



Christ is Risen!

Dear brothers and sisters, today we exclaim and sing that Christ has risen from the dead. The resurrection of Christ has given us eternal life. The Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our Christian faith. At the dawn of the birth of the Christian Church, after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, the first and most important truth that the disciples began to proclaim to the whole world is the news: Christ is Risen!

With these words begins our Christian experience of living by faith. Our inner world is built on this amazing foundation. What the Old Testament Church only dimly guessed based on the words of Scripture "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3: 6), with the coming of Christ, it becomes clear and tangible there is a God of the dead, but of the living "(Matthew 22:23).

We, Christians, first of all discovered that every person is called to resurrection. After the Resurrection of Christ, not only the word "resurrection" entered the life of every person. On the example of His Resurrection from the dead, we saw what it means to rise with the body, we saw how death is being overcome. Waiting for our resurrection has become a source of hope, has become a guideline for a new life, inspired many generations, whole nations to transform life and the world.

Today, on these bright Easter days, all caring people with pain and sadness remember those killed and injured by the brutal terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. Strange as it may seem, in some parts of the world, still reading the Gospel and talking about Christ the Resurrected means to endanger your life and the lives of your loved ones. The persecution of Christians acquired drama and unprecedented history. According to statistics, almost three hundred million Christians around the world are persecuted for their faith. Christians are the most persecuted believers in the world.

Let us pray together with you today about all the persecuted and about softening the hearts of their persecutors. May the Lord grant His peace to all who find it difficult to live in our unfree and unjust world. Let's not forget that the resurrected Jesus, as promised, is always with us. Christ is alive! Let's open our hearts to Him! We will tirelessly beg Him to give the opportunity to us to be with Him, by His love, by our faith. Let us not doubt today in the words of the Apostle Paul, that "God ... shall also raise us up by His power" (1 Corinthians 6:14).

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Metropolitan Vitaly,
Primate of the Apostolic Orthodox Church
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