

The Feast of Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

John 12:1-18

Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus. On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him. The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. (KJV)

Today God's Holy Church focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Jesus was hailed as King of Israel. Crowds gathered to greet Him and pay tribute.

Jesus Christ's' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was known to people gathering to see Him. The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was of great interest. Jesus' power over death deserves constant consideration.

The Church wants believers to continue to be informed of Jesus' power over death. Jesus' power over death is life-transforming. The resurrection of the dead is a foundational principle for believers.

Next week believers will celebrate Pascha, the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus' power over death establishes the unconquerable hope for believers in all circumstances of life.

Persons immersed in sin can reach out to Jesus in hope to begin life anew. When loved ones depart this life, hope exists that reuniting with loved ones will take place at the general resurrection when Christ's Second Coming occurs.

This is a most serious time in the Church as Great and Holy Week has arrived. The Church will extensively proclaim the content of the Gospels this Great and Holy Week. Attentive believers will enrich their lives.

The Gospels address the hunger in believers' souls. The Divine services of God's Holy Church provide the life-enriching and life-changing content for believers willing to invest the effort in learning.

Parish churches offer a range of services for believers to attend. Monasteries offer more extensive services for those seeking to learn more. Believers in America are blessed with the freedom to visit different churches and monasteries to learn.

Each parish church offers the basic services necessary for believers to grow in Jesus Christ. The parish priest is the primary resource for believers to turn to for advice on further learning.

Great and Holy Week is the time for believers to concentrate their full attention on Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, death on the cross and resurrection. Great and Holy Week is the time to fully appreciate Christ's humility and love.

Each person determines the degree of investment in Great and Holy Week. Paschal joy will be proportionate to the investment made in the journey to Pascha. Believers serious about following Christ experience the joy of the life in Christ.

Thank God for the presence of parish churches. Thank God for priests willing to serve and believers supporting each parish. Thank God for the choirs, the parish boards, the tutors, church school teachers, kolos and all supporting organizations.

Thank God for the Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Council and all supporting believers and leaders of God's Holy Church. Much is involved for the Church to thrive in the contemporary world.

The evil forces that worked to crucify Jesus continue to exist. The Holy Spirit strengthens believers to combat and stand against evil. Great and Holy Week is a time for believers to draw strength from the Living, Loving God.

Great and Holy Week is the time for hope in Jesus' power over evil and death to be renewed and strengthened. Greatly anticipate the joy that comes with the arrival of Pascha. Use Holy Week to think seriously about Jesus Christ.

This week put away worldly cares and focus completely on Jesus Christ. Be attentive to the content of the Divine services. Sit in the quiet of the parish church and experience the presence of Jesus Christ.

Be renewed in Christ this Holy Week. Be enriched in Christ. Love Christ and be thankful to Christ. May this Holy Week be fully transforming and heart-filling with Christ's love.

The Feast of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday. April 15/28, 2024.
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