

PASCHAL MESSAGE 2014

*Now all things have been filled with light,  
both heaven and earth and those beneath the earth;  
so let all creation sing Christ's rising,  
by which it is established.*  
Paschal canon, ode 3.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

'Christ is risen!' we acclaim today, beaming with joy. All creation so wondrous in the beginning, in Paradise, and later distorted by sin, has now become a new creation, really transparent to the power of God.

Today life, triumphant over death, shines from the empty tomb. As we are clothed with Christ, we are in truth clothed with this new life, into which all people are called to be born.

Today, the risen Christ breaks once and for all through the wall of death. "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (Rev. 1 :17-18).

Today the time we have in this world, our good old time, is neither gained nor lost, neither empty or full, neither wasted nor crumbled. Time now allows the light of resurrection to shine through it. From now on, it contains unending, everlasting life. Indeed, Christ Himself is our time, the fullness of times, which little by little releases each and every man.

Today, has been given "All authority has been given to the divine Risen One in heaven and on earth.» (Cf. Matth. 28 :18). The resurrection of Christ, our resurrection, is a love without limits, all-comprehensive love. The newness of Pascha means to love as Christ did, to be with everyone and for everyone. We cannot invent or discover it. Love has been given us, love itself, living God, who is communion and charity.

Today, in the morning freshness of this wonderful day that has no evening, our heart overflows with the peace and joy of Christ. To live this day means to experience the love who is God, so that His life and love would animate every moment of our life.

Today is the great day of our meeting with God. It is not a meeting from time to time, it is a continual meeting. "A meeting of the living God with all peoples, all men, everyone, be he pure or corrupted, be he learned or uneducated, be he fulfiller of the Law or unbeliever, be he healthy or sick, be he a small infant or an aged person. The reason of our life is in the fact the Christ did not remain in tomb. He is living for you. He comes to save you. Today or tomorrow or some other day – this is not important... Your time is in His hands. Be watchful, open your eyes and see; open your ears and attend; open your mind and your spirit – living Lord is coming to you". He has arranged a meeting with you!

Brothers and Sisters,

"Come, take light from unsetting Light and praise Christ, who has risen from death". Up with your hearts! The hour of victory is come. The love of the Risen One has overcome all sufferings, both of men and the earth and the sufferings of all that breathes. This is our faith. This is the firm conviction of us and of all the world, a conviction that gives us strength and hope both now and in the future.

*Christ is risen!*

+ Stephanos,  
Metropolitan of Tallinn and All Estonia

*Holy Easter AD 2014.*