

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

PO Box 1205, Elk Grove, CA 95759-1205

The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

Please remember our Prisoner-Students

April 2019

Dear Friend of St. Athanasius Academy,

LAZARUS AND THE DIVINE ONE WHO IS RESURRECTION AND LIFE - JOHN CHAPTER 11

As we enter April, we highlight Jesus, the Word – our Father and our Christ – re-entering Jerusalem. Yet to better appreciate its significance and what follows, Jesus - through His Spirit of Grace and Truth – first raised Lazarus from his Tomb, after a 4 day burial. John 11:41- 43 provides insight, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew You always hear Me, but I say this for the benefit of the people standing here, so they may believe that You sent Me.” This event is a comfort to those seeking Him and of great hope to be revealed through His Cross.

In Bethany, Jesus offers another profound hope. He is the Light, Life, and Author of Resurrection, from in the beginning. That He became Incarnate to reveal His boundless love for His children and bring an end to the foolish, vain wisdom of man and its fallen temple. In John 11:3-4, He confirms this hope, " This sickness is not for death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified through it." Such is the love of He Who is our Father and High Priest.

Chapter 11 confirms Lazarus’s sickness was not for the purpose of his death, but something far greater – to remind us that our Jesus – the Word from in the beginning – is the promise Christ known to Photini, Martha, and Peter. That He is the One God of Noah sought by Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, revealed to Moses to be, “I AM, the I Am” - the One Who Is – Exodus 3.

Jesus further develop His Incarnational Wisdom in Verses 11: 23 – 26 . Conversing with Martha, we learn how death was taught through their Temple, " I know Lazarus will arise in the resurrection, at the last day ." Jesus responds as only He can, " I AM Resurrection and Life . He who believes in Me , though he die, he shall live ." Note: Jesus did not say “the” resurrection, but “I AM” Resurrection and Life. And with great joy, verse 25: “He who believes in Me, though he die, he shall live.”

So in this Season, let us put to death the philosophical reasonings of the Babylonian, Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, and Jews of Judaea. Let us instead seek His Wisdom as revealed to us through Lazarus, His Cross and all the fulness of His Incarnation. Hear His Word and follow He Who Is Resurrection and Life. As He instructs, “He who believes in Me, though he die, he shall live.” Each day, may He remind us of His question to us: “Do you believe this?”

Sincerely,


Paul – SAAOT

Let us rejoice in the One Who Is, becoming wise in His Wisdom and Way. For as He offers (2Cor 6:18), I will be Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters.