



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

PALM SUNDAY + Sun, April 9, 2023 + 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

+++

THIS WEEKEND

Fri, April 7th @ 6:30 PM Vespers for Lazarus Saturday
Sat, April 8th @ 9 AM - Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
10:30 AM - Altar Boy & Parish Church Cleanup

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, April 8th

5 PM: Great Vespers for Palm Sunday, Confession

Sunday, April 9th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Blessing of the Palms & Pussy Willows, Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

+++

Holy Week & Pascha 2023

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

HOLY MONDAY April 10

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY TUESDAY April 11

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY WEDNESDAY April 12

Matins w/ Holy Unction (Cathedral) @ 6 PM

(Unction may only be received by those who have been to confession during the Lenten season)

HOLY THURSDAY April 13

Last Supper Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM

HOLY FRIDAY April 14

Vespers for the Burial of Our Lord @ 3:00 PM

Lamentations @ 6:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY April 15

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

+++

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

+His Eminence Archbishop Mark Presiding+

Beginning SAT NIGHT, April 15

Nocturns @ 9:30 PM

Paschal Matins w/ Procession @ 10:00 PM

Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 PM

Blessing of the Baskets & Paschal Feast @ 12:30 AM

SUN MORNING, April 16

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM

followed by Blessing of the Baskets



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++

SCHEDULE 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. Please come or set up an appointment for a specific time with Fr. Innocent.

HOLY SATURDAY GRAVE WATCH - We would like to keep the church open Holy Saturday following Divine Liturgy throughout the day for veneration of the tomb of Our Lord. Anyone who would like to help can take a 1 hour (or more) shift on Holy Saturday between Noon and 10 PM praying before the tomb of Our Lord. This beautiful tradition of our church honors the death and burial of Our Lord, is a meaningful time of prayer before His Resurrection, and allows the church to stay open and available as a place of prayer for anyone who would like to come and venerate the tomb. Time should be spent reading Psalms or praying quietly. Please be sure to turn off your cell phones. **The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule/narthex.**

HOLY SATURDAY, WE NEED YOU!: Holy Saturday Vespertine Liturgy is one of the most beautiful, meaningful, and profound services of Holy Week. It is the moment when Christ descends into Hades, frees the captives, and breaks the chains of death that hold humanity hostage. This unfolding of Christ's resurrection is symbolized by the changing of the covers throughout the church from purple to white. Bay leaves are thrown throughout the church in celebration of Christ's Victory over death. Towards the beginning of the service 15 Old Testament scriptures are read that foreshadow the coming resurrection of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Please join us, your fellow Holy Week travelers, for this important beginning of the Paschal Feast. There will be a signup sheet for anyone who would like to help us read one of the Old Testament readings. No special skill is needed. If you can read, you can help - young or old! See you there!

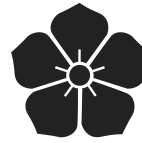
HOMEBOUND CONFESSION COMMUNION, BASKET BLESSING: Parishioners unable to attend the Paschal services can contact Fr. Innocent regarding confession, communion and basket blessing. Additionally, anyone unable to attend Pascha due to health conditions or risk may arrange to have their basket blessed immediately following Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy by contacting Fr. Innocent.

AGAPE MEAL FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY ON PASCHA: Following the blessing of the baskets on Pascha it is traditional for the faithful to break the fast by eating with one another from the baskets which have just been blessed. All are encouraged and welcome to break the fast together downstairs in the Parish Hall in the joy of the Paschal celebration!

BRIGHT SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY AND PICNIC: Save the date (Sat, April 22nd)! This year Holy Trinity will revive an old Wilkes-Barre area tradition of inviting all of the local Orthodox Parishes to join us for Divine Liturgy and a Paschal Picnic. The grill will be hot and ready to cook your most delicious meats to perfection. Bring meats, cheeses, sides, drinks and whatever you like to share for this very festive Paschal celebration. Divine Liturgy begins at 9 AM, immediately followed by our Picnic. The day will wrap up with Vespers at 2 PM.

THOMAS SUNDAY: Easter Egg Hunt & Grave Blessing. Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Thomas Sunday at 11 AM following Divine Liturgy and a

quick coffee break (for parents and the priest). Our annual Grave Blessings at Holy Resurrection & Fern Knoll Cemeteries will take place at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM respectively. Both of these events are weather permitting.



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

LAST DAY TO DONATE: General donations for flowers during Holy Week & Pascha are being accepted and will be used for the Feast of the Cross (flowers will adorn the cross) and Palm Sunday (Palms & Pussy Willows). Donations may be given to Deborah Mills. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. We will also continue our tradition of **Paschal Flower Donations** in memory and for the health of loved ones. 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

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda, Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week: Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

+++

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

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom & Joan Austin, Paul Berdy, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick **Departed:** John Zoranski

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).

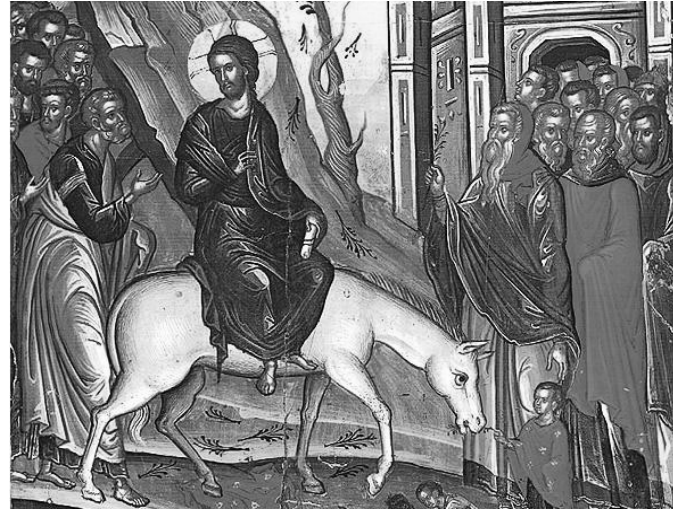
This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible 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 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: \$3,061
Last Week’s Collection/Donations (3/26): \$2,915
Potato Pancake Sales (3/24 & 3/31): \$3,732