Пасхальное Посланіе Его Высокопреосвященства КИРИЛЛА

Архіепископа Санъ-Францисскаго и Западно-Американскаго

Боголюбимымъ Отцамъ, Всечестнымъ Монашествующимъ и Благочестивой Паствъ Западно-Американской Епархіи

Христосъ Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

Дорогіе Чада Церкви, возлюбленная моя паства!

Христосъ Спаситель вновь стоитъ посреди насъ, въ славѣ Своей, провозглашая побѣду надъ смертію. Онъ стоитъ на землѣ и говоритъ таинственно, "Я здѣсь, съ вами" міру, считавшему Его побѣжденнымъ—міру, который даже сейчасъ, въ свѣтскомъ омраченіи, считаетъ Его безсмысленнымъ и законченнымъ. О, великая глупость людей! Мы гонимся за всѣмъ на свѣтѣ, чтобы найти наслажденіе, однако мы такъ легко забываемъ бѣжать за нашимъ Спасителемъ, бѣжать къ Нему. Мы ищемъ знанія вездѣ, обо всемъ, только не о Немъ и не отъ Него. Мы такъ легко бываемъ лояльными нашимъ политическимъ убѣжденіямъ, нашимъ предпочтеніямъ, нашимъ пристрастіямъ, нашимъ собственнымъ представленіямъ, но такъ быстры мы бѣжать отъ Креста и любящаго Отчаго Сына, принесшаго въ жертву Себя на Немъ ради насъ.

Но сегодня Христосъ побѣдилъ нашу слабость, также какъ Онъ побѣдилъ діавола и даже самыя врата адовы. Мы истратили нашу жизнь убѣгая отъ Христа: сегодня Онъ бѣжитъ къ намъ. Мы искали знанія вдали отъ Него; сегодня онъ принесъ Правду, истинный Свѣтъ, даже Себя, прямо въ нашу среду. Мы не смогли быть связанными къ Нему словомъ, мыслію, дѣломъ и дѣйствіями; сегодня Онъ насъ связалъ съ Собой, и вознесъ нашу слабость къ Нему, къ Его воскресшей славѣ. Мы были мертвы въ нашихъ страстяхъ и грѣхахъ; но сегодня метрвые возстаютъ.

Мы провозглашаемъ *Христосъ Воскресе!* И мы этими же словами торжественно исповѣдуемъ, что нѣтъ никого, который былъ болѣе лояльный къ обѣщанному слову, болѣе любящій и заботливый, какъ Тотъ, Кого мы сегодня видимъ, Воскресшаго изъ мертвыхъ. Онъ любилъ насъ какъ никто иной насъ не любилъ и не будетъ любить. Онъ исполнилъ всѣ обѣщанія, данныя намъ въ теченіе всѣхъ вѣковъ, ведя насъ къ Его славѣ. Онъ любилъ насъ, когда мы отреклись отъ Него. И что Онъ отъ насъ проситъ взамѣнъ? "Любите другъ друга, также какъ Я васъ любилъ" (Іоан. 13,34). Мы должны помнить сію "заповѣдь новую" въ сей день изъ всѣхъ дней. Если мы желаемъ любить нашего Воскресшаго Бога, мы должны другъ друга любить, защищать, опекать, и беречь одинъ другого. Мы должны проявлять другъ другу то же состраданіе, милосердіе, прощеніе и лояльность въ любви, которые мы видимъ въ Воскресшемъ Спасителѣ. Только тогда наше Пасхальное привѣтствіе будетъ выявлять всю силу этого Праздника.

Я молю, чтобы мы провозглашали бы сей Праздникъ всѣмъ нашимъ сердцемъ, и дабы эта Пасха принесла бы возобновленіе любви, братства, вѣрности, истинной христіанской жизни въ сердца всѣхъ насъ, кто прославляетъ Подателя Жизни! Будемъ всѣ сознавать, что означаетъ произносить те радостные слова, съ которыми я еще разъ васъ привѣтствую, въ радости Праздника, всѣмъ моимъ сердцемъ:

Христосъ Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

+ Aprienus

ПАСХА 2014 г.

To the Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics and Pious Laity of the Western American Diocese:

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Precious Children of the Church, my beloved flock:

Christ our Saviour once again stands in our midst, glorified, proclaiming the victory over death. He stands upon the earth and says, in a mystery, "I am here, with you" to a world that had thought Him defeated—to a world that even today, in its secular delusion, thinks Him irrelevant and outdone. Lo, the great foolishness of man! We run after everything in creation in order to find pleasure, but we so easily forget to run after, to run towards, our Creator. We seek knowledge everywhere, about everything, except about Him and from Him. We are so easily loyal to our politics, our preferences, our passions and our own designs, but so quick to flee from the Cross and the loving Son of the Father who has offered Himself upon it for our sakes.

But today, Christ has defeated our weakness, just as He has defeated the devil and even the gates of Hades itself. We have spent our lives running away from Christ: today He has run toward us. We have sought wisdom apart from Him; today He has brought Truth, true Light, even Himself, directly into our midst. We have failed to be bound to Him in word, in thought, in deed and in action; today He has bound Himself to us, and raised up our weakness in His resurrected glory. We have been dead in our passions and sins; but today, the dead arise.

We cry out *Christ is risen!* and we make a solemn confession by these very words: that there is none more loyal, more faithful to a promised word, more loving or more caring than the One Whom we see today, risen from the dead. He has loved us as no other has loved us, or ever will. He has kept every promise He has made to us over all the centuries He has guided us towards His glory. He has loved us when we rejected Him. And what does He ask of us in return? "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34). We must remember this "new commandment" on this day, of all days. If we are to love our Resurrected God, we must love one another, protect and care for and preserve one another. We must show to each other that same compassion, kindness, forgiveness and loyalty of love that we see in our Risen Saviour. Only then does our Paschal greeting convey the full power of this Feast.

I pray that we will cry it out with our whole hearts, that this Pascha will bring a renewal of love, of brotherhood, of fidelity, of genuine Christian *life* into the hearts of all of us who praise the Giver of Life! May we all recognize what it means to say that most joyful of phrases with which I once more greet you, in the joy of the Feast, with my whole heart:

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Pascha 2014