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PASCHAL EPISTLE

Truly sacred and supremely festive is this saving night, radiant with light, the forerunner of the bright-beaming Day of the Resurrection, whereon the Timeless Light in bodily form shone from the grave for all. (From Ode VII of the Paschal Canon)

Dear in the Lord Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Mid-America,

Christ is Risen!

On the holy night of the Resurrection of Christ, while still on earth, we are given a taste of Heaven and the rejoicing of Paradise, although only in a small and limited way.

This is given not according to our merits, but due to the love of God towards us.

In experiencing this heavenly joy, we truly are ready to embrace and forgive everyone.

All our earthly complications, confusions, offenses – all become insignificant and meaningless. We forget them all. The joy of Paschal consumes everything!

This joy fills us to such a great extent that we cannot even resist it. It pours out from us as water gushes forth from an abundant spring. All we can do is incessantly repeat: Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

See the joy of others brings joy to us, and we are perplexed at those who somehow do not experience this joy.

We simply cannot comprehend ourselves what we are capable to achieve!

Our Blessed Metropolitan Anthony wrote: O Christian, if only you could be your entire life as you are on the night of Pascha!

May God help us to attain this!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With Love in the Risen Christ,

+ Archbishop Peter

Pascha 2018
Chicago

