



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Ecumenical Director and Legate,
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

May 7, 2021

Your Eminence,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Easter greetings of peace and health to you, and to the people of the Diocese of the Armenian church of America (Eastern).

I am writing to express the gratitude of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for President Biden's recognition of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2021, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. We rejoice with you and your people for the truth that has been told by our nation's highest leader.

Martin Luther reminds us that, "A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross *calls the thing what it actually is*" (Heidelberg Disputation). By acknowledging the genocide of the Armenian people, we not only uphold our commitments to human rights, we also bind ourselves to the ultimate sacrifice of the crucified Christ who vanquished death forevermore.

Together with the ecumenical family we will continue to share your sorrow for the one and a half million Armenians who were killed during the Armenian Genocide, never to forget the horrors inflicted on your ancestors, and to journey with you toward the healing and wholeness that God intends for all people and creation.

In certain hope,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America