



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 16th , 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

### THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (PASCHA)



*Icon of the Resurrection*

## Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4

### Psalm 117.24,29

This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

## Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'

### ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.24,29

αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος· ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθώμεν ἐν αὐτῇ

Στίχ. ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 1:1-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποιησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν, ἄχρι ἥς ἡμέρας, ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὓς ἐξελέξατο, ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς, καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς, "Ὡς ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ; Εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ. Ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν, ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· καὶ ἔσεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τε Ἱερουσαλὴμ, καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ, καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

## Great and Holy Pascha

### Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 1:1-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. Πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. Ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσι δι' αὐτοῦ. Οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. Ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. Εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθε, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. Ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγε λέγων· Οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, ὁ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

**GRACIE MANSION** the City's House under the auspices of the Honorable ERIC ADAMS, Mayor of New York City will host the **HELLENIC HERITAGE HONORS** event on **THURSDAY – April 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. The Chairperson of this Annual Observance hailing Greek-Americans of excellence is our Pastor Father Eugene. The 2023 Honorees from our Parish are Gregory Mitchell, and Mary Ann Kolidas. The auspicious celebration is by invitation of His Honor the Mayor. Our Parish leadership and our Boy Scout Troop Color Guard are among the invited. **CONGRATULATIONS** to our two nominees!

**TODAY:** is the joint feast of Saint George and Saint Thomas the Apostle. We extend to all Georges, Georgias, and Thomas' **CHRONIA POLLA!**

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE** will commence once again **NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Among those remembered are Past Parish Council **PRESIDENT + GUS SAVAROS**,  
and **+ GEORGE MAILLIS**

Best Wishes and gratitude are extended to **HIS GRACE + DEMETRIOS, BISHOP** of **MOKISSOS** who graced our community during Holy Week with two services on Great and Holy Friday (**APOKATHELOSIS**) Descent from the cross and the (**EPITAPHIOS**) lamentations and solemn procession through the neighborhood.  
**POLLA TA ETI DESPOTA!**

Gratitude is also extended to our Philoptochos Ladies for their baking all the treasured Grecian sweets and delightful pastries for **PASCHA**. They also dyed all the red-Easter eggs distributed to the hundreds of faithful at the **VIGIL LITURGY** of Pascha and the **AGAPE** on Sunday Morning.

Our community florists are also to be highlighted for their donations of altar flowers for Holy Week and the Resurrection service, **AVE 'J' FLORIST** Louis Vellios and sons, **HENRY'S florist**, Peter Giannopoulos and Family, **BEN'S FLORIST**, Frank Eugenis (Photios) **ELTINGVILLE FLORIST**, Steve Ballaro and family, **MADISON FLORISTS**, Vasilios Giannopoulos, **PLAZA FLORIST**, Nick Vellios, **MARINE FLORIST**, Tsentzelis Brothers, **IRENE'S FLORIST**, Jimmy Vellios, **CHURCH AVENUE FLORIST**, Nick Vellios, The Church proper was splendiferous! It truly was the 'Garden of Eden' ...and we were there!

Harry Lambrakis and 'crew' are to be commended for their diligence and cuisine expertise in preparing and servicing the '**BAKALIRO FEAST DINNER**' on Palm Sunday. The sumptuous feast was enjoyed by everyone as we 'broke bread' like the early Christians did at their **AGAPE MEALS!**

We also wish to announce: **PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Wednesday: April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 P.M.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB** will celebrate their **PASCHA LUNCHEON** on  
Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 P.M. A full banquet will be hosted for all members  
at 1:00 P.M.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:** **PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 P.M.**  
**BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL – Two three day week-ends**  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday **JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, AND 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>,**



Two "home-grown" sons of the Parish, who served as altar boys in the 1950's had the joyful experience of serving together as priests at the Palm Sunday Liturgy. Fr. Eugene embraced Father 'BILL' Vasilios Bassakyros as they invoked the Holy Spirit at Holy Week services. They are the living proof of our parish's vitality, history and cherished legacy from one generation to another.



*You descended into the depths of the earth,  
and shattered the eternal bars that held the fettered, O Christ.*

*Dear Fr. Eugene,*

The Lord of Glory descended into Hades to lift us up to the heights of Heaven. Let us also lift up one another with the same love and forgiveness that manifests the glory of creation – the glory that God made us to be.

Let us say, brothers and sisters, even to those that scorn us. Let us forgive all things because of the Resurrection. And let us cry aloud from the depths of our hearts with a resounding voice:

*"Christ is risen from the dead,  
by death trampling down upon death,  
and to those in the tombs He has granted life!"*

With hearts full of grace and gladness,  
let us celebrate the Pascha of the Lord!

With paternal love in the Risen Christ,

*to you and yours*

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



« Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρῃ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγξ » (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανονικὴ Γραμματεία Ἰερῶ Μονῶν Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-23610 - [info@olythos.gr](mailto:info@olythos.gr)

Περίοδος Γ΄ - Ἔτος ΙΣΤ΄  
Ἀριθμ. φύλλου 678<sup>2</sup>

ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ  
16 Ἀπριλίου 2023 (1999) ἑσπέρας

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ἡ Ἀνάστασις ρίζα καὶ θεμέλιο τῆς πίστεως

« Ὡ θείας, ὦ φίλης, ὦ γλυκυτάτης σου φωνῆς·  
μεθ' ἡμῶν ἀψευδῶς γὰρ ἐπηγγείλω ἔσεσθαι... »  
(Πάσχα μεγαλυν. θ' ᾠδ. καν.)

**Ἀ**κούσαμε, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸν χαρμόσυνο χαιρετισμὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**». Οἱ δύο αὐτὲς λέξεις εἶνε τὸ θεμέλιο τῆς ἁγίας μας Ἐκκλησίας.

Ὅλα σήμερα, καὶ ἡ θεία λειτουργία, καὶ τὰ τροπάρια ποὺ ἀκούγονται, καὶ τὰ ἀναγνώσματα, ὅλα κηρύττουν τὴν **ἀνάστασι τοῦ Κυρίου**.

Ἐορτάζουμε τὴν Ἀνάστασι ὄχι 1 ἡμέρα ἢ 2 ἢ 3 ἢ 7 τὸ πολὺ ἡμέρες, ὅπως ἄλλες ἐορτές· ἐορτάζουμε τὴν Ἀνάστασι 40 μέρες, μέχρι τῆς Ἀναλήψεως. Καὶ ὄχι μόνον 40 μέρες, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄλλες 52 Κυριακές. Ἡ κάθε **Κυριακή** τοῦ ἔτους εἶνε ἀφιερωμένη στὴν Ἀνάστασι. Γι' αὐτὸ κανονικὰ οἱ Χριστιανοὶ δὲν κάνουμε κόλλυβα τὴν Κυριακή, ἀλλὰ μόνον τὸ Σάββατο. Τὴν Κυριακή δὲν χρειάζονται δάκρυα, δὲν χρειάζεται πένθος· γιατί ἀνέστη ὁ Κύριος.

Γιατί δίνει τόσο **μεγάλη σημασία** ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας στὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ τὴν ἐορτάζει 40 + 52 = 92 ἡμέρες; Διότι αὐτὴ **εἶνε ἡ ρίζα** τῆς χριστιανικῆς πίστεως, **τὸ θεμέλιο** τοῦ θείου οἰκοδομήματος. Στέκεται δέντρο χωρὶς ρίζα; στέκεται σπῖτι χωρὶς θεμέλιο; Ἄν μποροῦν νὰ σταθοῦν αὐτά, τότε μπορεῖ καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας χωρὶς τὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Λόγια σταρᾶτα· ἡ ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Χριστός, ἡ δὲν ἀναστήθηκε. Ἐὰν δὲν ἀναστήθηκε, τότε ἡ θρησκεία μας εἶνε ψέμα· τότε νὰ ἐνωθοῦμε με τοὺς ἀθέους, νὰ γκρεμίσουμε τὶς ἐκκλησιές, νὰ καταργήσουμε τὴ λατρεία, νὰ πνίξουμε τοὺς παπᾶδες, νὰ ἐξαφανίσουμε τὸν Χριστιανισμό· γιατί δὲν πρέπει νὰ ζοῦμε με τὸ ψέμα. Ἄλλ' ἐὰν ἀναστήθηκε –καὶ ἀναστήθηκε **ὄντως ὁ Κύριος**–, τότε ἡ θρησκεία μας εἶνε ἀληθινή· καὶ τότε ἔχουμε ρίζα, θεμέλιο, ἀγκυρα, ἐλπίδα καὶ φῶς.

Ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ καμμιὰ ἄλλη ἀλήθεια δὲν ἔχει τόσες **ἀποδείξεις** ὅσες ἔχει τὸ ὕψιστο γεγονός τῆς Ἀναστάσεως.

Ποιές εἶνε οἱ ἀποδείξεις αὐτές; Ὁ Κύριος

μετὰ τὴν ἀνάστασί του δὲν πῆγε νὰ κρυφτῇ σὲ καμμιὰ σπηλιά. **Παρουσιάστηκε** καὶ μία καὶ δύο καὶ τρεῖς καὶ τέσσερις καὶ περισσότερες φορές **στοὺς δικούς του**· ἔντεκα (11) ἐμφανίσαις περιγράφουν τὰ Εὐαγγέλια. Παρουσιάστηκε καὶ πρῶτ καὶ μεσημέρι καὶ δευινό. Παρουσιάστηκε καὶ στὴν ἀκρογιαλιά καὶ στὸ βουνό. Παρουσιάστηκε καὶ σὲ ἕναν καὶ σὲ δύο καὶ σὲ πεντακόσους. Παρουσιάστηκε καὶ στὸ Θωμᾶ, ὁ ὁποῖος ἤθελε τρόπον τινὰ νὰ κάνῃ ἔρευνα ἀνατομικὴ ἐπάνω στὸ ἅγιο σῶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀλλὰ μόλις τὸν εἶδε ἀναστημένο φώναξε «**Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου**» (Ἰω. 20).

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Ἡ ἀνάστασι τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε τὸ θεμέλιο τῆς Χριστιανοσύνης.

Ὁ Χριστὸς κατέβηκε στὸν ᾅδην, πάλεψε με τὸ χάρο, τὸν **ἐνίκησε**, καὶ συνέτριψε τὶς πύλες τοῦ ᾅδου. Ἐσπασε τὶς σφραγίδες του καὶ νικητῆς καὶ θριαμβευτῆς βγήκε ἀπὸ τὸν τάφο.

Ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν ζῇ τὴν ταπεινὴ ζωὴ τῶν 5 αἰσθήσεων, ὅπως ἐμεῖς. Ὁ Χριστὸς **ζῇ** στὴ σφαῖρα τοῦ πνεύματος, **στὸ πλήρωμα τῆς ζωῆς**.

Ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν ζῇ ἀπλῶς ὅπως ζοῦν οἱ ἰσχυροὶ τῆς γῆς. Ὁ Χριστὸς **ζῇ ὡς Θεός**. Καὶ ὄχι ἀπλῶς ζῇ, ἀλλὰ καὶ νικᾷ καὶ **θριαμβεύει**. Ποῦ;

✓ Νικᾷ καὶ θριαμβεύει πρῶτον μέσα **στὴν ἀνθρώπινη καρδιά**, ὅπου κρύβονται μυστήρια ἀθάνατα, ἀγῶνες, θυσίες, ἰδανικά.

✓ Νικᾷ καὶ θριαμβεύει ὁ Χριστὸς μέσα **στὴν παγκόσμιο ἱστορία**, στὴν ὁποία ἐμφανίζονται νέοι ἄνθρωποι, ἀναστημένοι ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμον τῶν παθῶν καὶ τῆς φθορᾶς. Δὲν θὰ νικήσῃ ἡ ἀρκούδα, δὲν θὰ νικήσῃ τὸ λιοντάρι, δὲν θὰ νικήσῃ ἡ λεοπαρδαλὶς καὶ τ' ἄλλα ἄγρια θηρία· δὲν θὰ νικήσουν τὰ ἄθεα συστήματα, ποῦ ἐπικρατοῦν προσωρινὰ καὶ γιὰ λίγο πάνω στὴ γῆ. **Ἡ τελικὴ νίκη εἶνε τοῦ ἐσφαγμένου Ἀρνίου** (Ἰω. 16)

Π, Μ). Τὸ δὲ Ἀρνίον τὸ ἐσφαγμένον εἶνε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

✓ Νικᾷ καὶ βασιλεύει ὁ Χριστὸς στὶς καρδιές τῶν ἀνθρώπων, νικᾷ στὴν παγκόσμιον ἱστορία, ἀλλὰ προπαντὸς νικᾷ καὶ θριαμβεύει μέσα **στὴν Ὁρθόδοξο Ἐκκλησία του**. Θὰ ἐμάκρυνε πολὺ ὁ λόγος, ἀν θὰ ἤθελα νὰ δείξω, μὲ ποιὸ τρόπο νικᾷ καὶ θριαμβεύει ὁ Χριστὸς μας στὴν Ὁρθόδοξο Ἀνατολική μας Ἐκκλησία.

Νικᾷ. Τὸ ὑποσχέθηκε ὁ Χριστὸς· καὶ ὁ λόγος του εἶνε ἀληθινός, καὶ μύρια παραδείγματα ἀποδεικνύουν τὴν ἀλήθειά του. Μᾶς εἶπε ὁ Χριστὸς: «Δὲν θὰ σᾶς ἀφήσω ὀρφανούς» (ἰ. 14, 18). «**Θὰ εἶμαι μαζί σας μέχρι τερμάτων αἰῶνος**», λέει σήμερα τὸ ὠραῖο τροπάριο τοῦ κανόνος (Πάχ. κν. 158).

Εἶνε μαζί μας ὁ Χριστός. Ποῦ εἶνε μαζί μας; Ἐδῶ, **μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία**. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ὅπως εἶπε ὁ ὁμώνυμός μου ἅγιος, ὁ ἱερὸς Αὐγουστῖνος, εἶνε «ὁ Χριστὸς παρατεϊνόμενος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας». Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ ὠραιότερος ὀρισμὸς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Ἐφ' ὅσον ὑπάρχει ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ὑπάρχει καὶ ὁ Χριστός· καὶ ἐφ' ὅσον ὑπάρχει ὁ Χριστός, ὑπάρχει καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία. Μέχρι συντελείας τῶν αἰώνων ὁ Κύριός μας θὰ νικᾷ. Ἔως ὅτου μαρμαίρουν τὰ ἄστρα καὶ ἀνατέλλουν οἱ ἥλιοι καὶ ὑψώνονται τὰ ὄρη καὶ ῥέουν οἱ ποταμοί· ἔως ὅτου ὑπάρχει πνοή, ἔως ὅτου ὑπάρχει καρδιά πού χτυπᾷ· ἔως ὅτου τὰ ἀνθη φυτρώνουν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἔως ὅτου ὑπάρχει ἕαρ γλυκύτατο, **μέχρι τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος**, ὁ Κύριός μας θὰ παραμένῃ ὁ μόνος νικητὴς καὶ θριαμβευτής.

Ὅσοι εἶνε πιστοί, ὅσοι ἔχουν τὸ Χριστὸ στὴν καρδιά τους, αὐτοὶ τὸν λατρεύουν καὶ αἰσθάνονται ἱερὸ ῥήγος στὸ ἀντίκρουμά του. **Τὸν αἰσθάνονται τόσο κοντά τους**, ὅσο τὸν αἰσθάνονταν οἱ ψαρᾶδες τῆς Γαλιλαίας, πού ἐκεῖ στὴν ἀκρογιαλιά ἄκουγαν τὰ ὑπέροχα λόγια του. Τὸν αἰσθάνονται τόσο κοντά, ὅσο τὰ νήπια καὶ **παιδιά** ἐκεῖνα πού εἰσαλλαν τὸ «ῶσαννά» (ἰ. 12, 13). Τὸν αἰσθάνονται ὅπως οἱ ἀπλοῖκοι **μαθηταί** του. Τὸν αἰσθάνονται ὅπως ὁ **εὐαγγελιστὴς Ἰωάννης**, ὁ ἀγαπημένος του μαθητής, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔπesc «ἐπὶ τὸ στῆθος» του (ἰ. 13, 23, 25) καὶ ἄκουσε τοὺς κτύπους τῆς ἁγίας του καρδιάς. Τὸν αἰσθάνονται ὅπως οἱ δύο μαθηταί του πού πορεύονταν **πρὸς Ἑμμαοὺς** καὶ συναντήθηκαν μὲ τὸν Ἀγνωστο· καὶ ὅταν συναντήθηκαν μαζί του, τότε ἔλυσαν τὸ πρόβλημα τῆς ζωῆς τους, ἔνωσαν τὴν καρδιά τους νὰ θερμαίνεται κι ἀναρωτήθηκαν «**Οὐχὶ ἡ καρδιά ἡμῶν καιομένη ἦν ἐν ἡμῖν...**» (ἰουκ. 24, 32).

Ἔτσι τὸν αἰσθάνονται ἐπὶ αἰῶνες ὁλοκλήρους **μυριάδες ἅγιοι μάρτυρες**, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἐβάδισαν στὸ μαρτύριο μὲ τὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**».

Ἔτσι τὸν αἰσθάνεται προπαντὸς ἡ **Ἑλληνική μας φυλή**, στὴν ὁποία σήμερα ἀντηχεῖ ὡς θριαμβευτικὸς ὕμνος τὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**». Τὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**» εἶνε κατ' ἐξοχὴν ὕμνος τῆς χριστιανικῆς μας πατρίδος. Βουνοὶ καὶ νάπαι, ὄρη καὶ κάμποι καὶ πᾶσα ἡ Ἑλληνικὴ γῆ ἀντηχοῦν ἀπὸ τὸν ὕμνο τῶν αἰώνων· «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!**»!

Υπάρχει κανένας **ὀρφανός**; Μετὰ τὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**» δὲν πρέπει νὰ κλαίῃ τὴν ὀρφάνια του, γιατί γι' αὐτὸν στοργικὸς πατέρας εἶνε ὁ Χριστός. Υπάρχει κανένας **φτωχός**; Ἄς μὴ θρηνῇ τὴν πενία του, διότι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ἡ πηγὴ ὅλων τῶν ἀγαθῶν. Υπάρχει κάποιος **ἀπελπισμένος**; Ἄς πάρῃ θάρρος, γιατί ἐλπῖδα τοῦ κόσμου βεβαία καὶ ἀσφαλὴς εἶνε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

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Ἐμεῖς, ἀγαπητοί μου, γνωρίζουμε τὸ Χριστό, ἡ ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ εἶνε ὁ **Ἀγνωστος Χί**;

Δὲν ξέρω «**τί τέξεται ἡ ἐπιούσα**» (Πα. 328), δὲν ξέρω ποιά τροπὴ θὰ πάρῃ ὁ κόσμος. Ἔνα ὁμως ξέρω πολὺ καλά, καὶ σημειώστε το. Ἄς βγοῦν οἱ δαίμονες ἀπὸ τὸν ἄδη, ἄς σειεῖται ἡ γῆ, ἄς πέφτουν τὰ ἄστρα, ἄς γίνετα ἄνω κάτω ὁ κόσμος· ἔνα εἶνε βέβαιο καὶ ὑπερβέβαιο. Πιστέψτε το, ἀδελφοί μου, καὶ βουλῶστε τ' αὐτιά σας στὶς σειρήνες τῆς ἀπιστίας καὶ ἀθείας. Κρατῆστε καλὰ τὴν πίστι καὶ τὴν ἐλπίδα σας στὸ Θεό. Καὶ νὰ εἰστε βέβαιοι καὶ ὑπερβέβαιοι, **ὅτι στὸ τέλος θὰ νικήσῃ ὁ Χριστός**.

Ὁ Χριστὸς νικᾷ, ὁ Χριστὸς θριαμβεύει, ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ παμβασιλεὺς τοῦ κόσμου. «**Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ, Χριστῷ τῷ βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ ἡμῶν**». Καὶ ἄς τοῦ ποῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς τό, «**Ὡ θείας, ὦ φίλης, ὦ γλυκυτάτης σου φωνῆς· μεθ' ἡμῶν ἄψευδῶς γὰρ ἐπηγγείλω ἔσεσθαι μέχρι τερμάτων αἰῶνος, Χριστέ· ἦν οἱ πιστοί, ἄγκυραν ἐλπίδος κατέχοντες, ἀγαλλόμεθα**» (Πάχ. μεγάλ. 8 ὡδ. κν.).

Ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ εἶνε μαζί σας. Ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ εἶνε στὶς οἰκογένειές σας καὶ **σ' ὁλόκληρη τὴν πατρίδα μας**. Ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ εἶνε προστάτης ὅλων μας. Εἶνε ἀδύνατον ὁ Θεάνθρωπος Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς νὰ μὴ προστατεύσῃ τὸ ἔθνος μας. Καὶ αὐτὸ ὄχι γιὰ μᾶς, ἀλλὰ γιὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαρτύρων, πού ἔχει νὰ παρουσιάσῃ ἡ εὐλογημένη αὐτὴ γῆ, σὲ κάθε γωνία τῆς.

«**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!**».

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

**FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$300 PER YEAR**

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR**

**SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR**

**SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR**

**WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!**

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2023 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

### *The Appearance of the Risen Christ*

Christ the Resurrector will appear in the heights with glory. He will bring the dead to life and raise those in the graves. The children of Adam, who were made of earth, will all arise together and give praise to the Resurrector of the dead.

Let not your hearts be sad, you mortals. The Lord's day shall come and He will awaken and gladden us who have reposed. Those who have kept the law shall be roused before the Lord, and the angels shall rejoice in the day of resurrection. Let not your souls be sorrowful, you who were redeemed by the cross and called into the kingdom. The Lord's day shall come; He will give voice to the deceased and the dead will arise and give Him praise.

Let us glorify and worship Jesus, the Word of God, who, according to His love, came to save us by His cross and is coming again to resurrect Adam's children in the great day when His majesty shall shine forth.

Grieve not, you mortals, over your corruption. Christ the King shall shine forth from on high;

He who is omnipotent shall beckon and thus raise the dead from their graves, and clothe them with glory in his kingdom. If death has reigned and laid waste to our nature because Adam sinned and violated the commandment, then shall we not be justified and saved all the more by the sufferings of Christ who has vanquished death and vindicated our nature?

Our Lord has granted the deceased hope and consolation, for He Himself rose from the grave, vanquished death, promised resurrection and life, and bestowed great blessings on Adam and all his children.

Praise and glory to the Father who created us, to the Son who saved us by His cross, and to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to the all-praised and incomprehensible Trinity who raises the dead and clothes their bodies with glory.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

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**RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 25th YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER . The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org (Click live radio)**

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