

## HOLY PASCHA AT THE PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA

**With splendor and religious magnificence**, the Orthodox Christians celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord in the Holy Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Theotokos in Alexandria.

His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, supported by His Eminence Panteleimon, Metropolitan of Ptolemais, Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, presided over the Resurrection ceremony and served the Resurrection Divine Liturgy, conveying to everyone the joyous message, "Christ is Risen!".

Also on attendance were the Most Honourable Consul General of Greece in Alexandria, Mr. Ioannis Pyrgakis, the Honourable Chairman of the Hellenic Community of Alexandria, Mr. Andreas Vafiades and representatives of Hellenic Associations and Organizations of the City.

**On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**, the festive Vespers of the Resurrection was served at the Holy Patriarchal Monastery of St Savvas the Sanctified in Alexandria. His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodoros II came down in procession from the Throne Room of the Monastery to the Holy Patriarchal Church of the Venerable Savvas, where he served the Vespers of Love concelebrating with the Hierarchs of the Throne His Eminence Elder Metropolitan Gabriel of Leontopolis, Patriarchal Vicar General, Panteleimon of Ptolemais, Chief Secretary of the Holy Sunod and the His Eminence Germanos of Tamiathus, Head of the Holy Patriarchal Monastery. In a joyful atmosphere, the Holy Gospel was read by His Beatitude in Greek, followed by the High Priests and the holy clergy, in various languages and African dialects.

The Alexandrian Primate, after thanking everyone for their presence, said: "My thoughts and prayers today turn to our suffering brothers and sisters, wherever they are, regardless of language or religion or any other distinction. ***My thoughts and prayers are especially directed towards our tested fellow human beings, towards the bereaved parents of Ukraine, the Middle East, Libya, Sudan, Eastern Congo... With tears in my eyes I reflect that man is a divine creation, he carries within him the eternal breath of the one and only God, that is why he deserves respect, honor, love, understanding... Let us fight for a better world, a world of unity, peace and harmony, a world that will once again reflect divine beauty. On this basis, every human being is unique, sacred, indeed a creature of the God of Peace and a brother or sister of us all. Courage my children, courage!***"

Afterwards, His Beatitude visited the Old Aged Home of the Greek Community of Great City, where he exchanged the Resurrection greeting with the elders in care there and the workers, offering gifts and blessings to all. Finally, he attended the Pascha meal that the Hellenic Community hosted in its function hall for all the residents and visitors of Alexandria.