

## **Pascha (The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ)**

The Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the principal and most ancient Byzantine Rite festival celebrated with great solemnity from its inception.

Already in the fourth century it was called “The Feasts of Feasts”, since by its solemnity it surpassed all other festivities as the “sun surpasses all other stars by its brightness” (St. Gregory of Nazianz)

The commemoration of Christ’s Resurrection in our Rite is indeed “the day that the Lord has made”, therefore the faithful are encouraged to be “glad and rejoice in it” (Psalm 118:24)

“On this Glorious and the most Holy Day, the whole Church celebrates the joy of the final victory and life-giving resurrection of our Lord. After the long period of darkness brought about by sin, after the endless expectation of the prophets, after the glad tidings of Christ’s birth when the designated time had come, after the thirty years of Christ’s hidden life and the three years of His public life, after the frightful passion, death upon the cross and three days in the tomb, behold-Christ is Risen!

“O death, where is your sting?

O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life reigns.

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever.

Amen

St. John Chrysostom

## **Christ is Risen!      Indeed He is Risen!**