

LITURGY OF THE KINGDOM

The Feast of Easter

FIRST READING

Reader: *A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.*
Assembly: *From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.*
Reader: *Today a passage from a sermon by Saint John Chrysostom, a Father and Doctor of the Church, who was born in Syria in 344 and died in exile in 407.*

It is written:

On this feast of Easter, let all pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last alike, receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate this day. You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today....

Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free; He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom.

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life is liberated.

Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the promise of resurrection of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: *This was a passage from a sermon by Saint John Chrysostom.*

Assembly: *Thanks be to God.*

- In the Orthodox Churches, this homily from Saint John Chrysostom (whose name in Greek means "golden-mouthed") is an integral part of the Easter liturgy (in a fuller form than the short passage used above).