



Christ is Risen!

Paschal Epistle of His Holiness
KYRILL
Patriarch of Moscow & All Russia

Beloved in the Lord all-honorable archpastors, reverend pastors and deacons, God-loving monks and nuns, dear brothers and sisters!

On this chosen and holy day, when the world, visible and invisible (see the Canon of Holy Pascha) glorifies the Prince of life and Vanquisher of death, I send my heartfelt greetings to all of you through the Paschal exclamation:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

From year to year, the good news of the Resurrection resounds victoriously, encouraging us to render praise to God and the Savior, who has trampled down death by death and has made us participants in the eternal life to come.



As we celebrate this Feast of feasts and Triumph of triumphs, it is with a special spiritual feeling that we recall the redemptive act of the Savior of the world, His sufferings on the Cross and glorious Resurrection. Pascha is not some beautiful legend, not some theoretical theology, and not a nod toward a popular custom established in the distant past. It is the essence and core of Christianity. It is a victory given to us by God.

From the time of the apostles and up to the present, the Church has preached Christ's Resurrection as the greatest miracle in the history of humanity. She speaks of this miracle not only as a fact of the Gospels, but – and what is especially important – as a fateful moment for all those who have received the Paschal good news. This feast bears the most direct relationship to us, for Christ's Resurrection, the Lord's redemption of the fallen world, is the greatest joy that the human person can experience. No matter how difficult our life, no matter what everyday troubles besiege us, no matter what grief and imperfections we have to



endure from the world around us – all of this is nothing in comparison to the spiritual joy, to the hope of eternal salvation that God gives us.

As St. Paul says, “He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken our mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in us” (cf. Rom. 8:11).

On this radiant day of Christ’s Resurrection, the souls of millions of the faithful are replete with thanksgiving to the Creator, and our earthly life acquires true meaning. Christ’s Pascha is the greatest triumph of life, a triumph over death, bringing love, peace, and spiritual transformation.

In celebrating Pascha, every year we open up a new period in our lives, for the Risen Lord renews human nature, fortifies us in tribulations, and grants to us strength to accomplish good deeds.

The Paschal message, which has transformed the whole course of world history, encourages us to be morally transformed, to be spiritually



renewed, which is so essential for modern-day society. It reminds all people of the sources of Christianity, as well as of the coming eternal Kingdom, where “God may be all in all” (I Cor. 15:28).

In these radiant days of the Paschal feast, we are called upon to share our joy with our relatives and those close to us, to show them active love and mercy. Such are the traditions sanctified by the centuries, and in following them we testify to our participation in Christ’s inheritance, and in the belief that the Lord has truly risen.

Now, as before, the Russian Orthodox Church diligently carries out Her salvific mission, tirelessly proclaiming God’s truth, affirming the importance of the Gospel commandments, calling for peace and harmony, and serving the spiritual unity among the peoples who abide in the countries under the pastoral care of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Our special prayer today is for the peoples of Russia and Ukraine: that peace will reign in the



minds and hearts of our brothers and sisters by blood and in faith, so that the ties that have been lost and cooperation, which is so vital, may be restored.

In proclaiming the love of God which surpasses all knowledge (cf. Eph. 3:19), Christianity brings people together by overcoming national, cultural, and political boundaries, for “the light of Christ illumineth all” (cf. John 1:9).

May the Risen Lord grant that we may all continue our earthly pilgrimage with benefit for our souls, recalling our lofty Christian responsibility and vocation to create within ourselves and those around us a strong faith, sincere love, and steadfast hope. May the joy of this feast strengthen and inspire us to accomplish good works, and grant to us the courage and strength amidst the stormy waves of the sea of life needed to retain our endurance and calm, to withstand temptation and trials, to overcome, in the words of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh, the hateful strife of this world.



May the light of Christ's glory that has shone forth from the Life-Bearing Tomb abide with us and illumine our hearts, extending to those who near and far, and upon all who are in need of our care and support.

In congratulating all of you on the great feast of Holy Pascha, I prayerfully wish for you generous spiritual gifts, physical strength, and the gracious aid which is from above in our victorious journey with Christ. Amen.

Поздравляя всѣхъ васъ съ великимъ праздникомъ Святой Пасхи, молитвенно желаю щедрыхъ духовныхъ даровъ, тѣлесной крѣпости и благодатной помощи свыше въ побѣдномъ шествіи за Христомъ. Аминь.

†**KYRILL**

Patriarch of Moscow & All Russia

Moscow
Pascha of the Lord
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