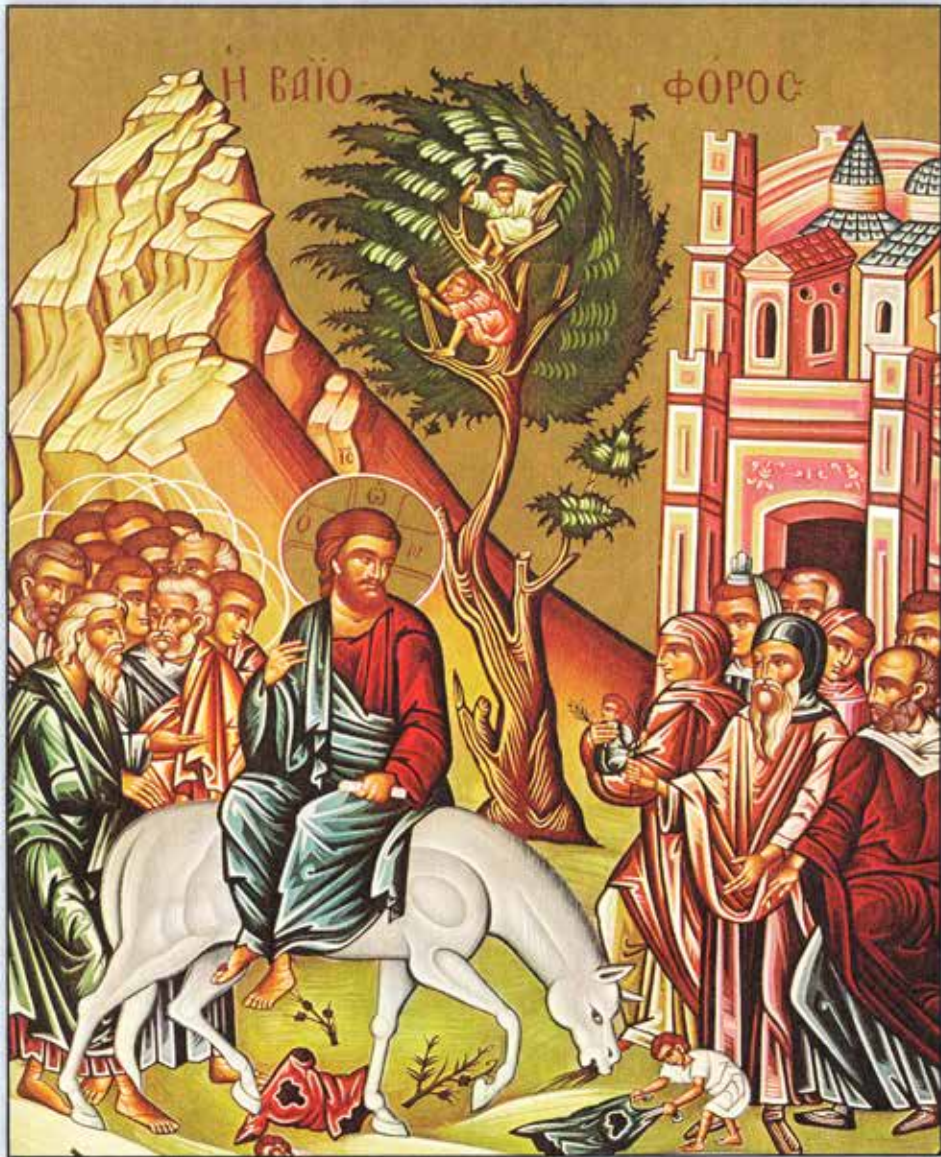


PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY
THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem



April 13, 2014

*FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY – FESTAL TONE
THE HIEROMARTYR ARTEMON AND HIS COMPANIONS*



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK, APRIL 14 – APRIL 20

MONDAY, APRIL 14 – **GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY**; OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS
MARTIN, CONFESSOR, POPE OF ROME; AND THE NEW MARTYRS ANTHONY,
JOHN AND EUSTATHIUS

6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 – **GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY**; THE HOLY APOSTLES ARISTARCHUS,
PUDENS AND TROPHIMUS

9:30 AM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 – **GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY**; THE HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR
AGAPIA, IRENE AND CHIONIA

9:30 AM – Bridegroom Matins and Holy Mystery of Anointing

6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 – **GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY**; OUR VENERABLE FATHER SIMEON
OF PERSIA; OUR VENERABLE FATHER ACACIUS, BISHOP OF MELITENE

9:30 AM – Matins of Betrayal

6:30 PM – Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil followed by the Holy Mystery of
Repentance

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 – **GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY**; OUR VENERABLE FATHER JOHN, DISCIPLE
OF ST. GREGORY THE DECAPOLITE

9:30 AM – Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels)

6:30 PM – Vespers of the Passion and Procession with the Shroud followed by
the Holy Mystery of Repentance

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 – **GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY**; OUR VENERABLE FATHER JOHN OF
THE ANCIENT CAVE

9:30 AM – Jerusalem Matins

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 – **THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF PASCHA** - THE RESURRECTION IN THE
FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

7:30 AM – Paschal Matins

9:00 AM – Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Baskets

PASCHAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters, Dearly Beloved in Christ
of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Christ is Risen!

*Yesterday I was buried with You O Christ,
Today I rise with You as you arise.
Yesterday I was crucified with You;
Glorify me, O Savior, in Your Kingdom.
(Paschal Matins, Resurrection Canon, Ode 3)*

Beloved in Christ,

In the midst of this year's challenges and uncertainty, Pascha, "the day which the Lord has made" (Ps 117:24), is for us a day of inexpressible joy and hope. On the brightest feast of Christ's Resurrection, our Holy Church celebrates the mystery of opposites reconciled: burial and resurrection, death and life, crucifixion and glory, sorrow and joy. This is the great Paschal Mystery – that the very Son of God becomes one of us, dies, as we do, so that we can rise up, as He has done. Christ undertakes his way of the Cross in our name and for our sake, granting us a share in His glorious resurrection and new life in God. Thus, the cross and resurrection are inseparable. They touch not only the person of Christ: in a mystical manner they touch all humankind, they touch each one of us. The event, which took place in the life of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, has gathered unto itself the entire span of human history, all suffering from the past and the future, and transfigures it into a new life, a new joy. The Risen Lord reaches into the core of our personal history. He, we can say, experiences our suffering and degradation, while at the same time we are co-crucified and co-condemned with Him. Indeed, yesterday we were buried with Him, today we rise with Him resurrected

*Yesterday I was buried with You O Christ ...
Yesterday I was crucified with You.*

Jesus Christ by the power and action of the Holy Spirit is present in the history of our Church and our nation. His and our way of the cross we know well. It was not that long ago, that our Church and our people were tortured and crucified, we were subject to false accusations,

were shot at and thrown in prison. However, we lived through it all and, thanks be to God, were reborn into a new life as a community of Christ's disciples. Indeed, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the legalization and rebirth of our Church on its native land. Therefore, let us send up prayers to the Almighty, thanking Him for the grace and strength, which helped our people withstand terrible trials and suffering. This victory is a sign of the active presence of the risen Savior among us in the distant and not so distant past, but it is also a pledge for the future of our people and their indomitable nature.

Today once again they threaten us with weapons and frighten us with a breakup of the country and the seizure of churches. But Christ is with us also today! He receives our pain as if the injuries were given to Him personally. It was He who was harmed when the youth were attacked on the Maidan. It was He who became destitute when the wealth of the people was pilfered by a corrupt leadership. It was He who was imprisoned and unjustly convicted, who was exposed naked in the freezing cold, kidnapped and tortured. He was the first victim of the Heavenly Hundred. His words on the cross resonate in the conscience of all people of faith in Ukraine: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing!" (Lk 23:34). These words are directed first of all towards those civil and church leaders, our own and of our neighbors, who incite people to blind aggression and hate: "Crucify, crucify him!" (Lk 23:21). However, the power of human malice, falsehood and aggression is nothing when compared to the power of God's truth and love. It is Christ who raises us up, both as Church and as a people. As in the Resurrection good overcomes evil, so in our history love will defeat malice and hate, peace overcome all threats of war.

Today I rise with You as You arise.

The power of weapons disappears before the glory of the Risen One, for “today I arise with You as You arise.” We all sense this, both in our native Ukraine, as well as abroad. The power of Christ’s resurrection today is our hope in our ecclesial, social and personal life. We have no help that is more secure or powerful – neither international diplomacy, nor the strength of military powers or human agreements, which seem ready to sell out the One who is Priceless for thirty pieces of silver. In His resurrection, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ brings together as one people those, who once stood against one another: “There is neither Jew nor Greek ... there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3:28)

May our openness, renewed through God’s love, to all people without exception be a sign of our “rising” with the Risen Savior, who raises us from the “tomb” of sin. Let us love and embrace all who are near, in our village, town, city, region, and throughout our Land. Let us learn to respect and love those who are different from us: who think differently, hold different customs or speak another language – for that is the glory of the Risen One. To all people, even those who have malice in their heart and accuse us unjustly, today we proclaim the joyful news of the resurrection. For overcoming evil and hate through God’s love and mercy is a sign of the resurrection.

Glorify me, O Saviour, in your Kingdom.

According to ancient church tradition, St. Andrew, standing on the hills of Kyiv foresaw God’s great glory for our nation: “You see these hills? Upon them the grace of God will shine, here there will be a great city, and God will raise many churches.” The brilliance of grace of which our apostle speaks is the light of Christ’s resurrection, which never ceased to shine upon our land, even in the darkest periods of national and church life. In us are fulfilled the words of the Gospel, which we hear during the Easter Liturgy, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5). Our patriarchal Cathedral-Sobor of the Resurrection of Christ, which we consecrated last year, is a reflection of the heavenly glory of the Risen Savior. It is for us a loving witness to Christ’s victory, a pledge to the immortal character of

our people and a sign of unity among all the children of our Church – in Ukraine and abroad.

Today, on this joyful feast of Christ’s Resurrection, let us ask our Savior that the light of His resurrection shine upon our land with renewed strength, that it conquer the darkness of sin, discord, fear and despair, and strengthen all of us by the power of the Holy Spirit to build up a truly free and God-blessed nation. And may our spiritual unity allow us to restore and renew our state structures according to divine truths and divine law. Wherever we may be – in Ukraine or abroad – let us remember the vocation which flows from our Christian and national experience, that is: to witness to the unconquerable power of Christ’s resurrection, to the inevitable victory of truth over falsehood, love over hate, good over evil, life over death.

With these thoughts I am united with you in prayer and Paschal joy, love and hope, wishing each of you a peaceful and blessed Resurrection of our Lord. I embrace you all with the Paschal greeting! On this day, may the sad rejoice, may the frightened experience the sureness of Christian hope. In prayer I reach out to the wounded and suffering, to the imprisoned and those exiled from their homes, to our soldiers and those who stand on guard for the dignity of the human person in Ukraine. To all of you I wish an abundance of Paschal gifts, which our Lord provides.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God,

7 April (25 March), 2014 A.D.

ВЕЛИКОДНЄ ПОСЛАННЯ БЛАЖЕННІШОГО СВЯТОСЛАВА

Високопреосвященним і Преосвященним владикам,
всесвітлішим, всечеснішим і преподобним отцям,
преподобним ченцям і черницям, дорогим у Христі мирянам
Української Греко-Католицької Церкви

Христос воскрес!

*Вчора нас поховано з Тобою, Христе, -
Встаємо сьогодні з Тобою воскреслим,
Бо вчора нас з Тобою розп'ято.
Тож і нас прослав, Спасе, у царстві Твоїм
(Пісня з Канону Воскресної Утрени).*

Дорогі в Христі!

Попри всі цьогорічні випробування і непевність, Великдень – «день, що його учинив Господь» (Пс. 117, 24) – є для нас часом невимовної радості й надії. У світлий празник Воскресіння Христового свята Церква оспівує таїнство поєднання протилежностей: поховання і воскресіння, смерті і життя, розп'яття і слави, смутку і радості. У тому й полягає велике пасхальне таїнство, що сам Син Божий стає одним із нас, вмирає, подібно як ми, щоб ми могли воскреснути, як Він! Христос проходить свою хресну дорогу за нас і на наше благо, даруючи нам своє світле воскресіння та нове життя в Бозі. Отже, хрест і воскресіння нерозлучні. Вони стосуються не лише Христа: у таїнственный спосіб зачіпають усе людство і кожного з нас зокрема. Подія, яка відбулася в житті Ісуса Христа, – Його смерть і воскресіння, – увібрала в себе всю історію людства, усі страждання, як минулого, так і прийдешнього, і преображає їх у нове життя, у нову радість. Воскреслий Христос входить у серцевину особистої історії кожного з нас, Він, можна сказати, переживає наші страждання і приниження: ми водночас із Ним розп'яті й засуджені, та разом із Ним підіймаємося з гробу і воскресемо. Вчора нас із Ним було поховано, а сьогодні – встаємо із Ним воскреслим.

Вчора нас поховано з Тобою, Христе... вчора нас з Тобою розп'ято.

Ісус Христос силою і діянням Святого Духа присутній в історії нашої Церкви і нашого народу. Ми добре знаємо цей Його і наш хресний шлях. Ще в недавньому минулому

нашу Церкву і наш народ катували й розпинали, ложно свідчили на нас, у нас стріляли і кидали в тюрми. Однак ми все це пережили і, дякувати Богу, відродилися до нового життя спільноти Христових учнів. Якраз цього року минає 25-річчя легалізації та відродження нашої Церкви на рідній землі. Тож засилаймо молитви до престолу Всевишнього, дякуючи Йому за благодать і силу, яка допомогла нашому народові вистояти серед жакливих випробувань і страждань. Ця перемога – знак дієвої присутності воскреслого Спасителя між нами в далекому і недавньому минулому, а водночас запорака нездоланності нашого народу і в майбутньому.

Сьогодні знову нам погрожують зброєю і залякують розділом країни та захопленням храмів. Але Христос і сьогодні є з нами! Наші болі Він приймає так, немовби це Йому особисто завдавали рани. Це Його було зневажено побиттям молоді на Майдані. Це Його зробили нужденним, коли добро народу розкрадала корумпована влада. Це Його ув'язнювали та несправедливо засуджували, виставляли нагим на морозі і катували викраденням. Це Він – перша жертва Небесної сотні. Його слова на хресті, що звучать сьогодні в сумлінні віруючих людей України, – «Отче, відпусти їм, не знають бо, що роблять!» (Лк. 23, 34), – стосуються насамперед тих державних і церковних лідерів, своїх і сусідніх, які підбурюють народ до сліпої агресії та ненависті: «Розіпни, розіпни Його!» (Лк. 23, 21). Однак сила людської злоби, брехні і насильства є нічим порівняно із силою Божої правди й любові. Це Христос нас сьогодні підносить, і як Церкву, і як народ. Як у Воскресінні добро долає зло, так і в нашій історії любов переможе злобу й ненависть, а мир – усіякі погрози війною.

Встаємо сьогодні з Тобою воскреслим.

Сила зброї никне перед славою Воскреслого, бо «сьогодні встаємо з Тобою воскреслим». Усі ми це відчуваємо, на рідній землі і на поселеннях. Сила Христового воскресіння сьогодні є нашою надією в церковному, суспільному та особистому житті. Не маємо певнішої і сильнішої допомоги – ні в міжнародній дипломатії, ні в силі військових потуг чи людських домовленостей, які готові за тридцять срібняків виставити ціну Неоціненному. У своєму воскресінні Христос силою Святого Духа чинить єдиним народом тих, хто колись протистояв один одному: «Нема юдея ані грека... ні чоловіка ані жінки, бо всі ви одно у Христі Ісусі» (Гал. 3, 28).

Знаком нашого «вставання» з воскреслим Спасителем, який підносить нас із «гробу» гріха, нехай стане наше оновлене Божою любов'ю ставлення до всіх без винятку людей. Любімо і обіймімо кожного, хто є поруч, у нашому селі, містечку, місті, у нашій області та на всій нашій Землі. Учімося поважати і любити того, хто відрізняється від нас: думає по-іншому, дотримується інших звичаїв чи розмовляє іншою мовою – саме це є свідченням слави Воскреслого! Усім людям, навіть тим, хто має злобу в серці і несправедливо нас обвинувачує, ми сьогодні проголошуємо радісну вістку про воскресіння. Бо ж знаком воскресіння є перемагати сили зла і ненависті Божою любов'ю та милосердям.

Тож і нас прослав, Спасе, у царстві Твоїм.

За давнім церковним переказом, св. Андрій, ставши на київських горах, передбачив велику Божу славу для нашої країни: «Бачите ці гори? На них засяє благодать Божа, тут буде велике місто, і Бог спорудить багато церков». Сяйво Божої

благодаті, про яке згадує наш апостол, – це світло Христового воскресіння, яке ніколи не переставало променіти над нашою землею, навіть у найтемніші періоди нашого національного і церковного буття. На нас сповнилися євангельські слова, що їх ми чуємо під час Пасхальної Літургії: «Світло світить у темряві і темрява його не подолала» (пор. Ів. 1, 5). Відблиском небесної слави воскреслого Спасителя є і наш Патріарший

собор Воскресіння Христового, який ми посвятили минулого року. Він є для нас живим свідченням Христової перемоги, запорукою невмирущості нашого народу та знаком єднання всіх дітей нашої Церкви – в Україні і на поселеннях суцях.

Сьогодні, у цей радісний день Воскресіння Христового, благаймо нашого Спасителя, щоб світло Його воскресіння знову силою засяяло над нашим краєм, щоб подолало темряву гріха, незгоди, страху і зневіри та скріпило всіх нас силою Святого Духа на розбудову справді вільної і Богом благословленої держави. Молімося особливо про дар єдності та однодумності для нашого народу. А ця наша духовна єдність дозволить нам відродити і оновити всі державні інституції на основі Божої правди і Божого закону. Хоч би де ми були, – чи в Україні, чи на поселеннях, – пам'ятаймо про своє покликання, що впливає з нашого християнського та національного досвіду, а саме: свідчити про нездоланну силу Христового воскресіння, про неминучу перемогу правди над брехнею, любові над ненавистю, добра над злом, життя над смертю.

Із такими думками єднаюся з вами в молитві і пасхальній радості, у любові та надії, бажаючи кожному з вас мирного і благословенного Воскресіння Христового. Пасхальним привітом обіймаю всіх вас! Нехай цього дня засмучені зрадіють, стривожені відчують певність християнської надії. Молитвою лину до поранених і страждених, ув'язнених і вигнаних із рідної домівки, наших воїнів і всіх, хто стоїть на сторожі гідності людської особи в Україні. Усім вам зичу щедро поданих Господом пасхальних дарів.

Благодать воскреслого Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, любов Бога-Отця і причастя Святого Духа нехай буде з усіма вами.

Христос воскрес! – Воістину воскрес!

+ СВЯТОСЛАВ

Дано в Києві,

*при Патріаршому соборі Воскресіння
Христового, на свято Благовіщення
Пречистої Діви Марії, 7 квітня 2014 року
Божого*

Looking Ahead:

❖ April 27th – Parish Sviachenne Meal

THANK YOU!
TO STEPHEN HOJSAN, LUKE MILLER, MICHAEL MILLER AND OLENA BANKSTON WHO HELPED TO CLEAN UP THE CHURCH GROUNDS YESTERDAY. YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY US ALL!

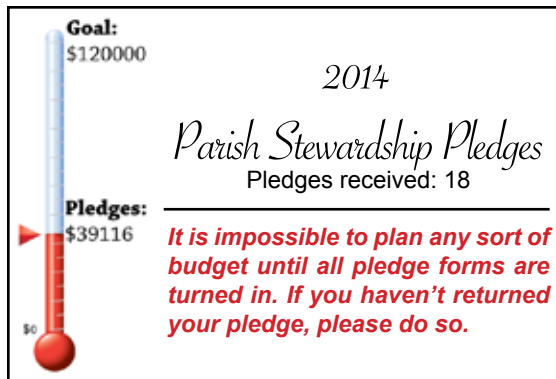
Flower Collection

Special envelopes are available in the back of the church do help with the purchase of flowers for the Feast of Pascha.



“The ideal of spirituality is to be found in the first and last words of Our Lord’s public life. The first word of His public life was: ‘come’ (John 1:39; Mark 1:17; Matthew 4:18). The last word was ‘go’ (John 20:21; Mark 16:20; Matthew 28:19). The disciple first comes to absorb His Truth, to become inflamed with His Love; then and then only, he goes to accomplish his mission. Both words are summarized in the summary of the call of the disciples: He called the men He wanted; and they went and joined Him.... these He would send out to proclaim the Gospel (Mark 3:14). Unfortunately today, we have too many ‘go-goes’ and not enough ‘come-comes.’ The proper balance is found again in the story of Martha and Mary which follows in the Gospel the Good Samaritan. In the latter, social service is praised. But in the story of Martha and Mary, it is suggested that we have become too absorbed in serving that we have no time to sit at the foot of Jesus and learn His lessons.”

Venerable Fulton Sheen (Those Mysterious Priests)



Share 2014

Stewardship involves a willingness to give from the very core of who we are and what we have, from substance rather than abundance. Please support **Share 2014 – Annual Eparchial Appeal** as best as you can.

Провідництво виликає бажання поділитися, від усього серця; не від достатку, а від можливостей. Вдова, що віддала до казни свої останні кілька монет знає це: “Усі бо кидали з свого надміру, вона ж з убогства свого все, що мала, вкинула, - увесь свій прожиток” (Марка 12:44). Підтримайте, будь ласка, наскільки можете **Share 2014 - Єпархіальний Заклик**.

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chairpersons:

Olga & Michael Miller:

(858) 483-3294

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698

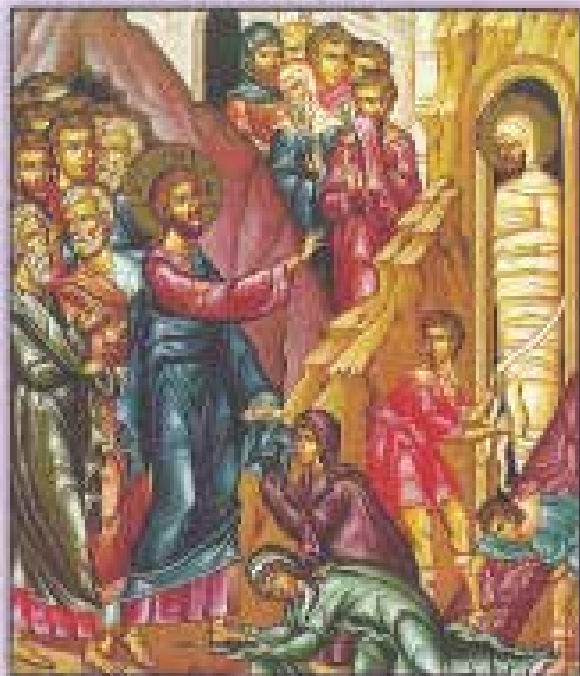
Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667

THE GREAT WEEK THE HOLY DAYS OF OUR LORD'S PASSION

Lazarus Saturday

Taking pity on the tears of Martha and Mary, O Christ our God, you ordered the stone to be rolled away from the tomb; by your call, You raised the dead man and broke the bolts of Hades to establish our faith in the life-giving resurrection of all. Glory to your power, O Savior; glory to your sovereign majesty; glory to You, for by your word, You uphold the whole world.

O Fountain of wisdom and eternal knowledge, arriving at Bethany, You asked those who were with Martha: Where have you placed Lazarus, my friend? You wept tears of compassion over the one who had been dead four days; and, by your voice, You raised him, O Giver of life and compassionate Lord.

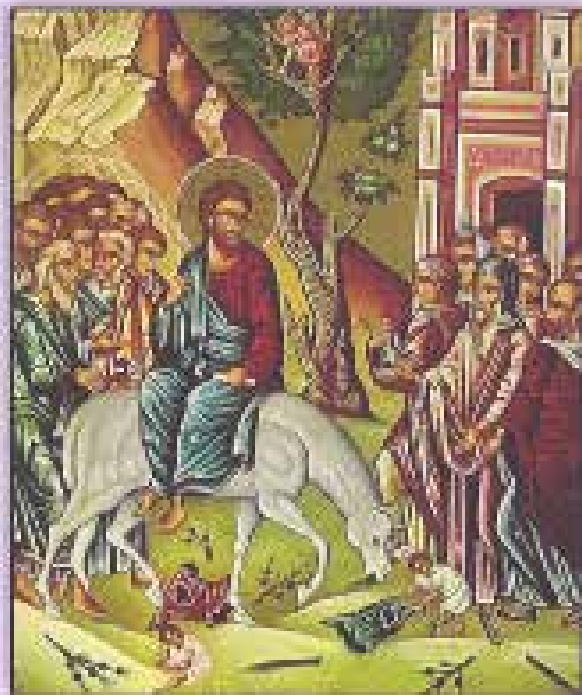


Palm Sunday

The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Carrying palms in spirit and with our souls purified, as the children of old, let us praise Christ in faith; and let us sing to Him with a full voice: Blessed are You, O Savior, who comes into this world to save Adam from the ancient curse, and who have willed to become the new spiritual Adam. O Word, You have fulfilled all things for our salvation, glory to You.

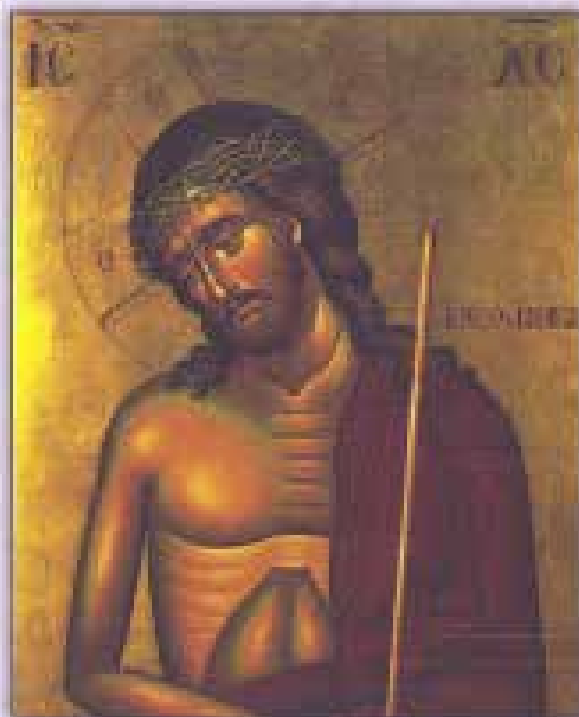
O peoples and nations, sing with one voice: The King of the angels comes, seated upon the colt of a donkey, to conquer the Enemy by the power of the Cross. The children carry palms and cry out to Him: Glory, victory and welcome; glory to You, O Christ our Savior; glory and praise to our only God!



Great and Holy Monday

*Commemoration of the unproductive fig tree: the Lord Jesus curses as He walks outside Jerusalem.
(Mt 21:18)*

The coming day begins with the beginning of the Passion of the Lord. Come, let us celebrate this mystery; let us go meet Him with our hymns. For the Creator draws near to annul the Cross, led before Pilate. He submits to the questions, the whipping and the judgments: struck by a servant, He endures all to save the human race. Therefore, we cry out to Him: O Christ our God, the Lover of Humankind, grant the forgiveness of their sins to those who venerate your holy Passion with faith.

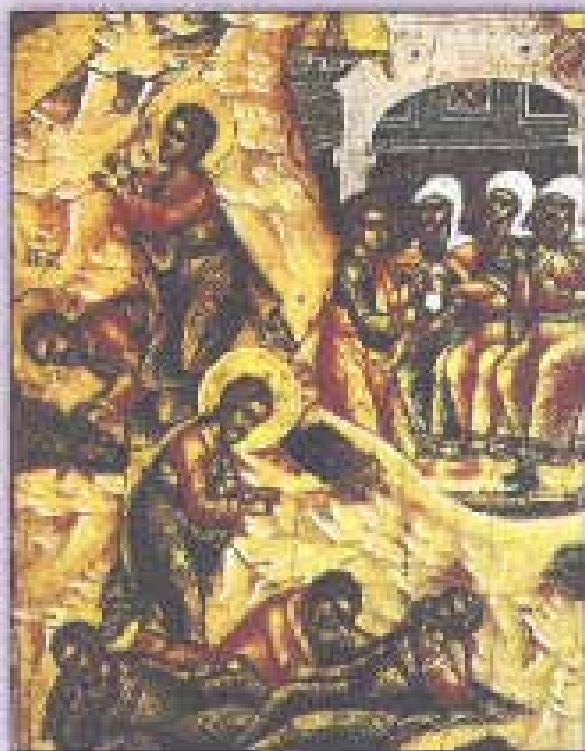


Great and Holy Tuesday

Commemoration of the Lord's parable of the Ten Wise Virgins (Mt 25:14)

The priests, scribes and the council of the impious have gathered against You, O God our Savior; through jealousy they persuaded Judas to betray You; he was not ashamed to go out and speak against You, saying to the lawless ones: What will you give me if I hand Him over to you? O Lord, spare our souls from such a condemnation.

Impelled by his burning love of money, the impious Judas ponders and plots the betrayal of his Master. He falls from light into darkness; he sells the One who is beyond all price; and for the price of his betrayal, the miserable one meets death through hanging. Spare us this same destiny, O Christ our God, and grant the forgiveness of sins to those who with love praise your holy Passion.

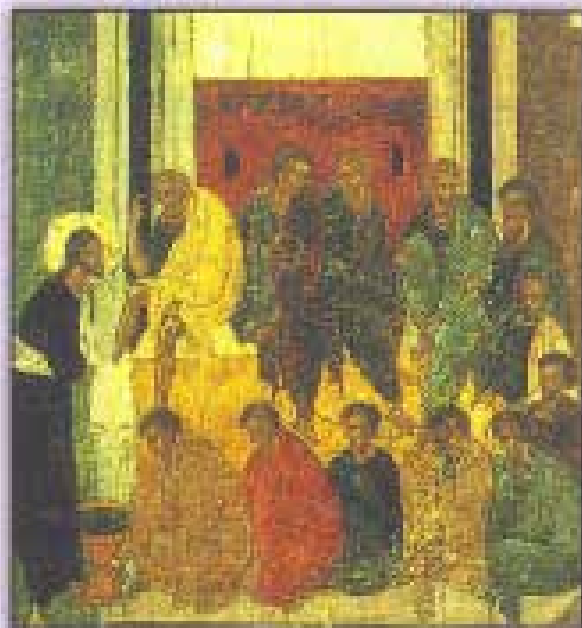


Great and Holy Wednesday

Commemoration of the betrayal of our Lord by Judas, and the anointing of our Lord by Mary at Bethany

The harlot crew near to You, O God of goodness, to pour upon your feet the precious ointment along with her tears; at your command, she was delivered from the scourge of evil; but the ungrateful disciple who was filled with your grace, turned away from You and sank into the mire by betraying You through his greed. Glory to your infinite mercy, O Christ.

With her sighs the sinful woman cried out to You, O God of goodness; and as she fervently cried your most pure feet: with her hair, she said from the depths of her heart: Do not scorn me, my God, nor cast me far from You; but accept my repentance, and in your goodness, save me.

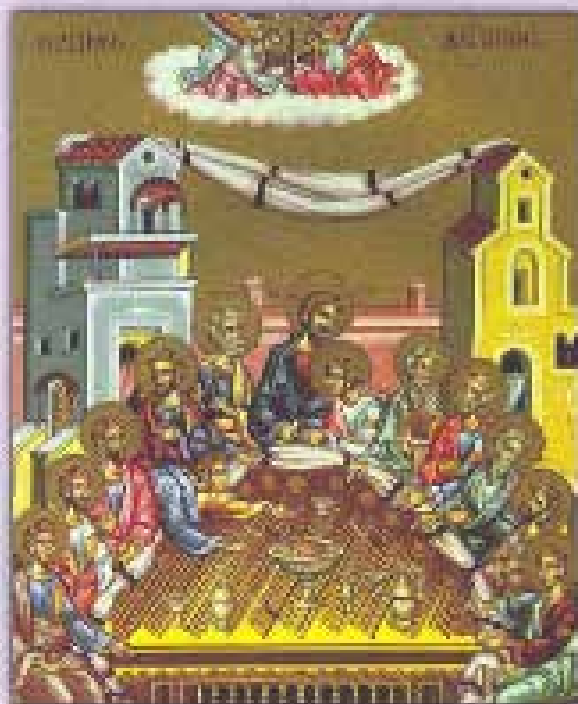


Great and Holy Thursday

Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, and the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus

He who made the hills, the springs and the seas, shows us the greatest humility: He girds himself with a linen cloth and washes the feet of his disciples; in his infinite mercy, He lowers himself, and He draws us up from the abyss of evil, for He alone is the Lover of Humankind.

In your mercy, You humbled yourself and washed the feet of your disciples, thus preparing them to walk in the divine footsteps. Peter at first refused to be washed, but then obeyed your divine command; and while you were washing him, O Lord, he earnestly begged You to grant us your great mercy.

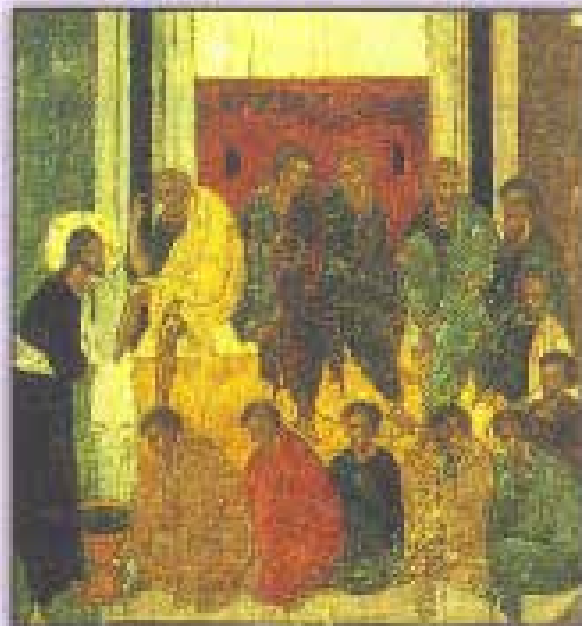


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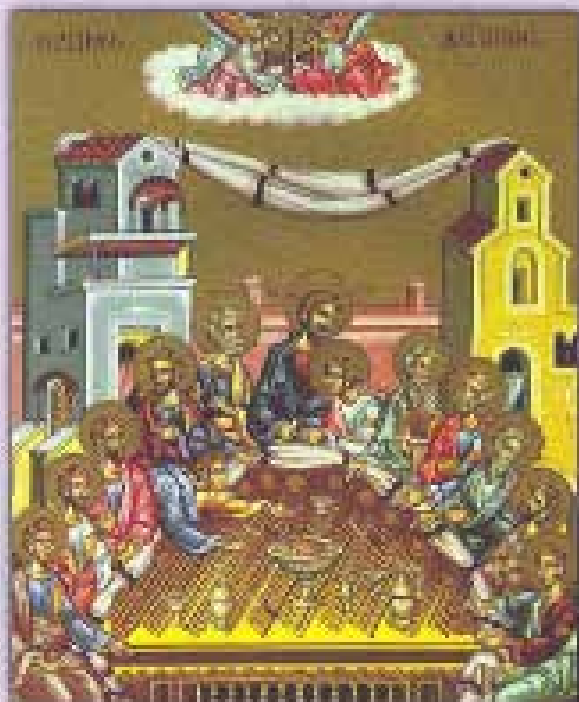


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Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today He returns from Bethany and proceeds of His own free will toward His holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with Himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of His own free will to make His journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: He will not dispute or raise His voice to make it heard in the streets. He will be meek and humble, and He will make His entry in simplicity.

Let us run to accompany Him as He hastens toward His passion, and imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him by being humble and by trying to live as He would

wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at His coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

So let us spread before His feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.

St. Andrew of Crete