

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

PASCHA 2017

All creatures have been filled with light, the heaven and the earth, and all that is below the earth. Let all creation, therefore, celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, in which it is strengthened.

Paschal Canon, Ode 3

Beloved in Christ,

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

Having struggled together through the Fast, we have arrived at the Tomb of Christ and joyfully find it transformed from a place of gloom into a source of brilliance that permeates all the regions “in heaven and on earth and under the earth”. (Phil. 2:10).

In accord with His will, God has called us to be shepherds of His people in challenging times. It seems that, in so many corners of our contemporary world, the darkness is deepening and the reign of death is expanding. But as we now stand together before the empty Tomb, we receive a light “never overtaken by night” which dispels every shadow. We receive a new life that shatters the power of death. Darkness flees and death is slain! In this new light and life, we—and indeed all creation—are strengthened, confirmed in our zeal to proclaim glad tidings of the triumphant Resurrection, which has liberated the universe from the tyranny of corruption.

My brothers and concelebrants, as we partake of Christ in the “Kingdom’s day, which setteth not,” let us renew our bonds of faithfulness and unity in the Risen Christ, in whose High Priesthood we have been deemed worthy to share.

+JOSEPH

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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)