24/04/2019

Holy and Great Wednesday Divine Liturgy observed today



Holy and Great Wednesday is observed today at Orthodox Cathedrals and parishes around the world.

The sacred ceremony of the Mysterion of the Holy Unction takes place during the evening Divine Liturgy. Unction is the action of anointing a worshipper with oil.

The evening service symbolizes repentance, confession, and the remission of sins by the Lord, preparing the faithful to receive Holy Communion, usually the next day, on Holy Thursday morning.

Holy Unction is the Sacrament for cleansing sins and renewing the body and the spirit of the faithful.

It is one of the seven Sacraments of the Orthodox Church, and has its origin in the practice of the early Church, as recorded in the Epistle of James. At the end of the service, the priest anoints the faithful with Holy Oil, the visible carrier of the Grace of God.

The theme of Holy and Great Wednesday is the commemoration of the sinful woman who anointed Jesus in the house of Simon the Leper before his Crucifixion and burial – a second theme is the agreement to betray the Lord, made by Judas Iscariot.