



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

PASCHA 2016

Protocol 16-6

*No one takes it—My life—from Me,
but I lay it down of Myself. I have
the power to lay it down, and I have
the power to take it again.*

John 10:18

Beloved in the Risen Lord,

These words of supernatural love which come from the Divine Source of love, our Triune God, raise the question, “Who began the blame game?” For if our Lord did what He emphatically states, then His was a willing sacrifice based on His most extreme love for humanity. His astounding sacrifice was based on His supreme love of His human icon and consequently all of humanity.

For thousands of years our Lord saw millions of souls, descendants of Adam and Eve, enter into the prison of Hades controlled by the source of evil. The Apostle Peter writes that Christ descended there to preach to those who died in the days of Noah.

The fullness of time had arrived and our Lord became one of us in order to lay down His life so that His divine soul would enter into Hades as he did. Our father among the saints, Saint John Chrysostom says it best in his Paschal sermon. He states, “Hades received a man and came face to face with God.”

It is most appropriate to call the Resurrectional Vespers of Pascha Sunday the Vespers of Love. Henceforth when we use the word, “Love,” in speaking of the supreme sacrifice of Christ, let us do our best to enter into the real meaning of the word and not only to know, but through our prayer life to experience the bond of this eternal agape with the Resurrected Savior, our Lord and God.

CHRIST IS RISEN! — ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

+ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

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