# Life after Death

#### Contents

Preface to the English edition 11 Introduction 15

#### 1 The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus about life after death

- 1. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus
- 2. Interpretive analysis of the parable

## 2 The separation of the soul from the body

- l. Definition of the soul
- 2. The creation and origin of the soul
- 3. Death and the ancestral sin
- 4. The mystery of the soul's departure from the body
- 5. The taxing of souls
- 6. The intermediate state of souls
- 7. The death of infants
- 8. Conclusions

# 3 Experiences after death

- 1. Contemporary after-death experiences
- 2. Critique of these experiences from an Orthodox point of view
- 3. The discernment of experiences

# 4 The immortality of the soul

- 1. Immortality of the soul according to philosophy
- 2. The immortality of the soul according to Orthodox theology
- 3. Belief in the soul's mortality and the Orthodox Church

## 5 The purifying fire

- 1. The discussions at Ferrara-Florence about the purifying fire
- 2. The teaching of St Mark Eugenicus about the purifying fire
- a) Dogmatic discussion is needed
- b) Paradise and Hell exist
- c) There is no purifying fire
- d) Theological arguments against the existence of a purifying fire
- e) Interpretation of an apostolic passage
- f) Patristic passages in the dialogue
- g) The eternal fire is uncreated
- 3. The source of the Latins' teaching about the purifying fire

#### 6 The Second Coming of Christ

- 1. The coming of Christ in glory
- 2. The resurrection of the dead
- 3. The coming Judgment

#### 7 Paradise and Hell

- 1. Holy Scripture on Paradise and Hell
- 2. The holy Fathers on Paradise and Hell
- 3. Paradise and Hell in the life of the Church
- 4. The theological and ecclesiological consequences of the Orthodox perception of Hell

#### 8 The restoration of all things

- 1. Ancient philosophers and theologians on the restoration of all things
- 2. The views of the interpreters on the position of St Gregory of Nyssa as to the restoration of all things
- 3. Interpretive comments on the teaching of St Gregory of Nyssa about the restoration of all things
  - a) His great ecclesiastical personality
  - b) His views about philosophy
  - c) His teaching about man's choice and the perpetuity of Hell
  - d) Interpretive analysis of particular passages
  - e) Interpretation of St Gregory of Nyssa by the Fathers of the Church
- 4. Conclusion

#### 9 Eternal life

- 1. The Kingdom of God
- 2. The renewal of creation
- 3. The continuing development in the age to come

#### 10 Timeless eschatology

- 1. Interpretation of the term 'eschatology'
- 2. Time in the Orthodox conception
- 3. The past and present of the last things
- a) What the Kingdom of God is
- b) The last things as the first
- c) The last things as present

## Epilogue

The Feast of the Kingdom