

**THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**OUR SAVIOR HAS CONQUERED DEATH**

**Who is the greatest conqueror that ever lived? Some may say Caesar, Alexander the Great or Napoleon. But all are wrong. These men weren't even worthy to be called privates when compared to the greatest of all conquerors. For the greatest of all is Death.**

**Death carries a black flag and he takes no prisoners. If God did not continuously create new life, this world of ours would long ago have become a lifeless planet. Generals and kings sometimes fall back and surrender some of their gains; but not so with Death. What a cruel conqueror he is! His palace is a huge space filled with dust and bones.**

**But the Resurrection of Christ tells us that this greatest of conquerors has himself been defeated. Death has been slain. Death has been trampled down, as we sing this day. Death has been defeated. Life has come to the land of the dead.**

**This is the message of the FEAST OF FEASTS. This is the news of Pascha. This is precisely the core of the Christian religion; this is precisely why it has prevailed through the centuries.**

**The Orthodox icon of the Resurrection profoundly tells the meaning of the victory of Christ over man's archenemy. The icon does not simply portray a Risen Figure at the empty grave; rather it shows Him entering into the Enemy Camp, the very abode of the dead. There He smashes the chains and locks of the entombed. He makes His way to the very pit of Hell, and once there grasps the first-fruits of Death, Adam and Eve, freeing them from the curse of sin.**

**We all have to die, to be sure, but the sting of death has been removed. We die in the knowledge that we shall rise again; we die with the word of Christ resounding in our minds: "Because I live, you shall live also."**