



**Orthodox Mission of the
Entrance of the Theotokos
into the Temple**

**306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

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<http://EntranceMission.org>

***My Soul Waits for the Lord!*
December 12, 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.... (Psalm 129/130)

In our time we have become the kind people who have a very hard time waiting. We want results instantaneously. We want what we want now. We buy on credit to have what we want this very moment and worry about paying later. We have become people who demand instant gratification, skilled at obtaining what we want, but impatient and irritable when we do not get what we want now. The many people we meet in the pages of Scripture were quite different. They were skilled at what we as a people have rejected. They knew how to wait. I am always reminded of this when I pray one of my favorite Psalms, Psalm 129 (130), the *De Profundis*. "Out of the depths I cry unto Thee, O Lord, hear my prayer.... My soul waits for the Lord, and in His Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning: more than watchmen for the morning."

All of scripture describes saints, prophets, disciples, apostles, and indeed just plain everyday people who were skilled at waiting on the Lord. They waited with expectation, with hope and with faith. They knew and demonstrated in their lives that God was above all to be trusted. His Word was truth, His promises trustworthy; they knew that the fulfillment of His Divine revelations were absolutely sure. One of my favorite spiritual writers, Fr. Henri Nouwen of blessed memory, observes this:

*It impresses me ... that all the figures who appear on the first pages of Luke's Gospel are waiting. Zechariah and Elizabeth are waiting. Mary is waiting. Simeon and Anna, who were there at the temple when Jesus was brought in, are waiting. The whole opening scene of the good news is filled with waiting people. And right at the beginning all those people in some way or another hear the words, "Do not be afraid. I have something good to say to you." These words set the tone and the context. Now Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna are waiting for something new and good to happen to them. [They are all] ... representatives of the waiting Israel. ... "My soul is waiting for the Lord" - that is the song that reverberates all through the Hebrew Scriptures. (Nouwen. *Waiting for God.*)*

Brothers and Sisters: We have entered the season of waiting. The pre-Christmas fast in the West is called *Advent*. It is a time of waiting, waiting for the *Advent* or *Coming* of the Lord. Of course, His Coming at Christmas is celebrated at the time of His birth as a child, a child who comes in humility to draw us to Himself, as only a child can draw us. But in a larger sense, His Advent is also that of His Coming in Glory, to bring an end to the old world of violence, suffering, death and endless impatience and to usher in the beginning of that Kingdom, the fulfillment of which we, like the Saints and Prophets of old, wait patiently. We wait, like them, in expectation, in hope, in faith, knowing that what He has promised through His own Word will most surely be fulfilled. He will indeed come in glory! As we observe these few weeks before the Nativity, let us wait patiently, enduring for the brief time of our lives whatever this old world brings, knowing in our hearts, however, that He will indeed bring an end to the old world of violence and death, and usher in the time of Life Eternal. This is indeed our hope. Soon we will greet one another at the Divine Liturgy in those words that we already sing in Matins during this season, *Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

Fr. Elias

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