



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich, Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

When the Son of Man Comes in His Glory... **Week of February 15, 2015**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

With the approach of the third week of Triodion we enter the time immediately before the Great Fast. This Sunday is the Sunday of the Last Judgment, when we hear the final parable of our Lord before He walked the path of suffering and death for the Life of the World. It is the parable that each of us should heed perhaps above all others, for it illustrates so very clearly what our Lord meant when He said, *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

What does it mean to do the will of the Father? It means to act in such a way throughout our lives that we cannot bear to see another in need and not help; it means to have a heart that cannot bear to know of one who is ill without praying for that person and visiting the one who is ill in love; it means to give food, drink, companionship and love to any and all in whatever circumstance of need we find them. It means to help those who cannot help themselves, for that is the way of the Father.

How do we become that sort of person that does the will of the Father so that our Lord will truly know us on the last day? We become by doing; and, we do, because we have become. We feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit and pray for the sick and imprisoned, because our Lord teaches us to do so; and as we do what He teaches us to do, we become the kind of people who do it naturally, without effort. As we act as He has acted, we become more and more like Him. And as we become more and more like Him, our acts of kindness and self-giving flow from us unnoticed, like those *streams of living water* that bubble up to life eternal. Remember that the redeemed in our Lord's parable did not even know the good they were doing, for their acts of kindness flowed from hearts that had grown evermore like that of the Lord's Himself.

We have a small community, Brothers and Sisters. But we do not need great numbers to fulfill the teaching of this parable of mercy. Each act of mercy and kindness we show in His name will bring us closer to the goal of our lives – to become ever more like Him Who is the fount of every blessing, great and small. Let us make the focus of the Holy Season that approaches our acts of mercy and kindness to others in need!

Remember what the LORD has done for you! Give Him thanks and praise! *Glory to His NAME for all things!* Pray for me, His most unworthy of priests.

In Christ our true God,

+Fr. Elias

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717-817-0084