



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

Humankind – the Crown of Creation

Humankind as the image of God, always aspires to its Prototype: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God” (Ps 41[42]:2). The Holy Fathers referred to this aspiration as the longing of humankind to attain *the likeness of God*. In the words of Gregory of Nyssa, “truly herein consists the real assimilation to the Divine, that is, in making our own life in some degree a copy of the Supreme Being.” Saint John of Damascus believes that, “the phrase ‘after his likeness’ means likeness in virtue [to God] so far as that is possible.” (#123)