

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Mk 10:33-34)

Dear brothers and sisters! As we meditate on these words of our Lord's passion, and ponder its mystery, let us take heart from the words of promise uttered by our Lord Himself: "And the third day He will rise again." For the Christian who takes these words seriously, they are words of hope, strength, and victory over evil. This is especially so when considering the lurking dangers which surround us in our struggle to live what the life in Christ implies. One of these dangers is the possibility of slipping back into our old ways and bad habits following our intense efforts of conversion during Great Lent and Holy Week. More cunning still is the danger that our practice of religion might one day become a thing of habit. In the early days of Christianity there was vigorous enthusiasm towards the new faith. But by the second century that original zeal had already begun to show signs of weariness.

What practical things are there to say about the Church and the Christian way of life? One must first be strenuously and consistently engaged in Christian fellowship. This means that we must not only be bound to God, but we must also be bound to each other. God has loved us. By His terrible death on the Cross, He showed the length to which God's love will go and that there is no limit to what His love will do for us. That, then, is the best reason for loving each other. The person who loves God must also love his neighbor. Just as a tree is known by its fruit, there is no better way to know a person than by his conduct, since deeds speak louder than words.

The Gospel teaches us that there are many opportunities to display the love of Christ in everyday life. To follow Christ means extending a helping and sympathetic hand to our neighbor who is suffering or in pain; it means feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and the imprisoned. To shut our heart and refuse to give to our neighbor in need is to show that the love of God has no place in us.

Our growth in the likeness of God, our return to our full selves—whom God has made us to be—begins with this humility, with our love for God and each other right here, in the family of the Church.

Dear believers! Through repentance, prayer, fasting, we become communicants of Life Eternal, children of the Most High God; we grow in those virtues and that Reality that is our true identity. God has overcome the world and he who partakes of Him will rise up to life eternal.

Please use form below to list the name or initials of the person you would like Divine Liturgy offered for. You may also list the intention, such as illness, deceased, or their relationship to you, mother, son etc.

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