

Paschal Epistle

Archbishop of Chicago & Mid-America

April 3/16, 2017

The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Let us purify our senses, and we shall behold Christ, radiant with the unapproachable light of the Resurrection, and we shall clearly hear Him say, “Rejoice!”, as we sing the hymn of victory! (Paschal Matins Canon, Ode I)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

And I myself also cannot resist this call as I wish you all, beloved children of our diocese of Chicago & Mid-America, a joyous and most radiant Feast of feasts and Day of days – the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The heart of each Orthodox Christian leaps with joy and love at the beautiful words of the Paschal Canon, sung immediately after we enter the temple from the Paschal procession. And we cannot help but answer the call of the priest during the canon of “Christ is Risen!” with our own heartfelt “Indeed He is Risen!”

Throughout the days of the Holy Great Lent we have exercised ourselves spiritually in prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and the doing of good deeds. Through the synergy of our ascesis and the Lord’s Grace we have acquired much virtue. But let us be zealous not to jettison this laboriously-gathered virtue as we meet the Risen Lord!

How often we struggle diligently and sincerely in our spiritual lives for a given time, only to waste away all we have gained through our efforts and God’s mercy! Let this be the year when we eagerly guard the virtues we have harvested during Great Lent, putting them to good use for our salvation during the coming year!

We have learned well during Great Lent how to work closely with the Lord – let us continue this as we march forward during these most bright days and beyond!

When we are at our best we are people of the Resurrection – filled with hope, joy, love, and trust in our Risen Lord. May the Lord grant you this consolation – this Paschal joy! Not just during the days immediately following this greatest of feasts – but throughout the coming year!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With Love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+ *Archbishop Peter*

Peter, Archbishop of Chicago & Mid-America



Пасхальное посланіе Архієпископа Чикагскаго и Средне-Американскаго

*Очистимъ чувства, и узримъ неприступнымъ свѣтомъ воскресенія Христа блистающая, и радуйтесь, рекуща, ясно да услышимъ, побѣдную поюще!
(Пасхальный канонъ, Пѣснь 1)*

Дорогіе братья и сестры, Христось Воскресе!

И я, неудержимо слѣдуя призыву Пасхальнаго канона, желаю всѣмъ вамъ, возлюбленнымъ чадамъ нашей Чикагской и Средне-Американской епархіи, радостнаго и свѣтлаго праздниковъ Праздника и Торжества изъ торжествъ — Славнаго Воскресенія Господа, и Бога, и Спаса нашего Иисуса Христа!

Сердце каждаго православнаго христіанина бьется быстрѣе отъ радости и любви при чудесныхъ словахъ Пасхальнаго канона, которыя мы слышимъ при возвращеніи въ храмъ послѣ крестнаго хода. Мы отъ всего сердца отвѣчаемъ на возгласъ священника “Христось Воскресе!” радостнымъ “Воистину Воскресе!”

Въ дни Великаго поста мы духовно упражнялись въ молитвѣ, въ постѣ, въ благотворительности и въ добрыхъ дѣлахъ. Благодатью Божіею, черезъ наше воздержаніе, мы стяжали многія добродѣтели. Теперь, когда мы встрѣчаемъ Воскресшаго Господа, постараемся не расточить все то, что съ такимъ трудомъ собрали.

Какъ часто бываетъ, что мы искренне и усердно подвигаемся въ духовной жизни, а потомъ растрачиваемъ все. Въ этомъ году приложимъ усиліе сберечь накопленное во время Великаго поста, чтобы оно служило нашему спасенію и въ теченіе года.

Въ дни Великаго поста мы поняли, какъ нужно стремиться быть ближе къ Богу; постараемся продолжить эти труды не только въ эти свѣтлые дни, но и дальше.

Черезъ добродѣтели мы становимся народомъ Воскресенія, полнымъ вѣры, надежды и любви въ Воскресшаго Спасителя. Да ниспошлетъ Господь намъ это утѣшеніе — Пасхальную радость, не только въ дни праздничные, но и на весь грядущій годъ!

Христось Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

Съ любовью о Воскресшемъ Господѣ Иисусѣ Христѣ,

+ *Смиранный Петръ*
Архієпископъ Чикагскій и Средне-Американскій

Пасха Христова
3 (16) апрѣля 2017 года