



My Beloved Ones,

**The sepulcher is blissful.
When it received within itself the Creator
as though He were asleep,
it became a divine treasure house of Life,
for the salvation of us who sing,
"O our God and Redeemer, You are blessed."
(Hymn of the 7th Ode of Holy Saturday)**

By God's Grace we have been made worthy to reach the completion of the blessed course of Holy Lent and to enter into Holy and Great Week, where forgiveness conquers sin, joy succeeds sorrow, incorruption prevails over corruption and life overcomes death.

That said, the message of our Christ the Savior's Passion and Resurrection should not be regarded as mere history or tradition, but as new, invigorating and life-giving. In these days we live in, full of tribulation, full of distractions, nothing can be more joyous and more redemptive than this message, which rises from the blissful sepulcher of Christ the Giver of Life.

As the women are greeted by the joyous proclamations of the Angel, so we who wait in darkness receive the Light which is eternal and cannot be dimmed—even by death. As St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*" (1 Corinthians 15:15) We know, as St. John Chrysostom writes in his Paschal Homily, that we should "*let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.*"

This is my most fervent wish for all of you, my dear children: that no matter where you are—whether in our God-Protected Metropolis of Atlanta, or elsewhere—your hearts be opened to experiencing the miracle of the Resurrection, with the same joy and awe that the disciples felt, as if living it for the very first time. With great love, I wish

A Blessed Resurrection!

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta