PATRIARCHATE
of the
HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC
ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST
ERBIL - IRAQ

بطريركية
كنيسة المشرق الآشورية
اربيل - العراق

# Patriarchal Epistle for the Feast of the Holy Resurrection 2021

*"Peace be with you. It is I; be not afraid!"* (St. Luke 24:36)

Our venerable brothers of the Holy Synod, the metropolitans and bishops;
the reverend presbyters and the elect deacons, and the faithful sons and daughters of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East:

*May the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed upon all of you.*

On the third day of the day of Christ, He rose from the among dead and announced to Holy Women who had come to the tomb: "Be not afraid! But go and tell my brothers to go to Galilea, and there they shall see me" (St. Matthew 28:10).

Beloved sons and daughters of the Church: in these words of Holy Scripture, when Christ meets with His disciples, He says unto them, "Peace be with you; it is I, be not afraid." On this holy day of the Feast of the Resurrection, Christ also addresses us with these very same words: 'It is I, be not afraid.' He further calls us His brothers, and commands us to Galilea, which is the holy church, that there we might see Him. Today, all of us by the holy command of Christ make haste to come to His holy Church, so that by the peace given to the faithful by the priest at the time of the Holy Mysteries, we might receive from our Lord Himself the very same peace which He imparted to His holy apostles. Along with peace, we also receive the encouraging words: "It is I, be not afraid." This truth exhorts us to always be present in the holy church, which is the house of the Lord, so that in it we might receive from Christ all of the spiritual gifts and benefits mentioned. It is there that, by means of the antiphons, prayers, psalms and spiritual hymns, we may invite Christ into the Emmaus of our hearts and say unto Him: 'Abide with us,' even as the two disciples declared who were upon that first Emmaus journey (cf. St. Luke 24:29).

On this blessed day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from among the dead, we pray that God the Father in His abundant mercy grants the whole world a season of rest from the present worldwide Coronavirus pandemic.

May the move the hearts of all men to be in peace and harmony with each other, so that by this God may be glorified.

In conclusion, we reiterate our greetings to all of you with prayers that you may celebrate this holy feast with spiritual joy. May the Lord keep you all in health, peace, harmony and joy, while beseeching the Lord to grant peace and harmony to all of creation in its entirety.

Our hope in God is that each and everyone of the faithful may celebrate the holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with joy and in peace, wherever you may be living, all of you our beloved faithful and the children of our Assyrian nation, as well all of our brethren in Christ worldwide.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all forever and ever; Amen.

*Given at our Patriarchal Cell, Erbil, Iraq, on the Feast of the Resurrection, 2021 A.D.*

G. Sliwa

✝ **GEWARGIS III Sliwa**
*By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch*
*of the Assyrian Church of the East.*