



Peace and Joy, my beloved brothers and sisters, for Christ is Risen!

Christ's first words when He appeared to the apostles after His Resurrection were: Peace be with you! This blessing draws its full significance from the Hebrew Shalom greeting which means blessing, protection, divine presence, grace and peace (cf. Numbers 6:23).

In the Gospel of the Apostle John the Lord had already said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. (John 14:27)

Christ gives us His Peace on this day of His Resurrection, and He gives it to us once and for all. This Peace is the sign of the new life within us. Between God and His creation there no longer exists any obstacle. The Garden of Eden is opened once more and the Tree of Life offers its fruit and foliage to all creatures (cf. Apocalypse 22:2). The curse of the original fall is cancelled and joy permeates Heaven and Earth.

In His Resurrection we are called to experience here below the first spiritual resurrection that Saint John speaks of. (Apocalypse 20:6)

The Lord Jesus gives us His Peace in order that we may spread it throughout a suffering world. By this Peace and in this joy let us announce the Resurrection by revealing Christ to all men and all creation. This is the Church's mission.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

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