ВХОДЪ ГОСПОДА ВЪ ІЕРУСАЛИМЪ.

Вотъ настаеть «Страстная Недъля». Церковь въ Богослуженіи этой недъли поведеть нась вслідь за Христомъ, вплоть до Голговы, и до Его Гроба. Событія послѣднихъ дней земной жизни, поскольку они происходили здъсь на землъ, они, конечно, отошли въ прошлое. Смолкли крики толпы, будь-то «осанна», будь-то «распни!». Стихъ плачъ муроносицъ. Умеръ Пилатъ. Умерли іудейскіе первосвященники. Но не умеръ Христосъ: какъ Богочеловъкъ, Онъ живъ и понынъ. И вотъ почему Церковь въ теченіи всей Страстной Недъли, скорбно вспоминая объ Его страданіяхъ, въ то же время радостно прославляетъ Его, какъ вѣчно живого Побъдителя смерти. Дъло спасенія, совершенное Христомъ, оно — живо и понынъ. Оно не есть — дъло прошлое: оно — дъло бывшее, по не минувшее! Въдь Христосъ и теперь, какъ въ Іерусалимъ, входитъ въ наше гръшное сердце. И это, усталое отъ грѣха, сердце трепетно ждеть Его всеисцѣляющаго приближенія. ждетъ своего очищенія, обновленія, и радостно, по-дътски, поеть оно Христу свое ликующее «осанна». Но проходить немного времени, иногда даже очень немного, и въ этомъ же сердив радостное «осанна» смѣняется злобнымъ «распни», и человѣкъ своими гръхами, своими страстями, вновь распинаетъ Живого Христа. И вотъ поэтому въ Богослуженіи Страстной Недъли, наряду съ прославленіемъ Господа слышатся мольбы о помилованіи, о прощеніи, слышатся призывы къ бодрствованію и трезвенію, что бы не постигла человъка участь изсохшей смоковницы, или раба, скрывшаго въ землю талантъ свой, чтобы не постигла человъка участь Іуды-предателя, или нераскаявшагося разбойника.

Подвигъ Христа, онъ имъетъ значеніе не только для настоящаго, но и для будущаго. И вотъ почему, зарей, иногда зловъщей зарей послъднихъ дней міра свътятся церковныя воспоминанія о послъднихъ дняхъ жизни Христа на землъ.

Все это наполняетъ Богослуженіе Страстной Недѣли трепетомъ современности, даетъ ему силу жизненности и глубину. Пусть же оно, всѣ эти дни, будетъ звучать для насъ, какъ одинъ неумолкающій и вдохновляющій возгласъ «Горѣ имѣимъ сердца!».

Lazarus Saturday

Six days before His own death, Jesus went to His dead friend Lazarus at Bethany outside of Jerusalem. He was answering an appeal made to Him several days earlier. He knew of the imminent death of Lazarus but purposely delayed His coming. To his disciples He said: "For your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe" (John 11:14). By the time Jesus arrived, the situation seemed hopeless: Lazarus was already dead four days. The fact that Lazarus was already dead four days is emphasized in the Gospel account as well as in the liturgical hymns of the feast. The four-day period of burial underscored the horrible reality of death: the corruption of the body had commenced.

It is in the face of this awesome reality that, as the Gospel records with such simplicity, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Jesus had already stated to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, that He is "the resurrection and the life"; He was fully conscious of His power over death, and still He wept. He wept on seeing the terrible fate of His friend. Bethany at that moment represented the whole world. Lazarus was His friend – all of mankind. Christ wept on seeing what had happened to the whole of creation, "made through him" (John 1:3) to be full of life and light, now lying in death and darkness. The friend of God was sealed away in a cold tomb, and the people were hesitant to remove the stone which lay upon it, for "by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days" (John 11:39).

When the stone had been removed, Jesus prayed to His Father in the presence of all the people, not asking anyone to leave as He had done on other occasions (Luke 8:51). Then, in a loud voice, He called Lazarus from the tomb: "Lazarus, come out." The people were astonished on seeing Lazarus walk out, alive. Many immediately believed on Him. A great crowd began to assemble around Him. Palm Sunday naturally followed.