



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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<http://EntranceMission.org>

The Only Cure
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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! He is and every shall be!

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to Him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid, only believe, and she will be made well." (Luke 8:49-50)

The time in which we live is a time of turmoil, unprecedented in our lifetimes. All around us people are sick and dying. In Washington and our state capitols politicians dither and posture, worrying more about their own political futures than about the well-being of the people. The people in my own little village are getting sick and dying; and, like the people all throughout our nation and the world at large, they want to continue with their lives as if nothing were wrong, as if there will be some scientific, medical cure for the pandemic that rages. They look for help from the politicians, but none comes; they wait for a vaccine, but none has yet appeared; they hear about this or that treatment, but none has arrived in any of our hospitals; only the privileged few get the treatment.

Such misplaced trust on the part of the people is akin to the attitude we see in our Gospel lesson for Sunday. The situation for the household of the ruler of the Synagogue, Jairus by name, was hopeless. His twelve-year-old daughter was sick unto death. In desperation Jairus comes to Jesus and brings Him into His house, but while they are yet coming there, the little girl dies. "Why bother the Rabbi," those

inside say; “she is dead.” And yet, in spite of the apparent impossibility, Jesus brings her back to life; He raises her from the dead, a sign of the only ultimate hope for our suffering generation, His life-giving resurrection from the dead.

In like manner, a woman with a dreadful hemorrhage, having wasted all her living on doctors who could not help, reaches out to the Lord in boldness, in desperation and in faith. She was a gentile, which makes her faith even more remarkable. She merely touches the fringe of His garment and is healed. In the old King James translation of the passage, it reads that He perceived that “virtue” had gone forth out of Him, and she is healed. There was no hope other than that of the Lord’s divine mercy.

It is the same for us; and, let none of us forget it! We wait for this treatment or that treatment; the promise of this or that vaccine, the whispers of this or that treatment on the horizon. But in the meantime, people sicken and die; the politicians dither; and, the population stupidly behaves as if there were no problem. They run like swine to the feeding trough, unwilling to make even the smallest sacrifice for the well-being of others. They wait for some scientific panacea, but never look to the One Who Alone could be their comfort, their hope, their Life. Unlike Jairus, they refuse to invite Him into their homes; and, unlike the gentile woman, they refuse to reach out and touch even the hem of His garment. They wait, they continue to pursue their entertainments and selfish desires; they wait for some help from man; but, they forget the One Who really could save them, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and Sisters: As the pandemic rages around us; as the politicians dither; and, as our fellow citizens pursue their own selfish wants and desires, let us instead follow the example of Jairus and the gentile woman. Let us invite the Lord into our hearts and trust in Him, not merely to help, but to renew us from death to life! Let us reach out like the gentile woman and touch the hem of His garment with faith and trust in Him and only in Him with our hearts and souls. And during this difficult time, let us be fervent in prayer, not merely for ourselves, but for those around us, that they might do likewise and turn to the only One Who is their and our life and our salvation: the LORD Jesus Christ!

Fr. Elias

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