Pascha 2024

To the Reverend Clergy & Monastics, Esteemed Parish Council Members, Beloved Sisters of Philoptochos, Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and our Youth & Young Adults:

Beloved in the Lord,

"Let the creation rejoice exceedingly, let all those born on earth be glad: for hell, the enemy, has been despoiled. Ye women, come to meet me with sweet spices: for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again."
(9th Ode of the Canon of Holy Saturday)

I greet you with paternal love and joy in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Midnight Office is a symbol for our lives, for as we sit in the dark sanctuary, we live in difficult times. However, we wait, not to observe a historical commemoration, but because we know Christ is resurrected here and now. Despite every human weakness, we feel great spiritual happiness, since we know that our Lord chose to share in our sufferings, so that He might lead us to reconciliation with His Father in the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we continue to pray that the peace of the Holy Spirit softens hearts and protects all people (especially our Orthodox brothers and sisters in danger), we know that death is not the end, since Christ has trampled upon the power of sin and death, forever. Therefore, let us say with confidence:

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!
Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! Truly He is Risen!

I remain, yours with paternal blessings in the Lord’s Resurrection,

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta