



## **Easter Midnight Message 2023**

**Easter Sunday will arrive a little after midnight with a singular sacredness and grace. It comes with a joyous, salvific message. Easter --- or more correctly Passover “Pascha” is the manifestation of God’s love for us, a love that we see clearly in Christ the Savior who suffered the betrayal, the trial, the passion, the scourging, the beating, the crown of thorns, the humiliation of the cross of pain and Who rose on the third day that we may have forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. It is our Savior’s Resurrection from the Tomb that becomes our Passover, our Pascha. One of the hymns this evening reads, “Christ has brought us from death to life, and from earth to heaven” (Paschal canon, ode one).**

**Darkness is the realm of the Devil, of Satan, the Father of Lies and the Prince of Darkness. Darkness shrouds our lives with loneliness, addiction, pain and resentment. It permeates every aspect of our lives. It seeds controversy and division which result in troubled marriages, dysfunctional families and broken friendships. In his darkness, Satan encircles the world in what seems to be an endless cycle of controversies, of violence and wars. The devil is the source of satanic lies and vindictiveness which emanate from unbridled egos. Satan is the manifestation of selfishness, of racism, of homelessness and hopelessness.**

**Living as we do, in a world blinded by the darkness of despair of hatred and calculated cruelty, of crime, of terrorism and of war, we approach the life-giving tomb as people of faith to fill our hearts, our minds and our souls with the radiant light, the truth and joy of our Lord’s Resurrection.**

**We gather at the life-giving tomb to learn from the Archangel the joyous news that Christ is Risen! In turn, we intend to inform those who attempt to muzzle the voice of Christianity and to drive the church out of the daily life of this nation that they labor in vain. We have something to herald to a broken world. What we have to say is Christ is Risen!**

**We proclaim that Christ is Risen in America where it seems we witness day after day the erosion of our traditional moral values. We abhor the moral relativism which permeates our land, the fashionable paganism which has become the standard of our times. We are horrified by the wonton acts of depravity that we see daily. We profess our belief in the ultimate victory of the Risen Lord. We celebrate this victory and proclaim this truth to those who war against religion. Those who have succeeded in removing prayer and the Bible from our schools have replaced them with guns and bullets. We proclaim our faith that Christ the Lord is Risen to those who dare to destroy the meaning of marriage and its importance in the upbringing of children.**

**We declare that Christ the Lord is Risen to all those who pollute the airwaves ridiculing the Christian message on radio, on television and in the movies as well as in books and publications- to those who poison the minds of young and old alike all the day long. We declare that Christ is Risen to all those who attempt to ignore the Judeo-Christian principles upon which America was founded.**

**We say tonight to our brethren that have been victimized, to all who have disillusioned, disappointed, betrayed and abandoned--the homeless, the hungry, the lonely and forgotten that Christ is Risen and the ultimate victory is His.**

**In the seemingly impenetrable gloom of hopelessness and death, the resurrection of our Savior comes as an eruption of blinding light. The lifeless tomb of darkness which held captive Adam and Eve and all**

**their descendants is thrown open by Him who is Life itself. The Risen Lord leads our Passover- our Pascha. A new creation is born. St. Peter teaches in his First Epistle, "By His great mercy, we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)**

**We are determined to share that faith and that joy in this city, in this commonwealth, in this nation and in every corner of the earth. We believe that only the radiant light of Christ can transfigure enmity, strife and conflict of faithlessness, hopelessness, apathy and indifference of selfishness and narcissism into a community of believers, into a family of brothers and sisters of faith, of virtue, of love and hope, of empathy and concern.**

**And so, let us advance fearlessly into a world mired in darkness armed with the unwaning light of the life-giving tomb. Let us embrace one another and share the light for all who await a personal Pascha.**

**With Archpastoral love,**

*+ Metropolitan Methodios*

**M E T H O D I O S  
Metropolitan of Boston**