

**Easter Message from Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia,
to Archbishops, Padres, Deacons, Monks and all Children-in-faith,
of the Russian Orthodox Church;**

Right Reverend Archbishops, Reverend Padres and Deacons, Honourable Monks and Nuns, dear Brothers and Sisters,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Addressing you with these life-asserting words, I extend to all of you my heartfelt greetings on the great and world-saving feast of Easter. On this *sanctified and holy day* so overwhelming is our spiritual joy and profound gratitude to God, and so distinct is the feeling of might and depth of the Creator's love for human beings that, when trying to express our emotions, we can hardly find other words than those of the myrrh-bearing women who ran to the apostles to tell them about the miraculous event – that they had seen the Lord.

One can only imagine how hard it was for the Saviour's disciples to believe in the reality of His Resurrection. It was not long ago that they had seen their beloved Teacher being tortured and crucified. Still fresh in their minds were the memories of how His dead and lifeless Body had been laid in the tomb, with a heavy stone rolled to its door. And now sorrow gives place to the firmness of faith and the triumph of life, and tears of affliction turn into tears of joy.

Experiencing the real communion with the Risen Christ and the unfading Easter joy inspired and set wings to the apostles who went to the ends of the earth to preach the forgiveness of sins and salvation which we received through the Lord Jesus, Risen from the tomb. Unafraid of adversities and severe persecutions, enduring hardships and tribulations, the apostles tirelessly and bravely bore witness to Christ the Vanquisher of death.

For two thousand years now, the tidings of the Resurrection have formed the core of the Church's livelihood, and efforts have continuously been exerted to spread them to *every man that cometh into the world* (Jn. 1:9). In the light of Easter everything is indeed different: fear and despair, caused by sorrows, afflictions and worldly troubles, go away. And even the trying circumstances of these troubled times lose their ominous acuteness in the perspective of eternity granted unto us.

To bear witness to the Risen Saviour, we do not have to go somewhere far, like the apostles did, in spreading the Easter tidings all over the world. Many people around us are in dire need of a living model of Christian *faith working through love* (Gal. 5:6). God does not demand of us some heroic deeds that are beyond our strength. He just asks us to show love to one another, to remember that by doing so we also show our love for Him. A kind smile, attention and sympathy to those who are close to us, as well as timely words of consolation and support, can be our most important deeds for the sake of our Lord.

And today, when the world is torn by conflicts and confrontations, when many hearts are filled with hatred, fear and enmity, it is of particular importance to be mindful of our Christian vocation and to show genuine love towards our neighbours – love that alone can heal the wounds inflicted by evil and falsehood. We must not yield to the temptation of the archenemy who strives to shatter the blessed unity between Orthodox Christians. I ardently pray to our Lord Jesus, the Vanquisher of death, and I ask you as well, to raise your fervent prayers to Him, so that all obstacles are overcome, lasting peace prevails, and the wounds of divisions are healed by the Divine grace.

Congratulating you all on the feast of Easter, I invoke upon you the blessing of the Risen Christ and wish you, my beloved, the inexhaustible radiant Easter joy that strengthens us in faith, hope and love. By the will of God, may this light be unfading in our hearts, *always be shining to the world* (Mt. 5:14). And may we, illumined by the word of God –through reading the Gospel and partaking of the Divine grace in the Sacraments of the Church – grow steadily in the knowledge of the Lord and in fulfilling His commandments, so that people, *seeing our good deeds, glorify our Father who is in heaven* (Mt. 5:16) and join us in joyfully proclaiming that

INDEED, CHRIST IS RISEN !

PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA

*Christ Easter,
2022*

**Ujumbe wa Pasaka wa Patriaki Kirill wa Mosko na Urusi Yote,
Kwenda kwa Maaskofu, Mapadri, Mashemasi, Watawa na Masista, Waumini wote
wa Kanisa la Othodoksi la Urusi**

**Waadhama Maaskofu, Waheshimiwa Mapadri na Mashemasi, Watawa na Masista,
Wapendwa kaka na dada zangu,**

KRISTO AMEFUFUKA!

Huku nikiwaletea maneno haya ya uthibitisho wa uzima, ninawapa ninyi nyote salamu zangu za upendo wa dharti, katika kuadhimisha sikukuu ya ukombozi wa dunia, Pasaka. Katika siku hii, iliyowekwa wakfu, na iliyo takatifu, tunajawa na furaha kubwa ya rohoni na shukrani nyingi kwa Mungu, na hisia ya nguvu na kina cha upendo wa Muumba kwa mwanadamu, ziko bayana mno, kiasi kwamba hata tunapojaribu kuzielezea, tunashindwa kupata maneno mengine toshelevu, zaidi ya yale yaliyotolewa na wale wanawake waliokuwa wamebeba manemane walipokimbia kwenda kwa mitume kuwaambia juu ya tukio la muujiza - kwamba walikuwa wamemwona Bwana.

Mtu anaweza tu kufikiria jinsi ilivyokuwa vigumu kwa wanafunzi wa Mwokozi kuamini katika uhalisi wa Ufufuo Wake. Muda mfupi tu uliopita walikuwa wamemwona Mwalimu wao mpendwa akiteswa na kusulubiwa. Akilini mwao kulikuwa bado kuna kumbukumbu “mbichi” za jinsi Mwili Wake, uliokufa na usio na uhai, ulivyolazwa kaburini, na jiwe zito likiwa limeviringishwa kwenye mlango wake. Na sasa huzuni inatoa nafasi kwa uimara wa imani na ushindi wa uzima, na machozi ya mateso yanageuka kuwa machozi ya furaha.

Mguso wa ushirika-halisi na Kristo Mfufuka, na furaha kuu ya Pasaka viliwavuvia mitume na kuwapa msukumo wa kwenda hata miisho ya dunia, kuhubiri msamaha wa dhambi na wokovu ambao tumeupokea kwa njia ya Bwana Yesu, Aliyefufuka kutoka kaburini. Bila kuogopa dhiki na mateso makali, huku wakikabili shida na dhiki, bila kuchoka na kukatishwa tamaa, kwa ujasiri mkubwa mitume walikwenda kotekote wakimshuhudia Kristo Aliyeshinda kifo.

Na kwa miaka elfu mbili sasa, Kanisa linaziishi habari hizi za Ufufuo, na limekuwa likijitahidi *kuzipeleka kwa kila mtu ajaye ulimwenguni* (Yn. 1:9). Katika nuru ya Pasaka kila kitu ni tofauti kabisa: hofu na hali ya kukata tamaa, inayosababishwa na huzuni, mateso na shida za kidunia, hutoweka. Katika hali ya umilele tuliokirimiwa, hata majaribu yanayojili katika nyakati hizi za taabu, hupoteza makali yake.

Ili kushuhudia juu ya Mwokozi Mfufuka, hatuhitaji kwenda sehemu zozote za mbali, kama walivyofanya mitume, ambao walikwenda wakieneza habari za Pasaka ulimwenguni pote. Kuna watu wengi wanaotuzunguka ambao wanahitaji kielelezo-hai cha *imani ya Kikristo inayofanya kazi kwa njia ya upendo* (Gal. 5:6). Mungu hahitaji kutoka kwetu matendo ya kishujaa yanayozidi uwezo wetu. Anatuomba tu tuonyeshe upendo sisi kwa sisi, tukikumbuka kwamba kwa kufanya hivyo sisi pia tunaonyesha upendo wetu Kwake. Tabasamu la fadhili, kuonyesha kuwajali na kuwahurumia wahitaji walio karibu nasi, na vile vile kutamka maneno ya faraja katika kipindi kigumu kwao, na kuwapa msaada, yanaweza kuwa matendo yetu muhimu sana kwa ajili ya Kristo Mfufuka.

Na leo, wakati ulimwengu umevurugwa na migogoro na makabiliano, na katika mioyo ya watu wengi kumejaa chuki, hofu na uadui, ni muhimu sana kuzingatia wito wetu wa Kikristo unaotutaka kuonyesha upendo wa kweli kwa jirani zetu - upendo ambao pekee unaweza kuponya. majeraha yatokanayo na uovu na uwongo. Hatupaswi kujisalimisha kwa majaribu ya adui wa yetu, ambaye anajitahidi kuvunja umoja uliobarikiwa, kati ya Wakristo wa Kanisa la Othodoksi. Ninamuomba sana Bwana wetu Yesu Mshindi wa mauti, na naomba nanyi pia mumuinulie maombi yenu ya dhati, ili makwazo yote yaondolewe, amani ya kudumu ipatikane, na madonda ya migawanyiko yapone, kwa neema ya Mungu.

Ninawapongeza nyote kwa sikukuu ya Pasaka, na ninawaombeeni baraka za Kristo Mfufuka na ninawatakia, wapendwa wangu, furaha isiyokwisha, ya Pasaka, inayotutia nguvu katika imani, tumaini na upendo. Impendeze Mungu kwamba, nuru hii isififie mioyoni mwetu, ili *kwamba daima iuangaze ulimwengu* (Mt. 5:14). Na sisi, tukiangazwa na Neno la Mungu - kwa kusoma Injili na kushiriki neema ya Mungu katika Sakramenti za Kanisa - kukua katika kumjua Bwana na katika kutimiza amri zake, *ili watu wakiona nuru ya matendo yetu mema, wamtukuze Baba yetu aliye mbinguni* (Mt. 5:16) na waungane nasi katika kushuhudia kwa furaha kwamba,

HAKIKA, KRISTO AMEFUFUKA!

PATRIARKI WA MOSKO NA URUSI YOTE

Kristo Pasaka Yetu

2022