

## 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)

By actively participating in the celebration of the Feast of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem believers further enter into the life in Christ. The complete mind, heart and soul become focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Week has arrived. The Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem moves believers toward the coming days of Holy Week when the life and death of Jesus Christ receive complete attention.

Now is the time to think fully and completely about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church offers Divine services to educate and enable believers to learn about, glorify and worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

Around the world and through the centuries, the Church has focused on Holy Week each year to transform the world. Holy Week enables believers to increase appreciation for Jesus Christ's humility, suffering and love.

The Lord Jesus Christ chose to enter Jerusalem riding on a simple animal. He chose the precise time in history for this Entrance. With the passing of centuries, the world continues to marvel and celebrate the Entry into Jerusalem.

Believers profess belief in Jesus Christ as King and as God at Holy Baptism. Jesus' identity as King is expressed in the Gospel for the Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem.

Holy Week focuses on Jesus' betrayal, arrest and death on the Cross. Holy Week leads to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. The Feast of Christ's Entry into Jerusalem references Jesus' power over death with the raising of Lazarus.

Lazarus being raised from the dead is proof of Jesus' power over death. Embracing Christ's power over death is transforming. Believers' lives are transformed when immersed fully in the Church during Holy Week.

Each day of Holy Week has significance. Believers investing their lives in Holy Week open their hearts, minds and souls and join with Christ. Lives immersed in Holy Week become more Christ-like.

The Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem is a time of great joy in the Church. Jesus Christ's Entry is celebrated throughout the world. Jesus Christ is the complete focus of attention.

The world needs the focus on Jesus Christ to put life into perspective. Hearts, minds and souls are lifted above and out of the fallen world with the celebration of the Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem.

The focus on Christ is the focus of the life for eternity in God's Kingdom. Jesus is the Way to the Kingdom. Jesus is the Triumph of Life over Death. The raising of Lazarus is a glimpse of the Triumph.

Today each person chooses his or her personal focus. The Church focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers joining together throughout the world enjoy and are enriched by celebrating Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem.

Whether in Belgrade, Ukraine, Moscow, Egypt or Jerusalem, Orthodox believers celebrate Jesus Christ's Entry into Jerusalem. The joyful celebration occurs throughout the Orthodox Christian world.

The Lenten Journey has concluded. The journey to Pascha intensifies. This is the period for full immersion in the life in Christ. The Divine services of Holy Week include the full reading of the Gospels.

Persons wanting to learn about Jesus Christ and to experience Christ have the opportunity in Holy Week/. The choice to be immersed in the life in Jesus Christ is completely voluntary.

The Church welcomes believers with Christ's love. Christ is Love Incarnate. Christ's love for each person is fully demonstrated in Holy Week. Celebrating the Feast of the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem is an expression of love for Christ.

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The Feast of the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem. March 27/April 9, 2023.  
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