

**His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH**



**Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America**

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Great and Holy Pascha 2020

*Before the symbolical ark, David, God's forefather, did leap and dance.
Let us, therefore, the holy people, seeing the fulfillment of these symbols,
rejoice with divine rejoicing; for Christ the Almighty is risen.*

Fourth Ode of the Paschal Canon

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Parish Council members and beloved faithful:

During this bright feast of Holy Pascha, let us not be cast down with thoughts of what we lack but filled with divine rejoicing at all that Christ the Almighty has bestowed on us. No longer do we need an Ark or a Temple to come into the presence of God for Christ has descended into Hades and risen from the dead, "that He might fill all things with Himself." No longer do we fear death for Christ is the "First-born from the dead" and "He shall be all things, the first in all things."

Beloved in Christ, although we have spent these days in physical distance from one another, let us nevertheless dance and leap for joy at the Resurrection of Christ unites each one of us to God, to one another, and to the inhabitants of the heavens.

With fervent prayers for a joyous feast of Pascha and a hastening of that day when we will gather together once again in our churches, I remain,

Yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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