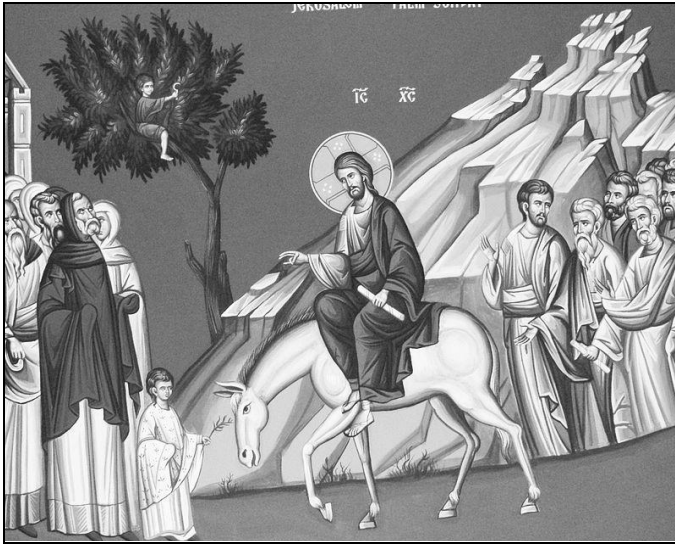




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Palm Sunday + April 28th, 2024 + The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem + HOLY WEEK



Hymns for Today's Service

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading - John 12:1-18

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason, the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

NEXT WEEKEND - Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 27th

9 AM: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Church Cleanup w/ Snacks

3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

5 PM: Vigil for Palm Sunday

Confession (*before or after Vespers*)

Sunday, April 28th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Blessing of Palms, Divine Liturgy,
Festal Potluck

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THIS WEEK - Holy Week

**Please see the enclosed schedule for Holy Week services
Monday eve thru Pascha & Bright Week.**

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NEXT WEEKEND - Holy Pascha

Saturday, May 4th

9 AM: Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy
& Baptism of Zac & Conner Rosencrans

9:30 PM: Midnight Office

10 PM: Paschal Matins w/ Procession

11 PM: Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the
Baskets and Paschal Feast

Sunday, May 5th

11 AM: Agape Vespers w/ Procession followed by
Blessing of Baskets



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is May 26th

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, May 18th.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is TODAY, Palm Sunday.

Orthodoxy 101 Class: Saturdays at 3:30 PM we will have a weekly "inquirers" class and discussion for anyone interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith. Class materials will be provided. We will take a break after this weekend's session for 3 weeks.

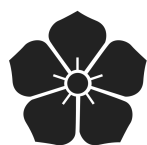
Sat, April 27th - Church Cleanup for Pascha: All are encouraged to come help prepare the church for Pascha. Families and individuals, young and old - we need your help to clean, dust, polish candlestands, bundle the pussywillows and palms, and prepare the church hall for our Paschal celebration. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9 AM, followed by coffee, light snacks and cleaning.

HELP for Holy Week Services - We Need Your Help! The upcoming Holy Week services will require volunteers throughout the week. There will be many opportunities from holding candles, carrying the burial shroud, helping with processions, reading scriptures AND MORE! Please see Paul Tumavitch or Brian Hutz and watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex/Vestibule.

Confession Before Pascha: A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion. Anyone wishing to receive should go to confession at least once during Great Lent. If you have been away from Holy Communion be sure to make a confession before receiving. Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer.

Our Cleaning Crew Needs Your Help: The Holy Trinity cleaning team is currently understaffed. With

Great lent and the additional services the church receives much more traffic than usual. Every week both the upstairs and downstairs, including the bathrooms, are cleaned by two or three faithful workers to ensure the church is in pristine condition for the services we all attend. They will often come back during the week after midweek services to clean a second time. If you are available, please consider donating a few hours of your time during the week to help our crew. See Fr. Innocent, Leigh Storey or Deborah Mills – or come to the church Monday's at 9 AM. We would be so grateful!



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY: Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday may be given to Deborah Mills. Please write “Flowers for Lent” in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers “In Memory of” or “For the Health of” a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand, mail them to the Church, OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox attention Deborah Mills. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays: Alexandria Rubino (5/7), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30)
Anniversaries: Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This Anniversary: Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Triumphal Entry of Our Lord

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

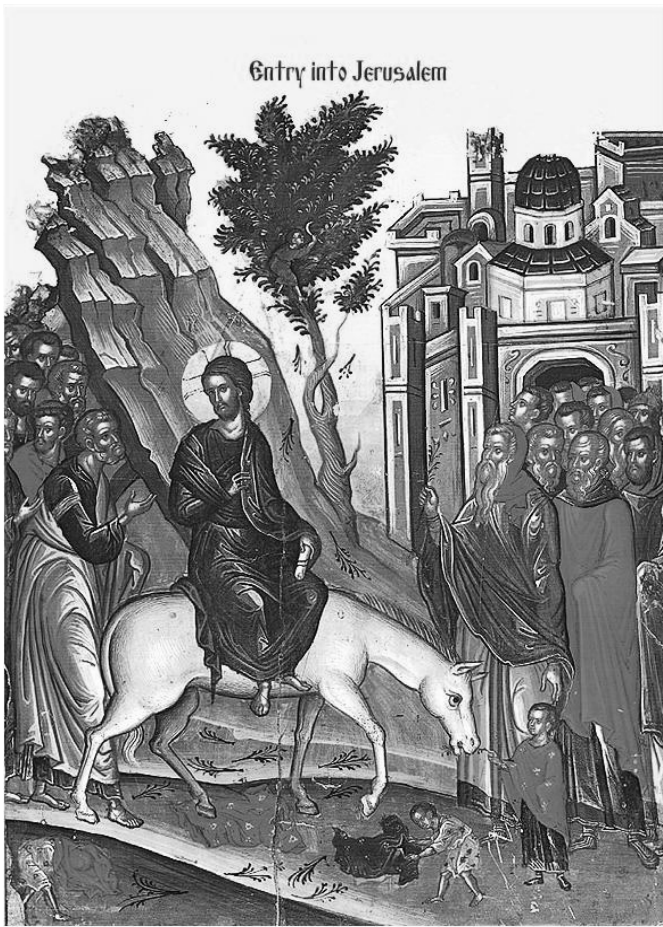
Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie, Patricia Yeosock, Lucille Dragan, Mark **Departed:** Ben Dragan, Michael Yeosock, Shirley Gingo, Edward Hojnicki

entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.



On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: “Do you accept Christ?” We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: “I accept Him as King and God!” Thus on the eve of Christ’s Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

(Philippians 3:10-11)



The TREASURY

“... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Collections last Sunday (4/21): \$1,964



Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Cookout & Picnic

When: Saturday, May 11th

following Paschal Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. Picnic will begin at approx 11 AM.

Hot grill will be provided. Bring Food/Drinks!
Vespers @ 2 PM

Where: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Who: All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

All Local Orthodox Parishes have been invited!

*“The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously.
The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry.”*

+ St. John Chrysostom