

OUR LORD'S VOLUNTARY PASSION

Today, our Church joyfully celebrates the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. Our excitement this morning, however, pales in comparison to what we will experience next Sunday as we bask in the glorious radiance of the Resurrection of Christ. Still, we must realize that the period between these two wonderful events will take on a very different nature, for Holy Week will find us reliving every agonizing moment of our Saviour's Passion.

Our Lord has come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. More importantly, He has come to confront His enemies. He speaks out with great conviction in the Temple. He deals with His opponents face to face, openly challenging and condemning their ways. When He retires in the evening with His Apostles, Jesus instructs them about the final judgement that awaits the world, telling them to "Watch, because you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man will come."

It is during this dreaded week that the hour would come for Christ's ultimate sacrifice. With amazing speed, He will be betrayed, arrested, condemned and crucified. He will give up His Life upon the Cross. Alone and deserted . . . ridiculed and humiliated, He will breathe His last breath. While the world showed Him total disdain, our Lord showed us complete and unequivocal love.

Depicted on the cover of today's Bulletin is the image of Pontius Pilate "washing his hands" of Jesus, sealing our Saviour's fate. This is simply just one step in our Lord's VOLUNTARY Passion.



PALM SUNDAY

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

April 24, 2016.

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TODAY'S READINGS

GOSPEL: John 12, 1-18;

EPISTLE: Philippians. 4, 4-9;

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE:

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

Hymns:

Troparion:

O Christ our God, before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry the symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

O Christ our God, we have been buried with You through Baptism and by Your Resurrection, made worthy of life immortal. Praising you, we cry out, "Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Kontakion:

In Heaven He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who come to recall Adam."

Explanation of the Feast

The celebration of Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem has a very direct correlation to Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. By now, word had spread through most of Jerusalem concerning what Christ had done in Bethany and how He raised Lazarus from the dead.

**THEY SEE OUR METHODS,
HE SEES OUR MOTIVES.**

As you can imagine people were shocked and amazed. Many who had heard Christ preach and believed in Him as Lord came to worship Him. Others, who had heard of His healings and teachings came to see both Jesus and Lazarus with their own eyes – so they too can believe.

We read in the Gospel of John (12.14) how it is that Christ finds Himself riding on a young donkey and understand how it is to fulfill what was written in the scriptures. (Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt). The people's response was one of spontaneity and reverence. The crowd saw Jesus coming and looking around them picked up palms and branches, some carried them in their arms and waved them, while others placed them on the road He was taking into Jerusalem. Still others spread out their garments while all shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem is a messianic event, through which His Divine authority is declared. The events of Palm Sunday call each of us to lift up our voices and praise God; and behold our King, the Word of God made flesh. Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the Kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life.

We are all called to be active participants in this celebration. We are not simply commemorating an event which took place in the past – rather, we are called to open our hearts and our souls and joyfully welcome and praise God shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Fasting Guidelines:

According to both custom and tradition fish as well as oil and wine are permitted on Palm Sunday.

Today - Lenten Vespers at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh PA at 5:00 pm.

Holy Wednesday, April 27th - Confession 9:00 am. Presanctified Liturgy at 9:30 am.

Holy Thursday, April 28th - Confession 9:00am. Vespersal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9:30 am,

Great Vigil - Holy Passion 12 Gospels at 7:00 pm.

Holy Friday, April 29th -Royal Hours at 10:00 am; Great Vespers at 7:00 pm, Procession and Lamentations

Holy Saturday, April 30th - Confession 9:00 am. Vespersal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9:30 am,

Resurrection of Christ, Matins, with Procession at 11:30 pm.

Sunday, May 1st - Pascha - Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am.

Monday, May 2nd - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am. in the Chapel "Holy Resurrection" at the cemetery

Tuesday, May 3rd - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.

KCC NEWS anyone wishing to donate Easter Eggs please have your dyed RED EGGS delivered on Friday April 29th.

SAVE THE DATES:

CHURCH SCHOOL- The last day of Church School will be on Sunday, May 1st

ANNUAL DAN RALICH GOLF TOURNAMENT- Saturday, May 7th

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL- May 14th and 15th

TEA and TREASURE BASKETS fundraiser Sunday, June 26th from 1pm-3:30 pm

VISITS:

April 19th - Friendship Ridge - Sarah Jerich, Helen Belich, Cynthia Bratich, Ann Belich, Robin Lapcevic, Carol Kascur (Confe. & Comm.)

April 20th - Beaver Elder Care - Elizabeth Bjelac (Confe. & Comm.)

April 21st - Home - Diane Yanchik (Confe. & Comm.)

