

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** 175/2026

**Great and Holy Pascha, 2026**

My beloved brother bishops,

My spiritual sons, the beloved priests and deacons,

My beloved in Christ, sons and daughters of the God protected Archdiocese,

I greet you on this great feast, crying out with you: Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

Each year, Pascha returns as a season of light, renewing within us the strength of true life and the possibility of our transfiguration and that of the world. This is what I pray for you every day. May you remain always immersed in the joy of the Resurrection.

**“The Resurrection and Me”**

My meditation this year on Your Resurrection, O my Christ, carried me to its very end, so I asked myself why Pascha remains an annual commemoration and does not become a daily reality in my life. I found the answer in my forgetfulness of eternal life. I realized that when I live on the level of earthly things, I see the Resurrection as no more than a joyful event. But when eternal life becomes my destination and my desire, I live it already, here and now, by the power of the life Your Resurrection has brought me, O my Lord and God.

You told us once: “And this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). Knowing You is either on the personal level — at the level of one’s very being, not merely of the mind — or it is not a knowledge that leads to eternal life. This knowledge calls for a longing for Your heavenly Kingdom, which, the more it is kindled within me, the more I taste it here on earth.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may be strengthened by the power of Your Resurrection and fear death no longer; for life with You is life indeed, and Your absence is true death. Everything around me and within me seeks life, yet its joy quickly fades. And although I believe that the true life whose joy never fades is by You and in You, I still fear paying its price.

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

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I want the joy of Your Resurrection without passing through the Cross; therefore, I still stumble and limp between the two. Teach me how to direct my gaze toward Your Resurrection so that, in its light, I may see the Cross as the passage to the defeat of death and all that is bound to it.

Strengthen me to overcome whatever prevents me from setting out toward You and whatever binds me to the glitter and sweetness of this world, so that I may taste Your grace when You touch me and my spiritual senses may no longer remain dull.

Today I am like the two disciples of Emmaus — troubled, anxious, and afraid of what is happening in this world. I long to be with You, for that is far better, but I cannot do it alone. I need You, and like the two disciples I call upon You: “Abide with us, Lord” (Luke 24:29), for the evening of this world has grown dark and its day is fading.

Abide with me, O Lord, that my old self may be renewed and I may become a new person, trampling underfoot all that prevents You from remaining with me.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may know the power of Your Resurrection, carry Your Cross with joy, and bear witness to the world that it is the passageway to the Resurrection.

Abide with me, O Jesus, that I may see the world in the light of Your eyes and be a witness of joy, peace, and consolation within it.

Abide with me, that by Your Resurrection I may overcome my sins, trample my deadness, and crush my shortcomings and vices.

Abide with me, break Your bread, and give it to me, that my eyes may be opened and my heart may burn with love for You, and that I may proclaim what Your presence works within me.

So, when I cry out that You are risen, risen forever, those who hear me will believe me and know that I am not merely repeating a song I love.

Restore me and Your people, O my Christ, to an everlasting feast, so that our daily greeting may become: O my joy, Christ is risen!

Your father in the risen Christ,



**+SABA**

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