

**EASTER MESSAGE
HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV**

**His eminence and His Eminence,
The world-wide, vsečesnišim and venerable fathers,
Reverend Monks and nuns, dear in Christ's laity
Of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**

Christ is resurrected!

*Those who were in the Okoh
Thy Mercy,
He was hurried to the light, and was baptized
Easter praises in the eternal.*

The song of 5 canon of the resurrected Utreni

Dear in Christ!

This year we meet Christ's Passover in special circumstances. Many of us have long been lent home, isolated from others, physically distant from our temples and parish communities. However, even in such difficult circumstances, no one is in force to stop the joyful movement of modern man to the light, so that in the faith of Christ's resurrection, in the hope of God's victory and in the love of God's children's community to congratulate each other joyful and convincing "Christ is risen!".

More than three thousand years ago, the Lord Heard and accepted the weeping and lamentation sons of Israel that languished in Egypt in captivity. In the night of the Old Testament Passover, Lord of the Easter Lamb 's blood had brought his people before the deadly angel and brought them out of the house of captivity. Then on the seashore, the escape from Egypt, led by Moses, bore another danger – deep waters ahead, a pharaoh with chariots and Horses – behind. And the sea was opened before them! Thus, the Passover for God's people was combined with the experience of salvation from death. Every israonman, having experienced the liberation from Egypt, experienced his God as God Liberator: I past death! All who have been saved, felt themselves as the only people: they were in bondage together, survived from death, and have the same God – Savior and deliverer. We are the people of God!

In the resurrected Christ, the transition from death to life passes all boundaries of human history. The Old Testament Passover was only limited to a salvation narrow circle of people from

one, limited in time, danger. Our Passover, the Passover the Lord's, the Passover eternal, which we sing on the Easter boutique is not only the experience of salvation from temporary dangers of physical illness and only bodily death. Christ today gives salvation to all people, of all times and peoples, from the very cause of death. Here it is not only about salvation from the pathogen of some disease or salvation from the sword, and even angelic, as it was in the case of Israelis in Egypt. After passing through the suffering and death in the Resurrection, Christ, according to the apostle Paul, destroyed and crucified on the cross a deadly sin with his indefariously ponevolûčôû power.

Passover is eternal victory and ridicule over the very sting of death, as the Apostle proclaims today: "death is swallowed up in victory. Where is thine, death, victory? Where is yours, death, Sting? The sting of Death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. Let him be thanksgiving to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ "(1 Cor 15, 54–57). In his resurrection, Christ dropped from us the slave of fear before his death, turned her into an Easter entrance to a new life. With the resurrection, the doors of the transition to us are opened to the things that are over forever. Passover The Lord's opens the door for us to a joyful eternity. We were together in the chains of death – today we share a common experience of the joy of resurrection as the only New Testament of God's people.

Those who were in the Ark of the Agones, having seen the immeasurable thy mercy...

In the face of global pandemic, we suddenly saw that we were all weak and mortal people. The coronavirus became a murderous danger for the rich, and for the poor, for all people, regardless of the place of residence on the globe, from race and religious persuasion. Perhaps for the first time we came to understand that all of us are equally vulnerable and needy, but we also felt like the only human family: what touched people at one end of the planet – it broke up and snagled people on the other side of the world – each of us touched personally.

The whole world seemed to be wrapped together in the widow's chains. Fear of getting sick and dying, the pain of loss of relatives and friends, the darkness of loneliness and despair in the conditions of forced isolation, destroyed the latest methods of communication and falling of world economic systems have become our common world. As the shackles immobilization slave, so strict rules of quarantine, the only necessary tool to combat this deadly disease, instantly immobilized all mankind: the airfield stopped working, the trains stopped, the boundaries between States, the existence of which have already begun to forget, again closed, as the iron impenetrable gate.

Among this darkness, fear and captivity of the modern man, we have a unique opportunity to realize again what today means to be a Christian. As Christians, we are those who in the sacrament of baptism had already died for this world and were resurrected with our Savior! We are the heirs apostles who saw with our own eyes the resurrected and touched with our own hands his glorified body that passed through the mortal of crucifixion in everlasting life. In the circumstances that temporarily deprive us of the opportunity to fully participate in the liturgical life of our temples and communities, we have the opportunity to realize the important role of spiritual life in Christian families, which they traditionally call the families of churches. Many of us involuntarily mention the celebration of Easter in the underground, as we, not having the opportunity to be together in the temple, were spiritually united with the Eucharist Christ through

the broadcast of the Vatican Radio Divine Liturgy and consecrated our Easter baskets before the radio receivers. No one and nothing can deny Christians the joy of the Resurrection of Christ! Families in which Christians consciously and mature are experiencing present challenges, especially those of the home churches, becoming for their members of especially intense prayer, blessing, sacrifice, and spiritual growth, in places of meeting with the living Christ. At the same time, we discover new ways of spiritual unity over which no restrictive measures can have strength, for what unites us is "one spiritual body of the church, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (see Ephesians 4, 4-5). It is in such a spirit of hope that today we celebrate the Passover and pray for its perfection in the rebirth and renewal of Church and spiritual life!

In response to the darkness of separation and fear of man before man as a likely bearer of the virus of death, we meet this night of the living Risen Christ who passes through all the closed of the quarantine doors to meet us, his disciples. "But as in the evening, the same day, the first in the week, and the doors were shut... Jesus exhorts, stood in the middle, and tells them: "Peace be unto you." (S. 20, 19). The fear of all that the hand of the man was touched on in the time of a person's hand retreats in front of the living God, the resurrected Christ, who wears the wounds of the nails and extends to us and reveals to us the immense mercy of God! All our sins and illnesses, pandemic and fears are defeated by God's love. Modern physical shackles have no power before the spiritual freedom of faith and spirit, before the eternal life given to us in Christ Jesus. He will, at one time, break the closed of the door of quarantine, remove our fear, who is at us behind this door, and call us proclaim the world, as the Apostles did, that "Christ is risen!".

In a hurry to the light, baptize, Passover praising the eternal...

Celebrating the Passover, we believe and already see that modern pandemic must end, and mankind will come from it better, with a sense of solidarity and unity with each other, with a deeper understanding of the meaning and vocation of human life. In this feast Christ we shine with the light of hope, open to all people without restriction. No quarantine, no social separation can obstruct us from the path to it. On the contrary, we are all together, and those who live and those who have gone into eternity, as the only people of God celebrate the joy of victory over death. In our grief and pain we receive hope and consolation. Given us eternal liberation from spiritual shackles. Wherefore the Passover glorify everlasting.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! On this bright, joyful day is to be sung to each of your home to share with you the joy of the deliverance that has been given to us with resurrection. All, in Ukraine and on settlements, I have to cover their sincere prayers and heartfelt greetings. I bless you all: the healthy and the sick, the strong and the inemic, the young and the elders, the parents and the children.

I also stumble to all hospitals and houses of care, so that you can share joyful and life-giving news and encourage you to be patient in prayer, with the spirit of self-sacrifice. I particularly congratulate and bless our doctors and medical workers – everyone who cares for the sick and needy in these circumstances. I unite spiritually with our warriors who are on frontline, and with their families, with wounded, with internally displaced persons and residents of the occupied territories, with prisoners and prisoners of conscience. All the lonely and those who are away from their relatives, embrace parent love.

May the Risen Christ change this moment ecumenical weep and the pains of all mankind on the Passover joy of victory over sickness and death, as he has changed the cry of women-peacekeepers to joy this morning! Let us grant every moment the gift of victory over sin and rebirth in love and hope through growth in our lives God's gift of eternal life, which we all received in baptism! I sincerely wish each of you the Blessed Easter holidays, delicious, holy eggs and light Easter joy!

Grace of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the Sacrament of the Holy Ghost be with you all!

Christ is risen! Truly Risen!

SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kiev,
At the patriarch's Resurrection Cathedral,
On the day of St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem,
31 (18) March 2020 of God