

EPISTLE 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.

TODAY'S READER: JEANNE KITSOULIS

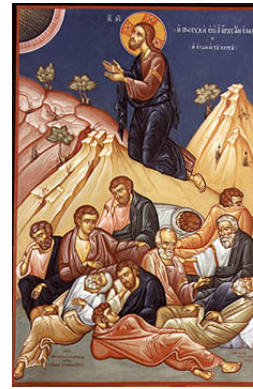
GOSPEL John 12:1-18

Six days before 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 donkey and sat upon 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 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.



Behold! the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy! Holy! Holy! art Thou, O our God. Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us!"

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Catherine Duple, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios



"CAN YOU NOT WATCH WITH ME.....?"

One of the saddest parts about the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ, was his abandonment by all those who professed belief in His word and His life. Those who did not believe could be excused in their ignorance. It was those who confessed their faith in him, indeed, their love for Him, who were the first to *run*. His disciples were nowhere to be found at the foot of the Cross. Only one, John the Beloved, stood there witnessing the wondrous yet thoroughly painful act of love. It was as if, when hardship was asked of them, when discipleship meant it would *cost them something*, they vanished. Was it fear? Was it intimidation by secular authorities? Was it weakness of faith? Whatever it was, the result is clear: JESUS WAS ALONE. The lesson of this scriptural passage for us this week is poignant. Will WE watch with him? Will we be there to remember his fate? Will we, who profess belief in Him, be there through it all? Or will we, like those first disciples, leave him alone? Will we crowd out the Divine Services, making room instead for dozens of other things to do? At first the disciples were caught sleeping while Jesus kept vigil in prayer. Will the Lord find us asleep this week? Will He find us seeking comfort after a hard day's work — or will He find us keeping vigil here, in His house, in prayer and solidarity with Him? Even if we find that we didn't keep the Lenten fast or that we did not attend the Lenten services, the Lord calls us this week to journey with Him. "Can you not watch with me one hour...." It was those who didn't keep that watch with Jesus who, the next day, ran away from Him. What will you do this week? How will you prepare yourself for Pascha? Will you watch with the Suffering Servant? His one act of love brought us life that will never end. Will you watch with him this week?



DIVINE SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

- This evening, March 28: Palm Sunday**
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service 7:00pm
- Monday, March 29 – Holy Monday**
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service 7:00pm
- Tuesday, March 30 – Holy Tuesday**
Nymphios/Bridegroom Service 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 31 – Holy Wednesday**
1st Holy Unction Service 3:00pm
2nd Holy Unction Service 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 1 – Holy Thursday**
1st Liturgy of St. Basil 6:30am-8:00am
2nd Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30am-11:00am
(Followed by Dying of the Red Eggs)
Holy Passion & Twelve Gospels 7:00pm
- Friday, April 2 – Good Friday**
Decorating of the Kouvouklion 9:00am
Royal Hours 8:30am
Apokatheilosis 3:00pm
(The Unnailing of Jesus Christ from the Cross)
Lamentations {Grand Hall} 7:00pm
Lamentations {Main Sanctuary} 7:00pm
- Saturday, April 3 – Holy Saturday**
Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30am
The Canon of Pascha 11:00pm
Resurrection & Divine Liturgy Midnight
- Sunday, April 4 – The Feast of Feasts**
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
Agape Service 11:00am

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

ORTHODOX INQUIRY

If you or anyone you may know are interested in embracing Holy Orthodoxy and being baptized or chrismated, please contact Fr. Dimitrios at 301-469-7990 or by email at FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS- OUR EASTER BAKE SALE TAKES PLACE IN THE FOUNDERS' HALL AFTER LITURGICAL SERVICES **TODAY-** We have done all the baking for you so you can enjoy more time with family! Come purchase your traditional easter baked goods freshly and lovingly made for you by the Ladies Philoptochos. We will also have Tsourekia available for purchase! We wish you all a blessed Holy Week. Thank you for your support.

PASCHA FLOWER FUND Please make a donation to our annual Pascha Flower Fund in order to assist us in making the celebration of the Lord's Rising extra special. Checks may be made out to the Ladies Philoptochos and should specify **Pascha Flower Fund**.

ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL The annual St. George Spring Festival is fast approaching (**April 30, May 1 and May 2**). Many volunteers will be needed. Volunteers are also needed to work the festival. Please contact Catherine Sarlis in the Church Office (301-469-7990). Please give of your time to help us prepare for the festival!

HOPE/JOY (children ages 4-11) We hope you can make it to our bowling party on Monday, March 29 from 4:00 – 6:00 at the "300" bowling alley on Shady Grove Rd. The cost is \$12/per person and includes 1 1/2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, and food. Please RSVP to Tina Papagiannopoulos (tina.papas@verizon.net or 301-279-7993) if your children can attend, and please include the shoe sizes your family will need. **ON GOOD FRIDAY, FROM 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. THERE WILL BE THE JOY/HOPE RETREAT.** Please make sure your children join us on this holy day for the retreat. As in years past, JOY and HOPE families are asked to donate plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy to use for the Easter egg hunt, which will take place at the playground immediately following the Agape service on Pascha. Please drop off the plastic eggs to the church by Friday, April 2nd. Thanks for helping make this an event that the kids look forward to every year. Also, we need volunteers to help out with the Kids Corner at the festival (April 30 - May 2). Please contact Connie Karageorgis (reachconnie@verizon.net or 301-610-5640) for available shifts. Our next regular meeting will be held on Friday, April 16. We hope all our families have a wonderful and blessed Easter.



ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

MARCH 28, 2010

THE ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM

(ST. HILARION THE NEW)



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. 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).

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APOLYTIKION FOR PALM SUNDAY

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."