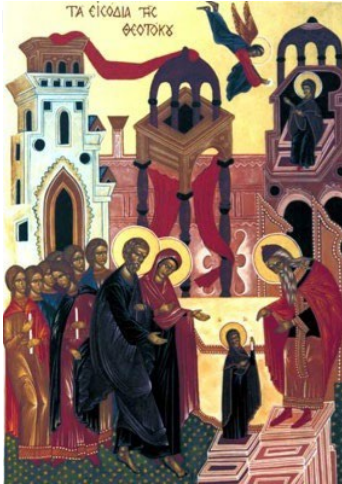


Ort



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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Compassion
October 19, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Compassion. What was expected is not what happened.

- Jesus did not say:
 - Unclean! Dead!
 - Move way aside for the corpse to be brought out!
 - That's what would have been expected.
- Jesus did not quiz the mother about her faith, her righteousness or her purity
 - He did not say, "Do you believe?"
 - He did not question her: "Do you understand the Holy Trinity? The Filioque? The Nature of my divinity?"
 - He did not question or quiz her at all.
- He simply had compassion
 - Her husband was dead; her only son had died. She would have been reduced to begging.
 - He saw the need and responded.

- Interesting how similar the message beneath the action is precisely what happened in the Gospel from John as well about Thoms:
 - Remember, Christ had appeared to the other remaining 10 of the Apostles after His resurrection when they were gathered in the Upper Room
 - Thomas was not with them, and when they told him about the resurrected Christ, he doubted. Thus, the unfortunate nickname, “Doubting Thomas.”
 - The second time Christ appeared Thomas was there, and rather than chastising him, Christ went with the need: “See my hands, put out your own hand and touch my side. Be not faithless but believing.
- Compassion is used repeated in the Gospel of Luke. It is a central element of the Gospel and the foundation of the Church’s ministry to the Greeks or Gentiles, i.e. the non-circumcised people of the ancient world.
- The Lord showed Thomas his wounds and bid him to touch them because He is compassionate.
- The Lord raised the son of the Widow of Nain because He is compassionate. He had mercy on the widow who had lost everything, because he wanted to assuage her terrible wound.
- Forbidden or not, He touched the dead corpse and brought it back to life.
- Compassion is the central hallmark of Christian behavior.
 - It is not possible to see someone in need and not care
 - It is not possible to see someone who has inflicted harm on themselves and not care
 - It is not possible to see those condemned righteousness for their sin or their offense and not care
 - It is not possible to see anyone who suffers, any creature who suffers, and not have compassion. As St. Isaac the Syrian says, “a merciful heart for all creatures”
- It is not possible, because we are disciples of the Lord of compassion. And if we do not have compassion like He, then how can we say that we are His at all?

Fr. Elias

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