16/04/2020

Thursday of Holy and Great Easter today; Mystery of the Divine Eucharist as as derived from ‘Last Supper’



Today is Thursday of Holy and Great Easter Week.

In the evening, which was the eve of the feast of unleavened bread, in other words Passover, our Redeemer supped with His 12 disciples in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist.

He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he who “…that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish.”

And after Judas had straight-way gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion — known as the Gospel of the Testament.

After this the Savior went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off alone, and bending the knees He prayed fervently.

As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, lo, Judas came with a

multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher, guile fully with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

The Lord Jesus was then apprehended and taken prisoner to the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. The disciples were scattered, but Peter, who was more fervent than the others, followed Him even into the court of the high priest, but in the end denied thrice that he was His disciple.

The divine Teacher was brought before the lawless Sanhedrin and was interrogated, concerning His disciples and His teaching.

The high priest adjured Him before God that He tell them whether He was truly the Christ. And having spoken the truth, He was judged guilty of death, supposedly as one who had blasphemed. Then, they spat in His face, beat Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him in every way, throughout the whole night until the morning.

You may watch all of the services of Holy and Great Easter Week from the Vatopedi Monastery glebe in Porto Lagos, at the Church of St. Nicholas.