

## Today's Scripture Readings

### Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

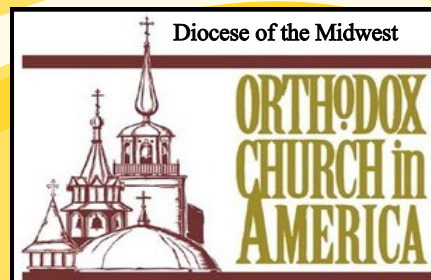
Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, 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: 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 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.

*Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!*

## Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church



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# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

April 28, 2024



## Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem Palm Sunday

*Apostles Jason & Sosipater  
of the 70*

### Divine Liturgy Readings

*(Readings on Back)*

- ◆ **Philippians 4:4-9**
- ◆ **John 12:1-18**

## Holy Week Schedule

### Monday, April 29

6:00pm - Liturgy of the  
Presanctified Gifts

### Tuesday, April 30

6:00pm - Liturgy of the  
Presanctified Gifts

### Wednesday, May 1

3:00pm - Holy Unction @ St  
Nicholas Greek OC

6:00pm - Liturgy of the  
Presanctified Gifts

### Thursday, May 2

9:00am - Vespers Liturgy  
6:00pm - Matins of Holy  
Friday w/12 Passion Gospels  
Tomb Setup

### Friday, May 3

4:00pm - Great Vespers &  
Placing of the Shroud  
6:00pm - Holy Saturday Matins  
w/Procession

### Saturday, May 4

8:00am - Vespers Liturgy  
11pm - Nocturns, Matins, Divine  
Liturgy, Blessing of Pascha Baskets  
PASCHAL FEAST

### Saturday, May 4

Noon - Agape Vespers

## Announcements:

### St. Herman's Meal

Thank you to everyone who came and helped with our St. Herman's Meal. We had a good turnout and made a delicious meal!



### Church Cleaning

Thanks to all who helped clean the church on Lazarus Saturday. And a special thank you to a couple of anonymous parishioners who came during the week and took care of a very large portion of the cleanup.

### Pascha Flowers

A special THANK YOU to Michele Kamfolt Zgonc for her generous donation towards our Pascha Flowers. This was given in memory of her family, who lived down the street from the church for many years. Thanks goes out to all who donated towards the flowers, as this year obtaining them will be more of a challenge and expense than other years, due to the fact that Easters were so far apart.

### Calendar Updates

Please note the following changes made to our parish calendar:

#### Holy Wednesday, May 1:

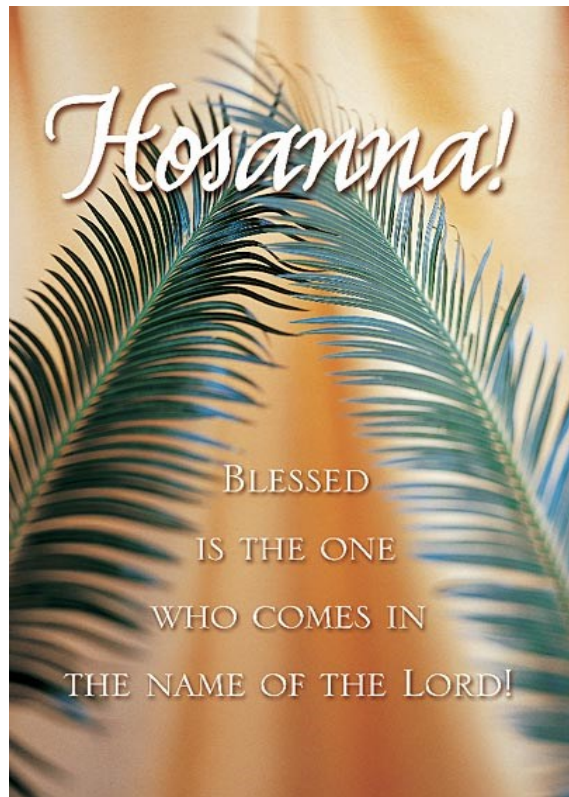
- 3:00pm Unction Service @ St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy @ Ss Peter & Paul

#### Holy Saturday, May 4:

- 8:00am Vespers Liturgy (time changed from 9am)

## Today's Feast—The Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.



The biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four of the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:12-18). Five days before the Passover, Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Him a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city.

People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teaching and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

At the outset of His public ministry Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God and announced that the powers of the age to come were already active in the present age (Luke 7:18-22). His words and mighty works were performed "to produce repentance as the response to His call, a call to an inward change of mind and heart which would result in concrete changes in one's life, a call to follow Him and accept His messianic destiny. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a messianic event, through which His divine authority was declared.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king: the Word of God made flesh. We are called to behold Him not simply as the One who came to us once riding on a colt, but as the One who is always present in His Church, coming ceaselessly to us in power and glory at every Eucharist, in every prayer and sacrament, and in every act of love, kindness and mercy. He comes to free us from all our fears and insecurities, "to take solemn possession of our soul, and to be enthroned in our heart," as someone has said. He comes not only to deliver us from our deaths by His death and Resurrection, but also to make us capable of attaining the most perfect fellowship or union with Him. He is the King, who liberates us from the darkness of sin and the bondage of death. Palm Sunday summons us to behold our King: the vanquisher of death and the giver of life.

Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life. We draw our identity from Christ and His kingdom. The kingdom is Christ - His indescribable power, boundless mercy and incomprehensible abundance given freely to man. The kingdom does not lie at some point or place in the distant future. In the words of the Scripture, the kingdom of God is not only at hand (Matthew 3:2; 4:17), it is within us (Luke 17:21). The kingdom is a present reality as well as a future realization (Matthew 6:10). Theophan the Recluse wrote the following words about the inward rule of Christ the King:

*"The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master, and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as master 'both to will and to do of his good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established."*

The kingdom of God is the life of the Holy Trinity in the world. It is the kingdom of holiness, goodness, truth, beauty, love, peace and joy. These qualities are not works of the human spirit. They proceed from the life of God and reveal God. Christ Himself is the kingdom. He is the God-Man, Who brought God down to earth (John 1:1,14).

"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not" (John 1:10-11). He was reviled and hated.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king - the Suffering Servant. We cannot understand Jesus' kingship apart from the Passion. Filled with infinite love for the Father and the Holy Spirit, and for creation, in His inexpressible humility Jesus accepted the infinite abasement of the Cross. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions and made Himself an offering for sin (Isaiah 53). His glorification, which was accomplished by the resurrection and the ascension, was achieved through the Cross.

In the fleeting moments of exuberance that marked Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world received its King, the king who was on His way to death. His Passion, however, was no morbid desire for martyrdom. Jesus' purpose was to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him.

### Icon of the Feast

In the Icon of the Feast, Christ is the central figure, depicted seated upon the colt of a donkey as He enters Jerusalem, a fulfillment of the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9. Christ is blessing with His right hand, and in His left hand is a scroll, symbolizing that He is the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah who has come to redeem us from our sins and break the power of death. The colt, one of the animals that were considered unclean according to the Law, is symbolic of the inclusion of all peoples of all nations in the new covenant that will come through the death and Resurrection of Christ (Isaiah 62:10-11). It is also a sign that our Lord has revealed a heavenly and spiritual kingdom that offers true and enduring peace.

On the right, the disciples accompany Jesus in His Triumphal Entry. Depicted on the left are the Jews who greet Him crying "Hosanna!" The word "Hosanna" means "Save, I pray" or "Save now."

The children are the small people who are greeting Christ with palm branches and laying these and their garments on the ground before Christ as tokens of honor for one who is acknowledged as a King. The city of Jerusalem is shown as the walled buildings, and the temple is depicted as the building with the dome.

### Prayers Appreciated for:

#### Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel  
Subdeacon Theophan  
Olga, Marianne,  
Mat. Krystyna  
Mat. Kathy

#### Departed:

Protopresbyter Michael  
Dallas

#### Tall Candles

Tall Candles are on order and should be arriving any day. If you would like to sponsor them for a Sunday please see Fr. Joseph

### Holy Week READINGS

#### Monday, April 29

Ven. Memnon the Wonderworker  
Matthew 24:3-35

#### Tuesday, April 30

Holy Apostle James  
Matthew 24:36-26:2

#### Wed, May 1

Prophet Jeremiah  
Matthew 26:6-16

#### Thurs, May 2

St. Matrona of Moscow  
1 Corinthians 11:23-32  
Matt. 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matt. 26:40-27:2

#### Friday, May 3

Martyrs Timothy and his wife Maura of Antinoë in Egypt  
Matt. 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matt. 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matt. 27:55-61

#### Saturday, May 4

Martyr Pelagia  
Romans 6:3-11  
Matthew 28:1-20

