

*From the Divine Office for Palm Sunday*

*The Son and Word of the Father, like Him without beginning and eternal, has come today to the city of Jerusalem, seated on a dumb beast, on a foal. In fear, the Cherubim dare not gaze upon Him, yet the children honor Him with palms and branches, and mystically they sing a hymn of praise: Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the Son of David, who has come to save all mankind from error!" (Vespers)*

*With our souls cleansed, and carrying branches in spirit, with faith let us sing Christ's praises like children, crying with a loud voice to the Master: "Blessed are You, O Savior, who have come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse! In Your love for mankind, You have been pleased to become spiritually the new Adam! O word, who have ordered all things for our good, glory to You!" (Orthros)*



**PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 2, 2023**



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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### **Antiphon (Feast)**

1: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

**O Son of God, who rode upon a donkey's foal, save us who sing to You, Alleluia!**

2: Let the House of Israel say: He is good, for His mercy endures forever

**O Son of God, who rode upon a donkey's foal, save us who sing to You, Alleluia!**

3: Let those who fear the Lord say: He is good, for His mercy endures forever..

**O Son of God, who rode upon a donkey's foal, save us who sing to You, Alleluia!**

### **Entrance Hymn**

**Priest: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord: the Lord is God and has appeared to us.**

**People: O Son of God, who rode upon a donkey's foal, save us who sing to You, Alleluia!**

### **Troparion of the Feast (Tone 1) Twice**

O Christ God, when You raised Lazarus from the dead before the time of Your Passion, You confirmed the future resurrection of all. We too, like the children of old, carry before You the symbols of victory and cry out to You, O Conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

We have been buried with You in Baptism, O Christ our God, and we merited eternal life through Your Resurrection. Wherefore, we cry out to You, singing a hymn of praise: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!:"

### **Kondakion of the Feast (Tone 6)**

O Christ God, enthroned in Heaven and riding upon a colt, You have accepted the praise of the Angels and the hymns of the children who were crying out to You: "Blessed are You who come to restore Adam!"

### **Our Holy Week and Jerusalem**

In 326-28 the Empress Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, traveled to Palestine at the behest of her son to mark the places where Christ lived and died by constructing shrines and churches. According to Eusebius of Caesarea she was chiefly responsible for two churches, the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem (still in existence), and a church on the Mount of Olives, the site of Christ's ascension. Jerusalem. She also took part in the excavations at the site of the Lord's death and burial where the Great Church of the Resurrection stands today. It soon became the practice for great celebrations to take place at these sites, particularly when the events which took place there were observed. It was at these shrines that historical commemorations of the events of the Lord's passion were first conducted.

In time local Churches throughout the Mediterranean world began to imitate the appealing Jerusalem practices, developing the historical observances of Holy Week as we know them today.

### **The Power of the Redemption**

The first observances of Pascha in both East and West, however, were not attempts to recreate the events of the Lord's passion. Rather they were focused on the effects of the Lord's death and resurrection in the lives of the faithful. Thus the highpoint of the Resurrection celebration was the baptism of catechumens, which took place before the Paschal Liturgy, and the reconciliation of penitents on Holy Thursday: those whose serious sins had excluded them from the community. In the same spirit Byzantine Churches today offer the Mystery of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday. People are anointed for the healing of their spiritual infirmities, uniting with Christ in the power of His death and resurrection.

### **On Celebrating This Feast**

In His humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and He is glad that He became so humble for our sake, glad that He came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to Himself. And even though we are told that He has now ascended above the highest heavens – the proof, surely, of His power and godhead – His love for mankind will never rest until He has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with His own in heaven.

So let us spread before His feet – not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither – but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the Conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*

-St Andrew of Crete





### DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Today**      **Our Families and Friends, living and deceased**  
**Those suffering in war in Ukraine and the earthquakes in Syria & Turkey**  
 +Victims of the war in Ukraine & the Earthquakes in Syria & Turkey  
 +Violet Gazal

**4/9/2023**      **Our families and friends, living and deceased**  
**Members of the Yanni Family, living and deceased, +Raymond Yanni.**  
 Requested by Mae Yanni & family

**Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by the Parish**

**Sunday's Coffee Hrs. are hosted by the parish. We will have Ka'ak and eggs in celebration of Pascha after each Liturgy!**

Please remember in your prayers: George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Anthony Poti, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt William Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Wendy Halal, Elio Kanaan, all those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, and the people of Ukraine.

If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

### Last Week's Collection

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$1,015</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>
<b>Coffee Hr.</b>	<b>\$ 51</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 160</b>
<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Charity</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>
<b>Easter Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 180</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,690</b>

**God bless you for your generosity!**



### HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Sun Apr 2, 6PM - Bridegroom Service**  
**Mon Apr 3, 6PM - Bridegroom Service**  
**Tue Apr 4, 6PM - Anointing Service**  
**Wed Apr 5, 6PM - Vespers/Liturgy of St. Basil \***  
**Thu Apr 6, 6PM - Crucifixion Service**  
**Fri Apr 7, Noon - Vespers (Descent from the Cross)**  
**Fri Apr 7, 6PM - Epitaphios Service/Lamentations**  
**Sat Apr 8, 9PM - Hajmeh, Orthros & Divine Liturgy of Pascha**  
**Sun Apr 9, 10AM- Divine Liturgy of Pascha**  
 \*Individual loaves for commemorations will be available.

### EPITAPHIOS BEARERS

**I need volunteers to carry the Epitaphios during the Lamentation Service on Good Friday evening. Ideally, I would like 12 people. The first two groups of 4 will carry the Epitaphios around the church once. The third group will hold it up at the back of the church, so that people can walk underneath it.**

**If you would like to volunteer, please contact me.**

**Fr. Bryan**

### MEMORY ETERNAL

Our sister Violet "Vi" Gazal fell asleep in the Lord on March 28. Her wake and funeral will be in the church on **Tuesday, April 4**. The wake will be from **9:00AM-10:45AM** and the funeral will begin at **11:00AM**.

Our condolences go out to her children Arthur & Deborah, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the entire family.

**MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**



## “Like the Children of Old”

FROM ARMENIA TO EVERY CORNER of the Middle East Palm Sunday is celebrated as a feast for children. Describing Christ’s entry into Jerusalem, St Matthew’s Gospel highlights the participation of children in the event. *“When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He did and the children crying out in the temple and saying ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’ they were indignant and said to Him, ‘Do you hear what these are saying?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes – have you never read ‘Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’”* (Mt 21:15-16)

Children are singled out for mention in the first historical witness we have to this feast as well. Towards the end of the fourth century the Spanish nun Egeria, on pilgrimage to the newly-adorned holy places of Palestine, described what she saw on that Palm Sunday: “As the eleventh hour draws near ... all the children who are [gathered at the top of the Mount of Olives], including those who are not yet able to walk because they are too young and therefore are carried on their parents’ shoulders, all of them bear branches, some carrying palms, others, olive branches. And the bishop is led in the same manner as the Lord once was led. ... From the top of the mountain as far as the city and from there through the entire city ... everyone accompanies the bishop the whole way on foot, and this includes distinguished ladies and men of consequence.” The scene Egeria witnessed has been repeated ever since.

While today this procession is held at the end of Orthros or the Divine Liturgy, Egeria describes it as taking place “at the eleventh hour,” our 5 PM. This practice echoed the Gospel witness that *“Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at everything, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve”* (Mk 11:11). There they spent the night.

### Children and the Church Today

Palm Sunday services attract large numbers of families who may never attend the Liturgy otherwise. Many clergy blame negligent parents; others feel that the Church has not tried hard enough to reach these parents.

Some say that the Church spends too much effort educating children while ignoring adults. After all, they reason, the Lord blessed children but directed His teaching at adults.

Archimandrite Tikhon Shevkunov, superior of Moscow’s Stretensky Monastery offers another insight. He suggests that, instead of debating about whom we should teach, we should reexamine what we do with them. Are we emphasizing secondary matters when we should be introducing them to Christ? He writes: “

Children at the age of eight or nine go to church and sing on the kliros, amazing and delighting everyone around them. But by the age of fourteen to sixteen, many – if not the majority – stop going to church.

“Children have not become acquainted with God. No, they of course are acquainted with the rites, with Church Slavonic, with order in church, with the lives of saints, and with sacred history as arranged for children. But they are not acquainted with God Himself. No encounter has taken place. The result is that parents, Sunday schools and – sad as it is – priests have built the house of childhood faith upon the sand (Matthew 7:26), and not upon the rock of Christ.

“How can it happen that children do not notice God, despite all the most sincere efforts of adults to instill faith in them? How can it turn out that children still do not find within themselves the strength to discern Christ the Savior in their childhood lives and in the Gospel?

“When responding to this question, we raise yet another adult problem, one that is reflected in our children as in a mirror. This is when both parents and priests teach one thing, but live in another way. This is a most frightful blow to the tender strength of childhood faith, an unbearable drama for their sensitive minds.”

If children only come to church on Palm Sunday, is it because their elders – parents, relatives, adults around them – have not reflected to them their own encounter with the Lord themselves?

### Prokimenon

**Reader:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has appeared to us.

**People:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has appeared to us.

**Verses:** Sing to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever

**People:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has appeared to us.

**Reader:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** God is the Lord and He has appeared to us.

### Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

### Alleluia Verses

Sing to the Lord a new song; for the Lord has done wonderful works.

**Verses:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

### Gospel: Jn 12:1-18

### Hirmos (Tone 1)

The Lord is God and He has appeared to us! Let us celebrate and rejoice! Come, let us glorify Christ, and with palms and branches sing to Him canticles of praise: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, our Savior!

