



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

April 8, 2009

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS`
REFLECTIONS ON HOLY WEEK**

My dearly beloved in the Lord,

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise,
look for a new heavens and a new earth in which
righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things,
be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and
blameless.”

2 Peter 3:13-14

I greet you today with love and joy in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in anticipation of His Passion and Resurrection. I give thanks and praise to our Almighty God Who has once again granted us the opportunity to experience this sacred and personal encounter with our Savior and Redeemer through the worship services of our Orthodox Church during Holy Week and Holy Pascha.

Both the Passion and the Resurrection have an important impact on our personal lives. Although from different perspectives, both focus on the same theme.

Through the services of Holy Week, we see the love that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, has for all mankind. In His suffering and death, we see the significance that the love of God has for our personal life in relation to salvation. God`s Love is all-powerful, overcoming fear, pain, suffering and even death! If we allow ourselves to embrace and be embraced by God`s all-emcompassing Love, all our actions and our entire life and being will be God-directed and God-oriented. "For God is Love" (1 John 4:8)

The other aspect of the Holy Season is the Resurrection. Through this event, we receive the promise to live in eternity. We see, we touch, we feel the joy of being connected with real life, that abundant life that our Lord promises us. We experience true harmony and the peace of the Lord as we are blessed to participate in the glorious Resurrection of our own lives, as well. And we have the eternal hope of salvation, coming from the empty tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray that we are able to open our hearts to experience His Passion during Holy Week, so that on that Feast of Feasts, that Holy Day of Holy Days, Holy Pascha, we are truly able to receive Him as He comes, the victorious Lord of All! May we all experience the abundant grace and bountiful blessings of our Living Lord and with one mind and one heart, proclaim,

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Paternally yours with love in our Risen Lord,

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta