



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street Emmitsburg,
MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084

The V. Rev. Elias Yelovich,
Rector

The Rev. Anthony Duvall,
Assistant

Notes on the Meaning of our Lord's Cross August 3, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

- There is no limit to what He has done and will do, to what He does for our salvation.
- I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men to Myself.
- A lesson for those who think it is important to achieve, win, develop themselves, be first at any cost.
- Paul to the Corinthians, Jesus to the Greeks.
- How can we be drawn to the cross? In gratitude for His self-giving; in love for His endless love for us; in response for His self-giving for our salvation
- Corinth was a sea-port; sailors, prostitutes, drunkenness
- Under the best of circumstances, a difficult place in the Gentile world
- But the congregation was troubled by competition within.
 - This or that leader versus this or that other leader
 - Spiritual maturity touted in the form of glossolalia
 - Immorality
 - Like today. But today is even worse; the Internet propels it all
- When Jesus met the Greeks asking about Him, the question was clear and understandable:
 - What could they possibly have to do with Him?
 - Greeks were all about self-development.
 - Body, mind and spirit
 - Athens and Sparta
 - Philosophy – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes
 - But for the Jews, the beginning of wisdom was in the fear, the awe of the One True God

- What could the Greeks possibly have to do with that?
- And yet, Jesus says: Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so will the Son of Man be lifted up.
 - And He will draw all mankind unto Himself
- The Cross has been understood variously.
 - For many Jewish converts to Christ, the fulfillment of sacrificial requirements
 - As with Abraham and Isaac, God Himself provides the ram
 - But for Gentiles, who do not participate and have not participated in Temple sacrifice, it is the sign, the ensign, of victory.
 - It is the ultimate demonstration of God's self-giving.
- Only by seeing and understanding that God's love for mankind is limitless, truly without condition – which is really saying something! – are we drawn to Him.
- We cannot love One of whom we are afraid! We love Him, because He first loved us.
- The Cross is the means by which we are drawn in gratitude and love.
 - And it is indeed His will that all be saved!
 - It is our hope and the sign and symbol of our behavior toward one another
- We heard this last week, but it is the continuing theme of all who would follow Christ
- There is no limit to what He gives and does for us; in love for Him, our love for others flows like living water, the water that comes from a spring
- The Corinthians need to be reminded of this. And so do we!

Fr. Elias

Orthodox Church of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 West Main Street

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

<https://EntranceMission.org>