



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

306 W. Main Street Emmitsburg,  
MD 21727

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***My Lord and My God!  
May 12, 2024***

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

*My Lord and My God!* (The confession of St. Thomas: John 20:28)

Back when I was in Junior High School my brother brought home a book from the library called "A Night to Remember." This was one of the first accounts ever written about the sinking of the mega ocean liner Titanic on April 14, 1912. Long before there was a blockbuster movie, people read books, and it was this particular book that had the eyewitness account of horrific event in which so many people, rich and poor alike, lost their lives.

One of the things that I remember from the book was the fact that very few people knew how serious the situation was even after the ship struck the iceberg. Some of them said that they felt a slight quiver in the gigantic ship as it came to a full stop in the freezing North Atlantic Ocean. They did not know how dangerous their situation was, and so most people either continued partying, or turned over in bed and went back to sleep. Even those on the bridge of the liner downplayed the seriousness of what had just happened. But the designer of the ship

who was on board that night, the author of the book said, was one of the few who knew. And he rushed to save himself, even at the expense of others less knowledgeable.

So many people in this culture of ours live their lives like the passengers on the Titanic. They go on with their entertainments, their leisure, their pursuits, as if there is no problem – but all the while, the ship is sinking. Looming before each of us is the most basic of all human problems: death. A great many human beings do their best to never speak of it, to distract themselves from it, to try and escape it with hopes of some sort of cure or comforting explanation. But none of this works, because death is not something God wills for His creation; it came about, as St. Paul said, because of our willful separation from Him, the source of life. A person who faces the inevitability and grotesque reality of death, St. Theophan observes, is like a man who falls overboard into a ranging sea and who grasps onto whatever he can to save him: a plank of wood, or a lifebuoy. And the only plank or lifebuoy we have is that of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is Risen from the Dead!

Of all the many things in our lesson today, the one that stands out is the confession of St. Thomas after he touches the hands and side of our Lord. Thomas explodes in one of the greatest confessions of faith in all of Scripture: My Lord and My God. Not only does he realize that Jesus is God, God Incarnate, one with the Father! But he recognizes the Risen Lord as his only Hope in the face of death, his only Lord, and his only Savior. This is what faith is, Brothers and Sisters! Not the proper definition of terms or the specification of this or that piece of theology or philosophy. It is the realization and full acceptance that Christ is Risen, not for His own sake, but for ours! It is the acceptance that His Life is our Life, that His Resurrection is our Resurrection, that His Kingdom is our Kingdom. All is offered freely!

This is why we call PASCHA the Feast of Feasts! And it will mean nothing to us until each of us can say like St. Thomas, **My** Lord and **My** God, **My** Savior!

To Him be all honor and glory forever!

Brothers and Sisters, Christ is Risen!

Fr. Elias

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