



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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<http://EntranceMission.org>

Great and Holy Thursday April 16, 2020

Glory to Thy Long-Suffering, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the day on which we commemorate our Lord's establishment of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Our Lord gathered in the upper room with His disciples. He gave the blessings and offered the bread and the wine to His Father in Heaven. And He said the immortal and ever-memorable Word, "This is my body; this is my blood, the blood of the new Testament, given and shed for you." No longer would it be necessary for the temple high priest to enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of sacrifice upon the mercy seat on the Day of Atonement. God Himself has now provided the one, eternal and life-giving sacrifice for all; He sent His only-begotten Son, the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself the sin of the world. On this day as that sacrifice is "remembered," or in the correct translation, "recreated" upon the altar of countless churches, the priests in them will prepare the Presanctified Lamb to be placed in the tabernacle on the altar for distribution throughout the year to the sick and dying. The one, eternal, Life-giving and complete sacrifice is now offered to all mankind. Glory to Thy Long Suffering, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

On this day also as the church prays the service of Matins for Great and Holy Friday we hear the entire passion narrative of our Lord's voluntary, self-giving sacrifice upon the cross. While we may not gather together for the service at church, we may nevertheless join together mystically in joint participation by reading the narrative at home. I have uploaded a somewhat shortened version of the Matins Service for you to share with your families at home today. Please, put aside a time after work to sit and meditate on that narrative. If you cannot devote a full hour, then take a portion of the time you have to read as much of the narrative as you can; I have pasted it into the hyperlinked Matins Service below from the Gospel of St. John. Do what you can as your time at home permits to go aside for a bit and remember what the Lord has done for you and for me and for all mankind. It is the day when we must remember and give praise and devotion in our hearts for His great work of Atonement for the Life of the World. ***Glory to Thy Long-Suffering, O Lord! Glory to Thee!***

- [Livestream the Divine Services of Holy Week from Holy Cross Monastery](#)
- [The Typika Service](#)
- Great and Holy Thursday
 - [Propers for the Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday](#)
 - [Matins of Great and Holy Friday \(Passion Gospels\)](#)

On this day above all others, let each of us also keep to the discipline of saying prayers three times for those who suffer from the terrible COVID-19 virus. [Here is the hyperlink to the brief prayer service I have prepared for that purpose.](#) *May the Lord heal those who are ill, and may He receive the souls of those who have died, granting them mercy, peace, life and salvation.*

In Christ our true God,

Fr. Elias

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