

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 10:25-37

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (KJV)

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (KJV)

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. This feast is one of several focusing on the Mother of God. Her Nativity, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and Mary's Dormition are celebrated.

The Church also has a feast dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God. Numerous miraculous icons of the Mother of God are also commemorated during the liturgical year.

The Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands and the Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver are two icons well-known in the Serbian Orthodox Church. The Mother of God is always integral to worship in the Orthodox Church.

The icon of and Akathist to the Mother of God, the Joy of All Who Sorrow brings comfort and attention to the suffering in all parts of the world. Prayers go out from the Church to the Mother of God in every century.

Today the Church focuses on Joachim and Anna taking their young daughter Mary to the Temple at an early age. Joachim and Anna's parental actions are preserved in the Church down through the centuries for parents to learn from.

Joachim and Anna were blessed by God to give birth to Mary who was chosen among all women of every century to give birth to the Christ Child. Believers benefit by pondering the honor for Mary and her parents.

Persons today face the challenge of seeking eternal life as did the lawyer in St. Luke's Gospel. Jesus made known to the lawyer the importance of helping the suffering individuals encountered in daily life in order to achieve eternal life.

Fervent prayers to the Mother of God will guide believers in ways to help and to show love for the suffering in today's world. Turning to the Mother of God for direction and assistance in the journey to God's Kingdom is beneficial.

The troparion for today's feast identifies Mary as the True Temple. Wise individuals invest in learning more about Mary the Mother of God and the benefits of turning to her in prayer.

The Church offers believers the experience of journeying to God's Heavenly Kingdom. Being united in prayer with Mother of God facilitates the journey to God's Kingdom.

Feasts dedicated to the Mother of God during the course of the year strengthen and nourish the faith of believers. The Gospel readings for feasts of the Mother of God are clear in reminding believers of the importance of God's word.

The Gospel readings for feasts of the Mother of God emphasize hearing the word of God and keeping it. Focused and resolute faith are needed to hear the word of God and keep it.

Seeking strength from the Mother of God through prayer is a way to remain focused on hearing the word of God and keeping it. The Mother of God's purity and obedience to God serve as inspiration for believers of every century.

Today's feast is a time of great joy in God's Holy Church. The feast is celebrated in Orthodox Churches around the world. Faithful believers join together in praying to the Mother of God.

Let us learn from the example of Joachim and Anna taking their young daughter to the Temple. We share in the festal joy with believers around the world today on the Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God.

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. November 21/December 4, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic