

SAINT ANTHONY ORTHODOX CHURCH



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

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Palm Sunday: Entry of our Lord in Jerusalem 17 April 2011

*Martyr Adrian in Corinth; Agapetos, Pope of Rome; Makarios, archbishop of Corinth;
Ven. Zosima of Solovki; Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia, and those with him
(343)*

FIRST ANTIPHON

I am filled with joy, for the Lord has heard the voice of my supplication.

(R.: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The anguish of death encompassed me, the perils of hell beset me.

(R.:

I found tribulation and anguish, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. (R.:

Glory... Now and ever... (R.:

SECOND ANTIPHON

I believed and therefore have I spoken: but I was deeply humiliated. What shall I render to the Lord, for all His benefits to me? (R.: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of a donkey; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (R.:

I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people. (R.:

Glory... Now and ever... (Only begotten Son ...)

THIRD ANTIPHON

O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

Troparion of Lazarus (see below)

Let the house of Israel now say that He is good: for His mercy ...

Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good: for His mercy ...

Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good: for His mercy ...

AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord: the Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of a donkey; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

TROPARION OF LAZARUS (Tone 1): O Christ God, when Thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like children, carry the insignia of triumph and victory, and cry to Thee, O Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

TROPARION OF PALM SUNDAY (Tone 4): O Christ God, when we were buried with Thee in Baptism, we became deserving of Thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore, we praise Thee, crying: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN (Tone 6): Upborne upon the heavenly throne, and seated upon the earthly foal, O Christ our God, receive the praises of angels and the hymns of men, exclaiming before Thee: Blessed is He that cometh to restore Adam.

SPECIAL HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS (Tone 4):

God the Lord hath appeared unto us! Let us celebrate the Feast, and let us rejoice and magnify Christ. With palms and branches let us raise our voices unto Him with praise, saying, Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

LIVING: We pray for the health and well being of Judy, Rachel (Seba's niece), Mary Ann, Bill, Sula, Nancy, Fran, Dolores (Sipos), Dolores (Bingham), Angelica, Diane, Karyn, Brian, Maria, Marius, Justin, Sara, and the baby Christina.

DEPARTED: Petruța, Peter, Michael, William, Mariana, James, Mary Ann, Joseph, Katherine.

TODAY'S APOSTLE READING

Prokeimenon:

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians

(Phil 4:4-9)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul keeps reminding us of something fundamental in our Christians faith: "Rejoice! And again I say to you: rejoice!" We do well to remember that our faith is called "the *good* news" and that the first ones who received it—the Theotokos and the shepherds—are told to *rejoice* over it. Indeed, with the coming of Christ, creation was called, first of all, to rejoice.

In the midst of daily agitation, assaulted by all kinds of troubles, and aware, more and more, of our own flaws, we sometimes forget the broader picture and the deeper truth of our lives. It is a bit like Lent: we sometimes

forget that the Great Fast is an avenue to Pascha. Likewise, we often forget that the course of our life is an opportunity to enter the Resurrection; or, as Scripture puts it, "to enter our master's joy" (Mat 25:21). Our call is to be resurrected into a new and imperishable life, to be with Christ and with our loved ones, in a state of never-setting joy; and to journey towards the Resurrection by gradually tasting more and more of it here and now.

So, we have good reason to rejoice. Our Maker is a good and gracious Lord, who loves us unconditionally and who wishes to restore our lives, to heal us; despite the brokenness that comes from the Fall, life is not pointless and we are not out of place here and now: living with Christ, our destination is a good one. Let us then rejoice and keep rejoicing as we move one step closer to the Resurrection.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from the Gospel according to Saint John
(John 12:1-18)

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him. On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches 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." Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written: "Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass's colt." His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him. So the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from death continued to testify. This was also why the crowd went to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign.

This last Gospel of Lent—it is true: Great Lent ends with Palm Sunday; what follows is the Fast of Passion Week—prepares us for some of the main topics that the Scriptures and the services of Holy Week will revolve around. The woman who anoints Christ's feet; Judas, the hypocritical disciple who argues that the money for costly perfume should have been spent on charity, but ends up betraying his Master and selling him as one would sell a slave; Lazarus, the friend of Christ, raised miraculously from the dead; and the disciples of the Lord. We'll hear more from and about these characters in the coming days.

For now, let us be mindful of the crowd. **"The large crowd found out that he was there and came"; "when the great crowd heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him"; "the crowd was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb"; "the crowd went to meet him."** It is surely not by accident that "the crowd," as a collective character, is mentioned so often in today's Gospel. The atmosphere is festive, the air is filled with enthusiasm at the Lord's entry into Jerusalem.

But the crowd is fickle. In less than a week, these people will be in a frenzy once again, shouting not "Hosanna!" but "Crucify him!" Fickle, also, are the disciples: now they are following their teacher, who is welcomed into the city as king of the Jews; but in less than a week they will all desert him, so that the Lord of Israel will be mocked and will die almost alone. For our part, if we think we are better than that, we are mistaken. Peter bragged about the fact that, even though everybody else would desert Jesus, he would stay faithful; yet, he soon denied ever to have known "this man" (Mk 14:71). The fact is that faithfulness to Christ is difficult; only by cooperating with God's grace can we become and remain His disciples.

This Sunday's warning is also a call for next week. If we truly are and want to be Christians, then let us avoid the superficial and fleeting

enthusiasm of the crowd; let us watch and pray with Him during His Passion, so that we may meet Him again at the Resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA:			
WED, 4/20	7pm	Service of Holy Unction	
TH,	4/21	6:30pm	Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels
FRI,	4/22	4:30pm 6:30pm	Vespers Service of the Lamentations
SAT,	4/23	11:00pm	Ceremony of Light, Matins, Divine Liturgy Blessing of baskets, potluck meal
SUN, 4/24	NO SERVICE AT CHURCH! Visitation of the shut-ins, to bring them the Good News of the Resurrection.		

Confession: During Holy Week, Fr. Bogdan will hear confessions on Thursday and Friday before and after services, and on Saturday morning.