

April 1, 2018

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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**The Gospel according to St. Matthew
(21:1-11, 15-17, Matins Gospel)**

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them. All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.” But when the chief priests and 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 mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?” Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. PALM SUNDAY. Ven. Mary of Egypt (522). Ven. Euthymius of Suzdal’ (1404). Martyr Abraham of Bulgaria (1229). Ven. Gerontius, Canonarch, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Ven. Macarius, Abbot of Pelecete (ca. 830). Martyrs Gerontius and Basilides (3rd c.). Righteous Achaza.

FIRST ANTIPHON

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

I suffered distress and anguish, then I called upon the Name of the Lord. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"

What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? **O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. **O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. **O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change didst become man and wast crucified, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever! (Tone 1) 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!"

Let the house of Israel say: for He is good, for His mercy endures forever! (Tone 1) 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!"

Let the house of Aaron say: for He is good, for His mercy endures forever! (Tone 1) 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!"

Let all those who fear the Lord say: for He is good, for His mercy endures forever! (Tone 1) 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!”

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Priest: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! O Son of God, Who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

TROPARIA

(Tone 1) 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!”

(Tone 4) 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!”

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION

(Tone 6) 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!”

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

v: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (4:4-9) Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance.

The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (12:1-18) Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of

costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment 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 as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, “Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.” When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass’s colt!” His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! / Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! / Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, / singing: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

COMMUNION HYMN

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Instead of “We have seen the True Light...” we sing:

(Tone 1) 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!”

Palm Sunday

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 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).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor

April 1, 2018



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health for baby, mom & dad, Amir & Rimi Abu-Aita

Amir & Rimi Abu-Aita

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Fr. Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Gloria,
Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina, Vladimir,
Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette,
Christopher, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Chris, Heather, Raegan, Nick, Cathy, George, Nadja, Sean, Auden, Jeremy,
Teri, Hayden & Lucy

Lucy Hogg

God's blessings for good health to all the Panoffs during Pascha

Angelo & Christine

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Joseph Goodman~in remembrance of his birthday March 29th


Dorothy Goodman

Blessed Repose for Mitra Tsotsos~40 days

Angelo & Christine



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall.

COFFEE HOUR  Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and bagels/donuts for the month of April. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the bagels and/or coffee.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Deodorant for the month of April. Place the items in the blue box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

ALL PARISHIONERS Your help will be needed as we get closer to Pascha. Your help will also be needed twice on Great and Holy Friday. First, after the morning Royal Hours your help will be needed to set up and decorate the Tomb of our Lord for Vespers. Second, after the Lamentations that evening your help will be needed to change over all the candles from purple to white. **The red eggs for Pascha will also be prepared this day. Please stay and lend a hand!**

HOLY FRIDAY We look to the children and young adults to assist Father during the Vespers Service (3 pm) and at the Lamentations Service (6:30 pm). As Father removes the image of the body of Christ from the Crucifix at Vespers, they help by holding the winding sheet and covering the icon for Father. And, at the evening service, the young ladies of the parish (as well as family and friends), are invited to join in by sprinkling the Tomb with Rose water during the Lamentations. After, the girls help lead the Procession by scattering flower petals before the Tomb and our other young people are invited to join in by bearing various instruments of the Passion.

HOLY WEEK & BRIGHT WEEK There is a schedule of all of the services for Holy Week and Bright Week in the narthex. Please plan to attend as many services as possible during this time.

VIGIL AT THE TOMB is Friday, April 6th & Saturday, April 7th. One hour time slots can be shared. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

CONFESSIONS The last day for Confessions before Pascha is today. Father will be available after Liturgy today to hear Confessions and this evening, before and after Bridegroom Matins.

THOMAS SUNDAY EGG HUNT Your help is needed! We need a coordinator for the event, please see Matushka Lisa for details. Monetary donations to offset the costs are welcome. We do not need any items to be donated.

GOD BLESS everyone who helped assemble the palms and pussywillows for today's Liturgy.

Weekly Schedule:

6:30 pm

PALM SUNDAY

Bridegroom Matins

Last Confessions before Pascha

Monday, April 2

9 am

6:30 pm

HOLY MONDAY

Presanctified at St. George

Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 3

9 am

6:30 pm

HOLY TUESDAY

Presanctified at St. George

Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 4

9 am

6:30 pm

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Presanctified at St. George

Holy Unction

Thursday, April 5

9 am

6:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY (Office Open)

Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Passion Matins

Friday, April 6

HOLY FRIDAY (Office Closed)

9 am

Royal Hours

Setting up of the Tomb of our Lord

3 pm

Vespers

6:30 pm

Jerusalem Matins

Changing altar cloths and candles to white

Saturday, April 7

HOLY SATURDAY

10 am

Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

12 pm

Simple Blessing of paschal foods

10:30 pm

Nocturnes

11 pm

Procession/Matins/Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 8

PASCHA

10:30 am

Paschal Hours

11 am

Paschal Vespers

Offerings for the week March 25, 2018

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,366.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	-\$ 2,668.03

89 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 25, 2018

“Through the cross, by His suffering, He calls you who are the parts of His body.”

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Trallians 11