



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>

Great and Holy Friday April 17, 2020

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is Great and Holy Friday, the day on which the Master was beaten, spat upon and lifted up upon the cross. Who can apprehend this great mystery apart from the Lord's own Word?

. [31] Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; [32] and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (John 12)

This Word of the Lord was spoken right after He had entered the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He said it to His disciples after hearing that a number of "Greeks" had come seeking Him. Greeks, who were the symbol of the self-made, self-serving, self-actualized men of that time, came seeking the One Whose very example would be self-denial. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness to save those who were bitten by the poisonous serpents then, so would God Himself lift up the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, upon the cross, to save all mankind from the poison of death. To be drawn to the Savior is only possible, Brothers and Sisters, to those who see, who understand, who apprehend the self-giving of God Himself. Otherwise, our faith would be only one philosophical principle among many. The cross is the one sure sign of His unconditional, unending, eternal love for us. We love, St. John said in his first epistle, because He first loved us. The cross is the one, true and enduring sign of that love!

Today, on this Great and Holy Day, let us meditate upon this sign, this ensign, this demonstration of His love for us. I was overjoyed to see so many of you on Great and Holy Wednesday evening! And, I will

rejoice again to see you on Saturday morning when you come to receive your Paschal Communion. But today, let us meditate upon the cross and the meaning of His sacrifice, once and for all, for the Life of the World. Take the time to pray the services of Great and Holy Friday at home, and tomorrow morning before you come to the church, pray the *Typika* and read the Propers for the Service on Saturday morning. On Saturday evening, prayerfully read the Service of Paschal Matins. As time permits, view the streamed Divine Services hyperlinked below from the monastery. Today, above all, let us say with one accord, *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 Friday**
 - [Vespers Service for Home Use](#)
 - [Propers for Vespers of Great and Holy Friday](#)
 - [Matins of Great and Holy Saturday \(Lamentations at the Tomb\)](#)
- **Great and Holy Saturday**
 - [Propers for the Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday \(AM\)](#)
 - [Paschal Matins \(PM\)](#)

Remember again that there is no salvation if we seek it for ourselves alone. As such, we will continue to pray for those who suffer and who die of the dreadful pestilence. Please keep to the discipline of saying prayers three times today and tomorrow and on Pascha 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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