

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday

Soon after the raising of Lazarus, six days before the Jewish Passover, Jesus Christ made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem to show that He was the true Christ the King and was going to death voluntarily.

When He drew near to Jerusalem, the Saviour looked upon it with sorrow. He knew that the people would reject Him, their Saviour, and that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Jesus Christ wept over it and said, "If you have known, even you, at least in this day, the things which belong unto your peace! But now they are hid from your eyes;" — that is, you stubbornly close your eyes to all of God's favour bestowed on you. "For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will cast up a bank about you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children with you, and they will not leave one stone upon another because you did not know (did not want to acknowledge) the time of your visitation (the time when the Lord visited you)."

When Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem, the entire city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"

The crowds answered, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee," and told them about how He had called Lazarus forth from the tomb and raised him from the dead.

Jesus entered the Temple and again, as in the first year of His teaching, drove out all who sold and bought in the Temple, saying to them "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

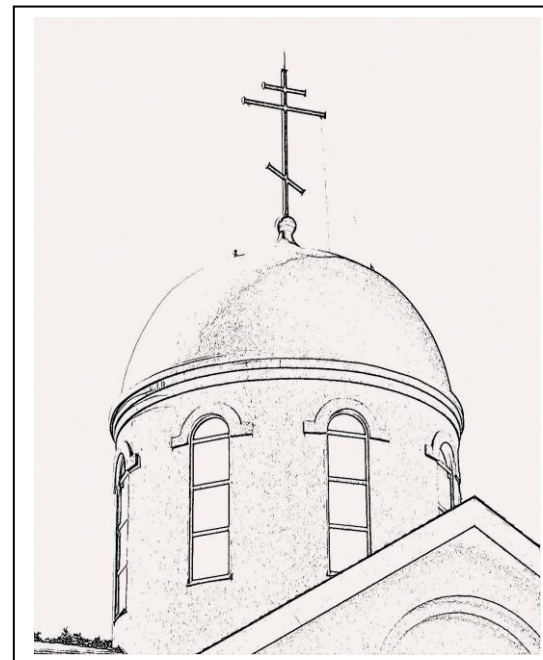
The blinds and the lames came to Him in the Temple, and He healed them. The people, seeing the wonderful things Jesus Christ did, began to praise Him even more. Even little children being in the Temple cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

The chief priests and the scribes were indignant and they said to Him, "Do you hear what they are saying?"

Jesus Christ said to them, "Yes, have you never read: 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou perfected praise'?" (Ps. 8:3). Jesus Christ taught daily in the Temple; and when evening came, He went out of the city. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people sought an opportunity to destroy Him, but they could not, for all the people were very anxious to hear Him.

The triumphant Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem is celebrated by the Holy Orthodox Church on the last Sunday before the bright feast of Pascha. This is one of the great feasts, and it is also called Palm Sunday because on this feast during the All-night Vigil service, or at Matins, blessed branches of palms, pussy willows, or other early spring growth are distributed to the faithful. In ancient times, the king was met with green branches when he was returning in triumph after victory over his enemies. And we holding in our hands the branches of the first blossoms of spring glorify the Saviour as the Victor over death because He raised the dead and on this very day entered Jerusalem to die for our sins and to rise again thereby saving us from eternal death and eternal torment. The branches serve for us then as a symbol of the victory of Christ over death and should remind us of the future resurrection of all of us from death.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*
Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*
Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

April 12, 2020
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM
Palm Sunday

St. Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium (8th c.). Hieromartyr Zeno, Bishop of Verona (ca. 260). Ven. Isaac the Syrian, Abbot of Spoleto (550). Monastic Martyrs Menas, David, and John, of Palestine (7th c.). Venerable Anthusa of Constantinople (801). Ven. Athanasia, Abbess, of Aegina (860). Ven. Acacius the Younger, of Kavsoakalyvia (Mt. Athos—1730).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Today @ 5:00pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday

Holy Thursday @ 9:00am Vespers with Liturgy

Holy Thursday @ 5:00pm Matins (12 Gospels)

Holy Friday @ 3:00pm Vespers (Placing of Shroud in the Tomb)

Holy Saturday @ 9:00am Vespers & Liturgy

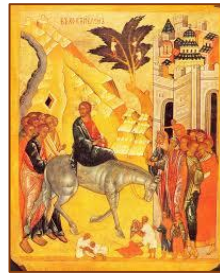
Holy Saturday @ 5:00pm Paschal Vigil

Sunday of Holy Pascha @ 9:00am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17



*Entry of Our Lord
into Jerusalem*

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Robert Vessio, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Wednesday – James Petrides

Friday – Debbie Anderson

*Keep up on OCA news by visiting
www.oca.org, diocesan news and
directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org,
and parish news by visiting [www.occa-
brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).*

Annunciations

TODAY – Except for the Divine services, all in-person parish activities including **Church School classes, organizational meetings, baking sessions, etc.** are CANCELED until further notice. Only those who are deemed “essential” to the conducting of the service are allowed to be present and participate in the services. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in following these directives.

TODAY – At **11:15am**, we will conduct a “**Virtual Coffee Hour**” using ZOOM. Instructions have been emailed to our regular parishioners and friends. Please join us and resume contact with your parish family.

TODAY - Palm and Pussywillow branches were blessed last evening after Great Vespers. The branches will be set aside until the time when the faithful may come and take some home with them. For those who have assembled branches at home on their own, Father Gary will be reading the prayer of blessing of branches at tomorrow’s Coffee Hour.

Please refer to the adjoining “**Upcoming Service Schedule**” for the modified Holy Week and Pascha services of the upcoming Holy Week. We will continue to **serve** the Divine services and **live-stream** them via Facebook Live as long as we are able to do so. We are all looking forward to the day when we will be able to all return and worship together as a parish family. For now, we stay at home for the sake of our health and the health of our brothers and sisters.

Please consider **mailing your regular donations** to the parish to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. We now have the ability to accept **on-line donations**; visit our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these difficult times.

Confessions are being heard by Father Gary over the phone. Please make an appointment to have your confession heard before the Great and Holy Pascha. Father Gary will be available this **Monday and Wednesday** from 9am – 11am, 1pm – 3pm, and 7pm – 9pm. He will also be available this **Tuesday** from 1pm – 3pm and 7pm – 9pm. Please contact him to **schedule your confession** during these times.

We are also in the midst of creating a **Parish Directory** to be accessed by all our parishioners. Instructions for accessing the directory and updating family listings have been emailed to parishioners. During this time where connecting with each other is important, **this will prove to be an invaluable tool.** Please log in, update your information, and help make a great resource for everyone.

We will not be blessing **Pascha Baskets** this year at the Church. A prayer to be said by the faithful will be sent out this week.