



Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Russia

Archbishop

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Dear sisters and brothers,

"We have a Passover Lamb, that is Christ, sacrificed for us" (1 Cor. 5)

Easter is the victory of the meek Lamb and King Christ. We, Christians who celebrate Easter, are those who humbly, meekly, but also sincerely and joyfully testify in the world to the victory of freedom and life over fear and death, the victory over self-isolation from God and each other, victory over the virus that deprives us of the humanity that the Creator gave us.

Christ is God and man at the same time. It is therefore in Christian nature to embrace both the religious and exalted and simple human happiness, the joy of being together with those we love - our Lord and our neighbours. With those whom we don't always understand and sometimes hurt. With those whom with we cry and about whom we worry.

The Lord has overcome the hopelessness of evil and death. We are neither left alone nor left to the coronavirus. We are with Christ. He is risen. His voice reminds us again that the last word is not death, but life. United by this word in one Church, we celebrate Easter! We celebrate Christ, who, even under these hard circumstances when we are to be at a distance from each other, remains near us!

Dear sisters and brothers, I think that this period of limitations and trials was not sent to us not by accidental. It is given to us so that we can feel the longing for the church, worship, common prayer, the Meal at the Lord's table. The epidemics will end, having shown us once again our weakness and vulnerability before different hardships. The Church continues her way further on, through storms and blizzards, bringing to everybody the treasure of the Word of God under the sails of the Holy Spirit with the anchor of salvation - Jesus Christ - our Passover Lamb.

Wherever you are now, whatever means of communication you use, live now and always with this Easter hope, testify through word and deed that Christ has risen indeed!

Yours in Christ's love,

+ Dietrich Brauer