



Easter 2017

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Death awaits us all—“the last enemy to be destroyed,” St. Paul says. But it *has been destroyed* in the Resurrection of “the Lamb once slain who lives forever.” Jesus Christ “broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld,” and “in his rising the life of all has risen.”

As the Easter Vigil begins, the newly-lit Paschal Candle and the burning tapers of

the worshipers make the darkened church glow with “a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by the sharing of its light.” The death-destroying love of “Christ our light” is not diminished in passing from one heart to another; nor will His flame in us be extinguished when we pass it on to shine in the heart of another.

On Easter morn that light—the Light of Divine Love in the human heart of Jesus—burst forth from the tomb; in the centuries since, the darkness of this world has never overcome it. Throughout the Easter season, I place myself before that light each day with the ancient words of Isaac of Nineveh:

O Christ, who are covered with light
 as though with a garment,
 who for my sake stood naked before Pilate,
 clothe me with that might
 which you caused to overshadow the saints,
 whereby they conquered this world of struggle.
 May your divinity, Lord,
 take pleasure in me
 and lead me above the world
 to be with you.

O Christ, upon whom the many-eyed
 cherubim are unable to look
 because of the glory of your face,
 yet out of your love you received spit
 upon your face;
 remove the shame from my face
 and grant me an open face before you
 at the time of prayer.

May the Risen Lord answer your prayers and give you
 an ever deepening share in his victory over death.