

THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE

The awesome sight of the PANTOCRATOR ICON graces the interior of many churches in our land. This is a particular type of icon of Christ the Ruler of all, usually done in monumental style. It depicts the divine majesty of the Saviour and Judge of man, and governor of the universe. The Lord is shown in all His majesty, usually clutching the Bible. There is a unique combination of sternness and loving kindness in the facial features of the Lord, presiding over the destinies of all humanity.

Seeing usch an icon, we pray piously before it. One may recall the words of St. Cyprian, the great Bishop and Martyr of the Early Church: “This is a cheerful world as I see it from my garden . . . But if I were to ascend some high mountain and look out over the wide lands, you know very well what I would see: thieves on the highways, pirates on the sea, armies fighting, cities burning . . . selfishness, cruelty, misery and despair under all roofs.”

“It is an incredibly evil world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are master of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are CHRISTIANS and I am one of them!”

Let the Pantocrator Icon remind us that the Lord rules this world. Our Saviour loves His people and one day He shall judge His creation.