they are resurrected, of being transformed and becoming “fashioned like unto His glorious body,”⁹ glorified, blessed, and majestic.

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My Brothers and Sisters who bear the name of Christ:

Oh, the glories, the splendors, and the magnificence of the Resurrection of our Lord! Truly, this is “the day which the Lord hath

⁶ Canon of Pascha, Ode 3, *Troparion* 1.

⁷ St. Nicodemos the Hagiorite, *Γυμνάσματα Πνευματικά* [Spiritual exercises] (Thessalonica: 1971), pp. 271ff.

⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:20.

⁹ Cf. Philippians 3:21.

made”!¹⁰ Truly, today “all things are become new.”¹¹

And amid this suffusion of the New Light and the New Resurrection, we are called to renew our Baptismal promises and resolutions, that we might hereafter walk “in newness of life.”¹²

A journey “in newness of life” means that we unceasingly experience in our lives the renewal that comes through repentance; it means that “we esteem one the other in the exhortation of love and good works”;¹³ it means that we have chosen Communion with our Risen Savior and ministry to our brothers and sisters as a way and vision of life; it means that we are constantly purifying ourselves through the Immaculate Mysteries, “even as He—Christ—is pure.”¹⁴

Thus, as renewed Christians, we become witnesses of the Resurrection of our Lord and we demonstrate that “our faith” is not “vain” or “futile.”¹⁵

Hence, there is rekindled Hope that we can overcome our personal, collective, and national crises. May it be that we very soon welcome this eventuality, through the prayers of our much-revered Metropolitan and Father Cyprian, and through the intercessions of the Most Blessed Theotokos, to the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Holy Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, 2011

Your humble supplicant
before our Risen Lord,

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

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

¹⁰ See note 1.

¹¹ See note 3.

¹² Romans 6:4.

¹³ Cf. Hebrews 10:24.

¹⁴ 1 St. John 3:3.

¹⁵ Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17.