

April 24/11, 2022



To the beloved clergy, monastics and faithful of the Russian True Orthodox Church-MM—mercy, peace, and love be yours.

It seems that every day we come face to face with pain, suffering, and tragedy. Far too often it is very personal, affecting us and those we love. Then, there are the stories of pain and tragedy with which we are constantly bombarded, through the news, social media, and the multitude of other outlets streaming into our lives. Whether it is a personal tragedy or a story that has us sharing the pain in empathy with others, the response is always the same, why. Why are these terrible things allowed to happen? What good can possibly come of such horrors?

These thoughts were probably the same ones running through the minds of the apostles and disciples as they had to watch the horrific events of the Passion. They had to stand by, helpless, as the man they loved, their father, teacher, and their Lord endured unspeakable acts of brutality and the final act of human cruelty, his death upon the cross. What they did not realize, however, was that this suffering and indignity at the hands of his persecutors would lead to a consequence that was

beyond their wildest imaginations.

Suffering, pain, brutality, cruelty is never just. But Christ shows us that they also do not have to be the final word. By his Resurrection he made a mockery of all they tried to do to him and showed us that even our worst moments can lead us to something unexpected. In Christ, we have victory. In Christ, we know that even the most certain of defeat can be turned around.

The Resurrection of Christ gives hope and strength to all of us who have had to face pain, sorrow, or any type of trials this year. And to our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine, may the Resurrection of Our Lord remind them that even in the darkest night victory is always around the corner as the light of Christ breaks through the shadows.

We sing in the Matins of the Resurrection, “Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.” May this hymn ring true throughout the world today. May God indeed arise and fill the hearts of all who are suffering with strength. May the Light of Christ shine upon all of us and destroy the evil forces in our own lives and in every corner of the world.

With the bestowal of our blessings and prayers for all of you, we remain

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

+ALEXY

Metropolitan and First Hierarch of the Russian True Orthodox Church-MM
Archbishop of Minneapolis and Chicago

+HARALAMPOS

Archbishop of Dallas and Texas

+NICHOLAS

Bishop of Edenborn
Vicar for the Archdiocese of North America & the Diaspora