



CHURCH OF THE
GENUINE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS
OF GREECE

HOLY METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

Protocol No. 50

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Message
on the All-Glorious Resurrection of Christ our Savior, 2020

**A Return to Our Roots:
to the Cross and Resurrection of our Baptism**
“For with Thee is the Fountain of Life;
in Thy Light shall we see Light”

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Come, let us exult in the Lord; let us shout in jubilation unto God our Savior!”¹ “Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth!”²

When, in a spirit of *joyful sorrow*, we entered into the blessed season of Great Lent, you will remember that we chanted: “The springtime of the Fast has dawned; the flower of repentance has begun to open.”³

We began our springtime *Journey of Repentance*—that is, our return to the beauty of the Kingdom of God—with a vision: the renewal of our participation in the Mystery of the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior.

And behold! “Now are all things filled with light; Heaven and earth, and the nethermost regions of the earth!”⁴ And “all creation” is called to rejoice, to dance, and to celebrate the “*arising of Christ*” with *new songs*.

New, since the gift of the Resurrection is the New Life, which sprang forth from the Cross and Tomb of the New Adam,⁵ our New Ancestor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Great Lent this year, which, by the Providence of God, was marked by the tribulation of the pandemic, has helped us to come to a deeper understanding that our earthly life is one of *Exile*.

We are, more or less, estranged from the “Fountain of Life,” our God and His Life-giving Grace.

Hence, our entire life is a *Return*: a journey of repentance to our Heavenly Homeland, and a constant search for this *Fountain*, this *Source*.

“I will seek the Lord. My face hath sought Thee; Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Turn not away Thy face from me...”⁶ “For with Thee is the Fountain of Life; in Thy Light shall we see Light.”⁷

We must not forget, however, that the *experience of our ontological fragility*—especially now with the pandemic—and a profound consciousness of our estrangement from our Source, and thus a need for *Return*, ultimately serve as an impetus for a voluntary and conscientious *return journey* to our spiritual roots, namely, **our Christian Baptism**.

When a person *descends and ascends* three times in the baptismal font, he is baptized in the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ. When we participate in the Mystery of Repentance and Holy Communion, we experience and renew our personal *Crucifixion* and *Resurrection* with Christ and in Christ.

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Great Lent of 2020, I humbly believe, was a particularly sobering blessing for those who are sincerely searching for an intrinsic meaning to our temporal life, and also a genuine way of life.

During this time there was shown forth—and indeed with exceptional emphasis—the perspective of the Cross and Resurrection, or, more precisely, *the perspective of the Resurrection through the Cross*.

By this we mean that **any illness, be it bodily or spiritual, resulting from our fallen, mortal nature, or from the activity of the evil spirits**, is a Cross, before which we must now answer, with all honesty, the following crucial questions:





- **T**o what extent do we endeavor to make good use of our health, spiritually speaking?
- **H**ave we perhaps rendered it useless by gratifying our self-love in all of its various forms?
- **W**hat have we done with our health thus far, and what do we intend to do with it henceforth, so as to become partakers of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ?

If our answers are in accordance with the Will of God, then we will have found the meaning of life and the way of life, that is, the only salvific **Evangelic Life in Christ**.

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May the prayers of our ever-memorable Father and Metropolitan Cyprian († 2013), through the intercessions of the Theotokos and the Grace of the Precious Cross, strengthen us in our Return to our roots: *to the Cross and Resurrection of our Baptism. Amen!*

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

† Holy Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, 2020

Your *humble intercessor* before our Risen Lord,
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle

1. Psalm 94:1 2. Cf. Psalm 95:1 3. Triodion, Wednesday of Cheesefare Week, Vespers.
4. Pentecostarion, Canon of Pascha, Ode 3. 5. Cf. I Corinthians 15:45. 6. Psalm 26: 8-9.
7. Psalm 35:10.