



CHURCH OF THE
GENUINE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS OF
GREECE

HOLY METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE



Message

on the Occasion of the All-Glorious Resurrection of Christ our Savior, 2017

**“Christ is risen, and life is brought into
the commonwealth of Christ!”**

True Life prevails henceforth!



Glory to Thee, O Christ our God! Glory to Thee, our Lord, for Thy Cross and Thy Resurrection “have become a refuge for us,” a sure refuge, protection, and salvation from death, which in its many forms constantly threatens us! Glory to Thee, our Savior, “for with Thee is the Fountain of Life... In Thy Light shall we see Light”!

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today, our Holy Orthodox Church, in celebrating the Resurrection of Christ our Savior, mystically enfolds in her arms, in an Oecumenical, Catholic, and universal embrace, the entire fallen and risen Creation, “all the nations,” all of our fellow human beings, and offers the kiss of life and hope.

A multi-level and multifaceted crisis, and especially in recent years, has been assailing all aspects of our earthly life, with man at its center—man, who is the image of God and the very pinnacle of Creation.

There is an ever-increasingly keen awareness that “death,” although it has been abolished and trampled down by the life-giving Death and the life-bearing Resurrection of our Savior, is returning to the forefront of history in a more vehement, menacing, and brazen guise.

Our Holy Orthodox Church, as a conduit and wellspring of Truth and Life, unceasingly bears witness that Hades and death have been “vexed,” annulled, and mocked, and have themselves been put to death by our Lord and God.

Man is not simply a biological and social being; nor is his death a decisive end or an annihilation.

If the opposite were the case, life would have no meaning and man would be a tragic creature in the midst of an irrational world, alone in the tragedy and inferno of history.

* * *

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It behooves us, who have been vouchsafed the mercy of being Orthodox Christians, to provide a witness of Life through our Resurrectional ethos.

The Incarnation of our Lord, to which we paid honor three months ago, was a revelation of the preëternal Archetype and Prototype of man.

Through the God-Man, our Archetype, and in the God-Man, our nature is healed; we rediscover our regal beauty; we regain the Holy Spirit; we drink from the “Living Water” and become “fountains of water springing up into everlasting life”; we eat the “Bread of Life”; we possess life in abundance.

The Life, which Christ bestowed, and continues to bestow upon us, is the predominant element of our existence, and consequently we bear a great responsibility before the world for the “death” that is constantly unfolding in a multitude of forms.

* * *

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Let us rekindle our zeal to be witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ our Savior. Let us not forget that to be “Christian” signifies that “Christ is Risen!” It means that “life is brought into the commonwealth of Christ,” that life prevails henceforth. Let us give to all, without ceasing, the Resurrectional kiss of life and hope. Let us be ever inspired by the radiant and exultant hymn of the Matins of Pascha:

We celebrate the death of death, the overthrow of Hades, the firstfruits of the other life, the eternal; and, leaping with joy, we hymn the Cause thereof, the only blessed and most glorious God of our fathers (Ode 7, Troparion 2).

May the blessing of our ever-memorable Elder, Father, and Metropolitan Cyprian (†2013), by the intercessions of our All-Holy Mother, the Theotokos,

and of all the Saints, fortify us, so that, in the face of the polymorphous “death” of our days—in the face of an alienating way of life, which breathes forth the “savor of death unto death”—we might be the “sweet savor of Christ” and the “savor of life unto life,” “that the world may believe,” yea, that the world might be saved.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

† **The Holy Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior, 2017**

Your humble intercessor before our Risen Lord,

† *Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle*