



**Bishop Youssef**

## **COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES**



The Glorious Resurrection Feast 2022

My Beloved Children,

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen! The glorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is a beautiful new dawn for all the world and its inhabitants. It is a joyous new beginning of the chapter of our salvation, our redemption, our deliverance, and the true meaning of the millennium. Having risen and ascended to the Father, the Lord is returning soon for judgment and to claim His own. “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7). Through His death and resurrection, the entire human race can discern the ways of salvation: believe, be baptized, live a life of repentance, confess your sins, and partake of Holy body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Evangelist John witnessed and declared: “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war” (Revelation 19:11). Christ our King has conquered, not only sin, evil, and death, but its instigator and his demons. Though life is full of toil, suffering, and death, the righteous look at life with faith and hope. Almighty God is our wonderful King and our gracious Father who sent His Son who accepted to become human and shared in our burdens. He stripped death of its power and showed us the ways of salvation that we may return to Him and live forever. We were a pitiful nation of captives in Satan’s hands, but Christ the King adopted us as His own children and will come again to take us into His everlasting kingdom. Jesus Christ is the gentle Servant of whom Isaiah prophesied. He entered Jerusalem on a colt, in no way meant for the splendor of a Monarch. In His Second Coming, He will break through the clouds with great might and glory as the heroic and triumphant King, who reigns forever: “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16).

The Lord’s Second Coming will be with astounding power, “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). Do not delay in changing your ways. Take seriously St. Augustine’s warning: “God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.” The Lord’s Second Coming will conclude the chapter of salvation: “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31). Where will you be on that awesome day? Will you be watching as He instructed us? Have you treasured God in your life? Whom have you seated to reign over your heart?



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My beloved, I urge you to choose the destiny of your eternal life today by diligently seeking the kingdom of God without any delay. Rejoicing in the glorious resurrection of Christ is a life of victory: “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). Thus, with confidence, we conclude the Creed of our faith with a sweet melody reciting, “We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.” The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is joyfully anticipated that we may have everlasting life with our King and Savior. We pray and ask the Lord to bless and protect His Church, and to keep the life of our beloved and honored father, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of the Church of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, for many years and peaceful times.

God bless you.

Bishop Gregory

Bishop Basil

Bishop Youssef