



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 017/2023

Great and All-Holy Pascha, 2023

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of God in this blessed Archdiocese of North America,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

You know that *Passover* comes from the Hebrew word *Pesach* which means “to cross” or “to pass over.” The Greek word *Pascha* stems from the same Hebrew word. The Ancient Arabs in the Levant used to say *fasaba* to mean that someone has crossed or passed over something.

In the Old Testament, Passover referred to the crossing of the Red Sea by the people of Moses, so it became a feast of the crossing from the land of slavery to the land of freedom. In the New Testament, however, Passover refers to crossing over from the world of enslavement to sin to the world of liberation, by God, from every chain that may pull us to spiritual and physical death.

This great feast reminds us of what God had done for us. He died and every kind of death died with Him. And He arose and raised us with Him to the fullness of life. Thus, through His death and resurrection we are able to pass from death, every kind of death, to life—the fullness of life.

I pray that you have a glorious Pascha and a personal experience of resurrection in your life.

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY
DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

Your Father in the Risen Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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