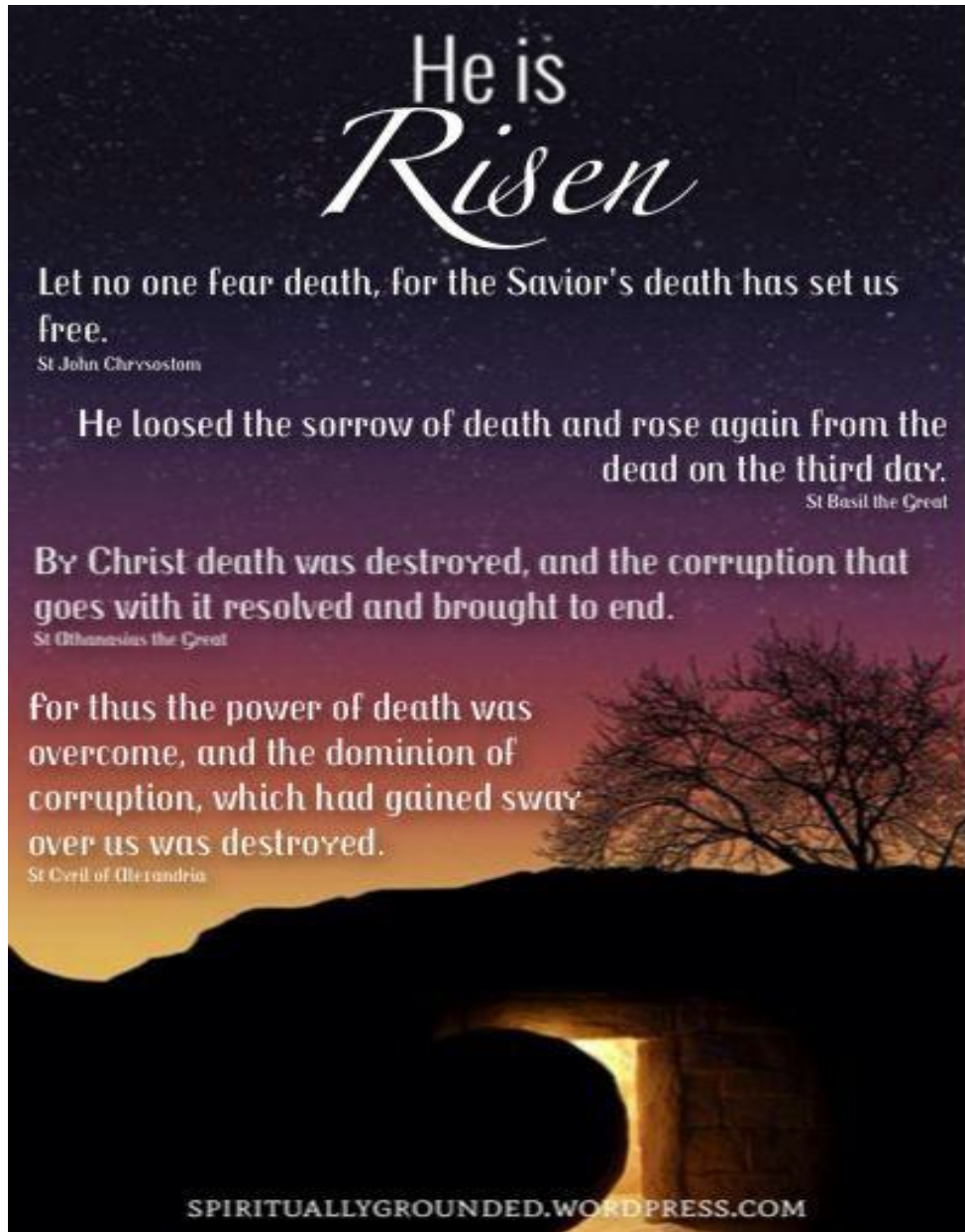


FROM FATHER JOHN: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, 'His mercy endures forever.' The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes." ~ Psalm 118



He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!

On this *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus*, I want to wish you a Holy, Blessed and Most Happy Easter!

In the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, Christ won a great victory. St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Augustine, both great theologians, wrote in the 4th century that Easter was a

joke that God played on the devil. So we laugh in the face of the devil as Christ Jesus wins the great victory for us.

In the ancient view, in the view of St. Augustine and St. Gregory of Nyssa, Jesus Christ, in his cross and in his resurrection, fought a great battle on our behalf. Our Lord Jesus, in his resurrection, defeated evil and vanquished the darkness which tries to enslave us. Evil is not alive and well on the planet earth. In fact, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus, our Lord and God has dealt evil a mortal blow.

The resurrection has great meaning for us. We have a choice of whether to submit to the darkness, to submit to evil or turn to our Savior, to our Redeemer, to our Deliverer who comes to rescue us. We need to re-capture the joy of the early Christians. The resurrection is God's promise of the ultimate victory over evil.

You see, in His cross and resurrection, our Lord Jesus, jumps into the world with us, he catches us, and lifts us out of the deep water to new life. Our Lord Jesus, in His cross and resurrection, rescues us, saves us and delivers us from all evil. He doesn't just say that he loves us. Instead, He hangs on a cross for us and then rises to new life on the Third Day to show us how much he loves us. He jumps into the world with us in order to love us, to save us and to give us new life; life eternal!

Please be assured that you and your family are in my prayers this Easter Season. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.