

The Adopted Life

Palm Sunday ~ 04.17.2011

A Palm Sunday Sermon

Let us raise the branches aloft, and with the olive branches make glad applaud, that the Holy Spirit may also breathe on us, and in due order we may raise the God-taught strain: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (Matt. 21:9). Today, also, the patriarch Jacob keeps feast in spirit, seeing his prophecy brought to fulfillment, and with the faithful adores the Father, seeing Him who bound his foal to the vine mounted upon an ass's colt (Gen. 49:10-11.)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord: that good and kind Shepherd, voluntarily to lay down His life for His sheep. That just as hunters take by a sheep the wolves that devour sheep, even so the Chief Shepherd, offering Himself as man to the spiritual wolves and those who destroy the soul, may make His prey of the destroyers by means of that Adam who was once preyed on by them. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord: the Lord to save humanity who had wandered in error . . . Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord: the one for the many . . . Therefore we also bless You, O Lord; You with the Father and the Holy Spirit are blessed before the worlds and forever. Before the world, indeed, and until now being devoid of body, but now and forever henceforth possessed of that divine humanity which cannot be changed, and from which You are never divided.

For all this was done that the Lamb and Son of God, that takes away the sins of the world, might, of His own will, and for us, come to His saving Passion . . . and that Christ having thus suffered in the flesh, and having risen again the third day, might, with equal honor and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be by all created things equally adored; for to Him every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, sending up glory to Him, for ever and ever. Amen. ~ *From "Oration on the Palms", paragraphs 2, 6 and 7. A Palm Sunday Sermon of St. Methodius of Olympus.*