

ENCYCLICAL

for the All-Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

The Resurrection of the God-Man and the Eternal Covenant of Peace

“I will dwell in them, and walk in them”¹

Beloved Brothers and Sisters, Children in the Risen Lord:

a. “And they shall be my People”

LET the God of our Fathers be blessed and glorified, *“the God of peace, that brought again from the dead that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting covenant, our Lord Jesus”* Christ!²

Today, the Father of our Savior, Who loves mankind, brings peace to things Heavenly and to things earthly; today, God has raised from the dead the **Great Shepherd**, our Lord Jesus Christ, that He might enter into the True Heavenly Sanctuary, there to offer, as an expiatory sacrifice, His Blood and to confirm the *Eternal Covenant*, the irreplaceable *New Covenant of Grace*.



How is possible that *“Heaven and earth and the nethermost regions of the earth”*³ should not celebrate on this day?

Behold, through the Cross and the Resurrection, there has come to pass the fulfillment of the yearned-for prediction of the Prophet Hosea:

“I will call them my People, which were not my People; and her Beloved, which was not Beloved.”⁴

Behold, the Lord has established with us a ***“Covenant of Peace”***:

“And I will dwell in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”⁵

“It is,” then, ***“the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant, O ye Peoples!”***⁶

All Peoples of the Orthodox Church, let us be bright and radiant, overflowing with gratitude, for Christ, by His Cross and Resurrection, has guided and presented us ***“to the Father”***; He, the God-Man, together with the Holy Spirit, has made us ***“fellow-citizens with the Saints and of the household of God.”***⁷

Hereafter, all we who partake of the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior, find ourselves in the Temple and House of the Living God,⁸ belonging to His People, to His Church; together with all of the Saints and Righteous Ones of the Old and New Covenant, we constitute the members of the Body of Christ.

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Beloved Children in the Lord:

b. “My sanctuary in the midst of them”

EVERY Orthodox Christian who is a living and active member of the Holy Orthodox Church is obliged to give fervent witness to this salvific truth; namely, that through the Cross and the Resurrection, we are the ***People of God***.

The Lord has shown Himself true to His *Covenant*:

“I will establish my sanctuary in the midst of them forever.”⁹

To His Holy Church, to His Theanthropic House, He has bequeathed all of His ***“Holy Things”***: through His Holy Mys-

teries, Christ Himself is present—the “*Resurrection and the Life*,”¹⁰ the “*Bread of Life*,”¹¹ the “*Way and the Truth and the Life*.”¹²

Yet, are we true to this *Covenant*? Does our Lord dwell and walk in our hearts? Do we have the remembrance of God unceasingly within us? Do we go forth as children of the light and day?

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My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*c. By Grace, “**christs**”*

THE HOLY Resurrection of our Lord reminds us in a truly moving way, each Sunday in the cycle of the year, but particularly on this day, what we were prior to the Resurrection and what, thereafter, we can more fully become, within the superabundance of its Uncreated Light.

God, through the Holy Prophet Isaiah, addresses Himself to His Church and acknowledges it, since every pious person bears in his heart His Holy Name:

*“My people, in whose heart is my name.”*¹³

“Blessed” are they, the Holy Fathers say, *“who are unceasingly vigilant in God,”* that is, *“those who have ever within them the memory of God.”*¹⁴

They are found in continuous repentance, watchfulness, and prayer, for they ever remember that *“the Kingdom of God is within us”*;¹⁵ they bear in their hearts the Name of God, that is, the *“Holy Image of the Great King, Jesus”*;¹⁶ they receive the *“enhypostatic enlightenment of Grace”*¹⁷ and therefore become by Grace gods and *“christs.”*¹⁸

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Beloved Children in the Lord:

Let us delight constantly and with fear of God in these sacred truths of our Faith; commemorating our Lady the *Theotokos*, with all of the Saints, let us entrust ourselves and one another and all of our life to our Crucified and Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, unto Whom are due all Glory and thanksgiving, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. Amen!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Holy Pascha for the Year of Salvation 2005

Your Supplicant Before the Risen Lord,
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili
President of the Holy Synod in Resistance

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- 1) II Corinthians 6:16.
 - 2) Hebrews 13:21
 - 3) Paschal Canon, Ode 3, *Troparion* 1.
 - 4) Romans 9:25; I St. Peter 2:9; Hosea 2:25.
 - 5) Ezekiel 37:26-28; II Corinthians 6:16.
 - 6) Paschal Canon, Ode 1, *Heirmos*.
 - 7) Ephesians 2:18-19.
 - 8) II Corinthians 6:16.
 - 9) Ezekiel 37:26, 28.
 - 10) St. John 11:25.
 - 11) St. John 6:35.
 - 12) St. John 14:6.
 - 13) Isaiah 51:7, according to St. Ephraim the Syrian. According to the *Septuaginta*: “my law” instead of “my name.”
 - 14) **St. Ephraim the Syrian**, *Works* (Thessaloniki: “To Perivoli tes Panagias” Publications, 1989), Vol. II, pp. 262, 253.
 - 15) Cf. St. Luke 17:21.
 - 16) **Abba Isaiah**, “Discourse 25,” §11 (Volos: 1962), p. 154.
 - 17) *Philokalia* (Athens: “Aster” Publications, 1961), Vol. IV, p. 17.
 - 18) **St. Symeon the New Theologian**, “Catechesis 9” (Thessaloniki: “Orthodoxos Kypsele” Publications, 1988), Vol. I, p. 173.