

The Sacred Ark of Orthodoxy Is Alive and Afloat*

I. Beloved brethren in Christ, beloved children in the Lord, Feast-loving assembly of Orthodox:

As we find ourselves yet again amid the light, Grace, and hope of the all-radiant Feast of Holy Theophany, we glorify the Holy, Consubstantial, and Undivided Trinity and we gratefully worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, this day of the Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan, and of the revelation of the Triune God, is an opportunity to glorify God with gratitude, for this is the Feast which renews hope for us and fills us with consolation.



When the turbulent sea of the world provokes constant feelings of insecurity, the Ark of our Church securely and steadily continues its voyage to a new world that is transfigured amidst the Grace of God.

And while different social systems and various ideologies sink into the dark deep of history, the living Ark of Orthodoxy continues to exist intact in the sacred darkness of Divine Glory, proclaiming to those near and those afar off the good news of the peace, the hope, and the love of God.

II. Beloved assembly in Christ:

Today, having just passed through the portal of the year 2004, which will in many ways be critical for our fatherland, our Holy Synod in Resistance of the Orthodox Church desires yet again, in all humility, to become a herald of God's love for mankind.

“The voice of the Lord upon the waters crieth aloud, saying”:

“Be strong, ye weakened hands and palsied knees; take courage, ye faint-hearted; be strong, fear not; behold, He, our God...will come and save us” (Isaiah 35:3-4).

Let the cataclysm of worldly apostasy rage! The Ark of our Orthodox Church is alive and afloat, because in its sacred recesses lies the Incarnate Word and God. He gives life to those who envision the victory of the Divine will “on earth as in Heaven.”

May the blessing of our True God, Who manifested Himself in the Jordan, protect, strengthen, and guide, during this year, the ecclesiastical and political leaders of our fatherland to the path of righteousness, peace, and unity in the Truth of our pious nation. Amen!

* Delivered on Holy Theophany by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili in Oropos, Attika.