

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)

God's Holy Church is celebrating the Feast of Jesus Christ's Entry into Jerusalem today. Jesus in humility entered Jerusalem riding on the back of an ass's colt. A great crowd was present desiring to see Jesus and to greet Him.

Jesus having raised Lazarus from the dead is an integral part of today's Gospel. Jesus' death is mentioned as is the betrayal of Jesus. The joy of the entry into Jerusalem would change in the following days.

The Church has arrived at Great and Holy Week. Each day has great meaning for believers and for the world. Today is a day to look deep into the heart, mind and soul and determine the relationship with Jesus Christ.

Are we genuinely united with Christ as among the eminently faithful? Are we lukewarm in faith and casual believers? Will we be determined to be a modern Judas ultimately betraying Jesus Christ?

The Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem is for the benefit and enrichment of believers. Each person determines the degree he or she will embrace Jesus Christ and identify with Jesus as He goes forth before the crowd.

Each person determines the degree the raising of Lazarus from the dead has as an impact on his or her personal life and faith. The raising of Lazarus is a foreshadowing of the Resurrection.

The raising of Lazarus is proof of Jesus' power over death. The way a person views the raising of Lazarus from the dead will influence the way a person lives and understands life and death.

The dynamics involved in the Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem have deep and lasting meaning for life. Betrayal of Jesus by one of His immediate followers, Judas, is a strong lesson to consider.

Being physically close to Jesus Christ does not guarantee ultimate faithfulness to Christ. Faithfulness requires the heart, mind and soul to belong to Christ, not simply outward appearances of closeness to Christ.

Resurrection of the dead is a theme in the present Gospel. Pascha, the joyful celebration of Jesus' Resurrection is only a week away. The world changed forever when Jesus was put to death on the Cross and rose from the Tomb.

Jesus' Resurrection is the guiding belief for firm believers through the centuries. Pascha is called the Feast of Feasts for a reason. The events leading to Jesus' arrest, trial, death on the cross and burial are ahead in the coming days.

The Church wants believers to learn anew and to be renewed in Christ each year. Renewal in Christ is a life-long expectation. Living in Christ is a daily expectation and anticipation.

The Church nourishes believers and provides hope for believers at all levels of faith and degrees of sinfulness. Jesus Christ welcomes sinners seeking to repent. Jesus Christ welcomes and provides hope for believers in despair.

The joy of Jesus entering Jerusalem is associated with Jesus' recognized power over death. Every person faces an earthly death. Jesus is proof there is more to life than an earthly ending in death.

The Church teaches and provides believers with the experience of the hope of eternal life and the Heavenly Kingdom. Believers have a responsibility to be involved in the Church and to actively be attentive and to learn about Christ.

Being lukewarm as a Christian does not provide the full benefits that are available to baptized believers. Joy in Christ is possible each day for believers serious about Christ.

Hope is always present for believers centering life in Christ. Miracles are always possible for believers of firm faith and love for Christ. Obstacles in life are manageable and can be overcome with faith in Christ.

God's Holy Church brings the Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem before the world today. The world changes because of this festal celebration. Today is the day for joy in the heart, mind and soul of believers.

The Feast of the Lord Jesus Christ's Entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday. April 4/17, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic