

# Great Wednesday

Father Richard D. Boyle

*"Whoever believes in Me believes in the Father, and whoever sees Me sees the Father Who has sent Me. I have come to mankind as a Light so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."*

John 12:44-47

There is a paradox that lies at the deepest recesses of our human condition. In order to be happy, we must deal with this paradox: that our natural, human knowledge can do little or nothing to solve our most important problems. Indeed, following our own human instincts and nature will lead us to perdition.

As we reflect upon this condition, we come to realize that a belief in Christ the Light offers a path out of such darkness. How is it then that we can come to believe in this Christ? One of the ways we can do this is vividly portrayed in the holy gospel lesson presented for this evening's final Presanctified Divine Liturgy of Saint Gregory Dialogos. A woman approaches Jesus with a jar of precious perfume ointment, and with complete faith, total humility, and absolute sincerity, she performed the noble service of anointing Him. This act definitely showed her esteem and love for the person of Jesus. We can similarly approach Him with such great sentiments when we encounter Him in the Holy Mysteries—the sacraments of the Church.

God created us humans with an innate desire for the supernatural life. Our souls naturally seek and yearn to be perfected by the Lord Jesus. Humanity's imperfect nature seeks God's perfect nature and moves from the darkness of despair to the light of sure and blessed hope.

Even though we know this, how are we to achieve this great union with God? In the gospel account from the Holy Evangelist John chanted at the Bridegroom Matins on Great Wednesday, Christ offers us the way. This great Light (Jesus) shining within us transforms and transfigures us and changes our doubts to hope, our fears to faith, our darkness to light. God became Man in order that man might become like God. It is Jesus our Lord Who can transform us from a state of unbelief to one of dynamic, vibrant faith.

As we arrive at this mid-point of Passion Week, Christ the Royal Bridegroom, the Suffering Servant, the Gracious Light, the Lover of Mankind prepares to surrender Himself—the only Sinless One—into the darkness of man's despair. And by His salvific death, He will conquer Death and thereby grant Life to the entire world, bringing light to our souls. Let us now also go forward with Him renewed in our genuine commitment of firm faith in the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Ezechial 2:3 - 3:3**

**Exodus 2:11-22**

**Job 2:1-10**