

CHRIST RESURRECTED ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES (PART 4)

—adapted from the writings of St. Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem—

The seventh Psalm speaks of Christ's resurrection, the return of the nations to faith in Christ, and Christ's ascension into the Heavens in the following manner: **“Arise O Lord, in Thine anger, exalt Thyself to the furthest boundaries of Thine enemies. And arouse Thyself, O Lord my God, in the commandment which Thou hast enjoined, and a congregation of peoples shall surround Thee. And for their sakes return Thou on high”** (Ps. 7:6-7).

The prophet Ezekiel clearly predicted that Jesus Christ is the Lord God with the following verse: **“Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, to bring up My people from their graves”** (Eze. 37:13). Indeed! During the Crucifixion of Christ, many graves were opened, and many people were resurrected: **“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many”** (Mt. 27:52-53).

The prophet Isaiah, speaking of Christ's resurrection, refers to Jesus Christ as the shepherd of the sheep, and as the one who would send the Holy Spirit: **“He who brought up from the earth the shepherd of the sheep. Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in them?”** (Is. 63:11). Indeed, as the Apostle Paul describes, **“May the God of peace who brought up our lord Jesus from the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant”** (Heb. 13:20). And after Christ resurrected, He sent the Holy Spirit to His Apostles: **“When the day of Pentecost had fully come ... suddenly there came a sound from heaven ... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 2:1-4).

The prophet Hosea specifies that Christ would resurrect on the third day: **“He will heal us after two days; in the third day we will arise and live before Him and come to know Him”** (Hos. 6:2-3).

The prophet Nahum foretold that Christ would blow the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles after His resurrection: **“The one being delivered from affliction has come up breathing upon your face”** (Nah. 2:2). Indeed, on the evening of His resurrection, Christ appeared to His disciples and breathed upon them, bestowing to them the Holy Spirit and the power to forgive sins: **“Then, the same day at evening ... Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them ...as the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ If you forgive the sins of any persons, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any persons, they are retained”** (Jn. 20:19-22).