

# BRIGHT WEDNESDAY

*April 22, 2020 • Fourth day of Paschaltide*



## CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Canticle*

**O** my Saviour, the living and unsacrificed offering, as God of Thine own free will Thou didst offer Thyself to the Father. And by being resurrected from the grave Thou resurrected the entire race of Adam.

*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.*



## AT MORNING PRAYER

*from the Pentecostarion, at Orthros*

**O** Thou Who didst endure the Cross and death, and didst arise from the dead, O Almighty Lord, we glorify Thy Resurrection.

*Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

**B**y Thy Cross, O Christ, Thou hast freed us from the ancient curse; and by Thy death, Thou hast destroyed the devil, who tyrannized our nature; and by Thine arising, Thou hast filled all things with joy. Wherefore, we cry to Thee: Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

*Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

**B**y Thy Cross, O Christ Saviour, guide us unto Thy truth, and deliver us from the snares of the enemy. Thou Who didst arise from the dead, raise us up who have fallen in sin, stretching out Thy hand to us, O man-befriending Lord, through the intercessions of Thy Saints.

## AT EVENING PRAYER

*from the Pentecostarion, at Vespers*

**B**y Thy precious Cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame; and by Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin; and Thou hast saved us from the gates of Death. We glorify Thee, O only-begotten Son.

*Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

**E**vening worship do we offer to Thee, the Unwaning Light, Who in the end of the ages, through the flesh as in a mirror, hast shined upon the world; and hast descended even unto Hades, and dispelled the darkness there, and hast shown the light of the Resurrection unto the nations. O Giver of Light, Lord, glory be to Thee.

*Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

**O** Lord, Who hast despoiled Hades and hast trampled upon Death; O our Saviour, Who hast enlightened the world by Thy precious Cross; have mercy upon us.



## WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

### CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

*Archbishop*

†444

~ from his commentary on St. Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians ~

**T**HOSE WHO HAVE A SURE HOPE, guaranteed by the Spirit, that they will rise again lay hold of what lies in the future as though it were already present. They say: 'Outward appearances will no longer be our standard in judging other men. Our lives are all controlled by the Spirit now, and are not confined to this physical world that is subject to corruption. The light of the Only-begotten has shone on us, and we have been transformed into the Word, the source of all life. While sin was still our master, the bonds of Death had a firm hold on us; but now that the righteousness of Christ has found a place in our hearts, we have freed ourselves from our former condition of corruptibility'.

This means that none of us lives in the flesh anymore, at least not in so far as living in the flesh means being subject to the weaknesses of the flesh, which include corruptibility. *Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer, (2 Corinthians 5:16)* says Saint Paul. By this he meant that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; He suffered death in the flesh in order to give all men life. It was in this flesh that we knew Him before, but we do so no longer. Even though He remains in the flesh, since He came to life again on the third day and is now with His Father in heaven, we know that He has passed beyond the life of the flesh; *for we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. (Romans 6:9-10)*

Since Christ has in this way become the source of life for us, we who follow in His footsteps must not think of ourselves as living in the flesh any longer, but as having passed beyond it. Saint Paul's saying is absolutely true: *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)* We have been justified by our faith in Christ and the power of the curse has been broken. Christ's coming to life again for our sake has put an end to the sovereignty of Death. We have come to know the true God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth, through the Son, our Mediator, Who sends down upon the world the Father's blessings.

And so, Saint Paul shows deep insight when he says: *All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself.* For the mystery of the Incarnation and the renewal it accomplished could not have taken place without the Father's will. Through Christ we have gained access to the Father, for as Christ Himself says, no one comes to the Father except through Him. *All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18).* *Amen.*

