



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

DIocese of OHIO, MICHIGAN, AND INDIANA



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

Khristos Aneeste. Alithose Aneeste

Christ is risen. Truly is risen.

O only-begotten Son, Eternal, and Immortal Word of God; who for our salvation did accept all sufferings. Who was incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever Virgin Mary.

Who without change, became Man and was crucified, Christ, God. trampled down death by death, One of the Holy Trinity, who is glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

Holy God, who being God, for our sake, became man without change.

Holy Mighty, who by weakness showed forth what is greater than power.

Holy Immortal, who was crucified for our sake, and endured death in His flesh, the Eternal and Immortal.

O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

It is one of the greatest hymns of the Church, “O Monogenes” (O Only-Begotten Son). The hymn is centrally sung in the heart of the events of Good Friday, in the Sixth Hour, the hour of crucifixion.

- ❖ After the Pauline reading (Galatians 6:14): “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
- ❖ Then the Litanies of the Sixth Hour with its unique tone.
- ❖ Then the hymn “O Monogenes” comes as if it were a creed explaining how the Holy Trinity expressed its love and plan for salvation, and the birth of the Word (Logos) from the Virgin, and His incarnate appearance, and that He alone being God came for our salvation. “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).



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Let us contemplate at one phrase from this hymn:

“Holy Mighty, who revealed through weakness what is greater than power.”

In truth, our Holy Lord and most Holy Savior, who loved the world and sacrificed Himself out of love, we cannot know Him or attain Him except by contemplating on how He lived and by learning goodness, through self-denial, and humility, for He is the only remedy and hope for the problem of pride and self-exaltation that brought death into the world. He came to save His people from their sins, and through His humility and self-denial He revealed His love, what is greater than this power? He gave a new definition to this power, Love, and hope to the world and new definition of strength.

For example, the Holy Scriptures mentioned that the Lord Jesus wept three times:

1. Luke 19:41–44 — as He drew near, He saw the city and **wept over it**.
2. John 11:33–36 — when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews weeping with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled, and said: “Where have you laid him?” They said: “Come and see.” **Jesus wept**.
3. Luke 22:41–44 — He knelt and prayed, and being in agony He prayed more earnestly, and **His sweat became like drops of blood** falling to the ground.

And in the trials of his childhood and the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt, Herod was determined to kill the child. And in the trial on the mountain, the phrase '**If you are the Son of God**' was repeated more than once, and the Lord Christ on the cross for our redemption and salvation and his indescribable love. '**If you are the Son of God**, come down from the cross' save yourself and us. He maintained and kept silent during insults and blasphemies.

+ His weeping and distress, his silence and patience, were seen by the world as **weaknesses**. But we must consider the full picture, and by reflecting on the life of Jesus Christ, we can truly learn the definition and real meaning of strength. The encounters and situations of Jesus Christ always ended either in amazement or unexpected outcome or what we might call miracles, while these were actually his abilities and nature. For example, his weeping at Lazarus' tomb from the perspective of Martha and Mary's loved ones and the mourners (see how much He



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loved him). Yet God, incarnate, the Lord of life and authority, revealed what is greater than power as he raised Lazarus, who had been dead and decomposed for four days. Here, the weeping expressed the peak of love and empathy for others.

+ His weeping over Jerusalem because it does not know what is peaceable for her, as a Father, Shepherd, Savior, and King of peace. He restored its peace when He cried on the cross in the peak of love and might '**It is finished**'

+ When Samaria shut its gates to Him, James and John wanted to use the earthly way of using power. "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" Luke 9:54. But he turned and rebuked them, saying: You do not know what spirit you are from. Learn a lesson in the peak of love, seeking the lost, and sacrificing for their salvation. By his wisdom and power, not only was the Samaritan woman saved, but the whole city believed. He gained souls and manifested many wonders. For he loved his own who were in the world. He loved them to the end John 13:1. We proclaim throughout the week in faith, through the love and power of our Lord, 53 hours of prayer, the hours of Pascha week. And in each hour, we pray 36 times, "**Thine is the Power, Glory, blessing and Majesty forever, Amen.**"

The greatest miracle that humanity has experienced is the defeat of our enemy, **death**. He is not here. You are still seeking the crucified Jesus, who has risen. Through his death, he trampled death, and those in the tombs were granted eternal life. He revealed in what you expect as weakness. **He revealed through weakness what is greater than strength.**

After humanity experienced the power of the resurrection and trusted in the wisdom and guidance of our Heavenly Father, the path of Saul of Tarsus changed. He became the preacher St. Paul the Apostle, and in facing weakness and adversity, the loving God changed the plan, and St. Paul became convinced and lived according to the Lord's plan for his life. '**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9. And in the following verse, he experienced that not only did he boast, but after saying 'it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me' Galatians 2:20, he lived by 'I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships for Christ's sake, **for when I am weak, then I am strong.**' 2 Corinthians 10:12



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Among the blessings and the power of the resurrection, the **true Christian** who declares the creed lives as the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

"We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen."

"Holy is the Almighty, who displayed in weakness what is greater than strength"

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be with you all. Amen.*" 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Blessed fathers, my beloved children, the precious people of the diocese that are dear to my heart, I wish you a peaceful and blessed Feast. And we pray that our great God keep the peace of the Church everywhere and at all times and to preserve the life of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, and all the fathers of the churches, servants, and all Christ-loving people. May God save the world from pandemics, inflation, wars, and all evil.

With my love and continued prayers to the congregation of the Diocese of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

**Khristos Aneeste. Alithose Aneeste
Christ is risen. Truly is risen.**

By the grace of God, Saraphim
Servant of the Diocese of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana