



■ † Holy and Great Tuesday

## Revitalizing our Faith\* Confession in Words and Deeds

**N**ow the people, the priests, and the Jewish authorities have heard the word of the Lord in the Temple for the last time.

This word is all-embracing; it embraces all the past, present, and future.

By the question about John the Baptist, the Lord gives the understanding that He is the true Messiah.

By the parable about the two sons, He suggests that the Israelites will be rejected and that in their place the Gentiles will be called.

By the parable about the husbandmen, He tells them that destruction awaits those who are cast out.

By the parable about the marriage of the son of the king, He teaches that even among those who come to Him, not all will be worthy, and there will be found those whom He will rightly cast into the darkness.

By His answers to the questions about tribute to Caesar and about the first commandment, as well as His accusatory speech, He defines the characteristic features of a life of a person seeking his salvation.

Finally, to His disciples separately, He predicts the destruction of Jerusalem and reveals the mystery of His Second Coming.

It was enough to listen attentively to all of this to be convinced that He is the true Savior



of the world—the Christ—and to submit to His commandments and teachings.

Even now, reading the Gospel chapters about all that happened on this day (that is, two days before Judas' betrayal) is the most effective way to revitalize our faith in the Lord; and by renewing the Christian's awareness of what he must be and what to expect, the reading will enkindle his zeal and inspire him to confess the Lord not only in words, but all through his deeds. □

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(\*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.