

A WORD FOR THE DAY

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

St. Paul, Letter to the Philippians, 4:4-9

Christ is King, and so we are to rejoice in all, accepting whatever is good. This is how we should live if we truly commit ourselves to the reality we enter into by baptism.

But we also know that this is not straightforward. After all, who is not for what is good and lovely? What war has not been fought in the name of the good and honorable?

If we are not very careful and discerning, our striving for what we think is good can all too easily lead us away from the real Christ.

This is what happened to all those who today greet Christ with palms and the Hosanna. When they realize that his sight is not set on their goals, it only takes a few days before they begin to clamor for his death.

We know that this is the tendency or the momentum of the world, the world which lives in us, too; and we know that the death of Christ is not only the result of our sin and insanity, but it is, more importantly, God's answer to that insanity—that this is what divine love looks like.

We know this already; we knew it when we were baptized—we were, after all, baptized into the death of Christ, in order to rise with him. Knowing this, we must make sure, as we once again follow Christ to Golgotha, the Passion, to his crucifixion and exaltation, that it is this Jesus that determines for us what is good, true, beautiful, and gracious. We need, as it were, to allow our notion of what is good to be crucified with him, to take a new shape in what he reveals to us about truth and love.



Fr. John Behr, The Cross Stands While the World Turns

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

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ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. PALM SUNDAY.

Martyr Euppsychius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (362). Martyrs Desan—Bishop, Mariabus—Presbyter, Abdiesus, and 270 others in Persia (363-364). Monk Martyr Bademus (Vadim) of Persia (376).



