

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL
FOR HOLY PASCHA

PROT. NO. 251

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church:

May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen in Glory be with you All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs,

Dearly beloved children,

By God's mercy and strength, we have journeyed through prayer and fasting across the ocean of Holy and Great Lent, finally reaching the splendid feast of Pascha, and we praise the Lord of glory, who descended to the depths of Hades and "achieved the entrance for all to Paradise" through His raising from the dead.

The Resurrection is not the remembrance of an event from the past, but the "good change" of our existence, "another birth, an alternate life, a different kind of living, the transformation of our very being."¹ And in the

¹ Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Resurrection of our Lord*, PG 46.604.