

CHRIST COMES TO JERUSALEM

The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem marks the end of Great Lent and the beginning of our Lord's passion and then glorious Resurrection. The icon visualizes the festive attitude towards Christ's arrival into the city. Children are spreading garments on the road and branches are being waved, people are even in the trees, all trying to get a glance at the majesty of Christ's entrance.



At the same time, this joyous scene is contrasted with the abrupt cliffs of the mountain and the solemnity of the apostolic group that trails the Lord. It is indicative of the suffering and death that is to come.

Children are not mentioned in the Gospel narrative of the event, yet Church tradition places them in the

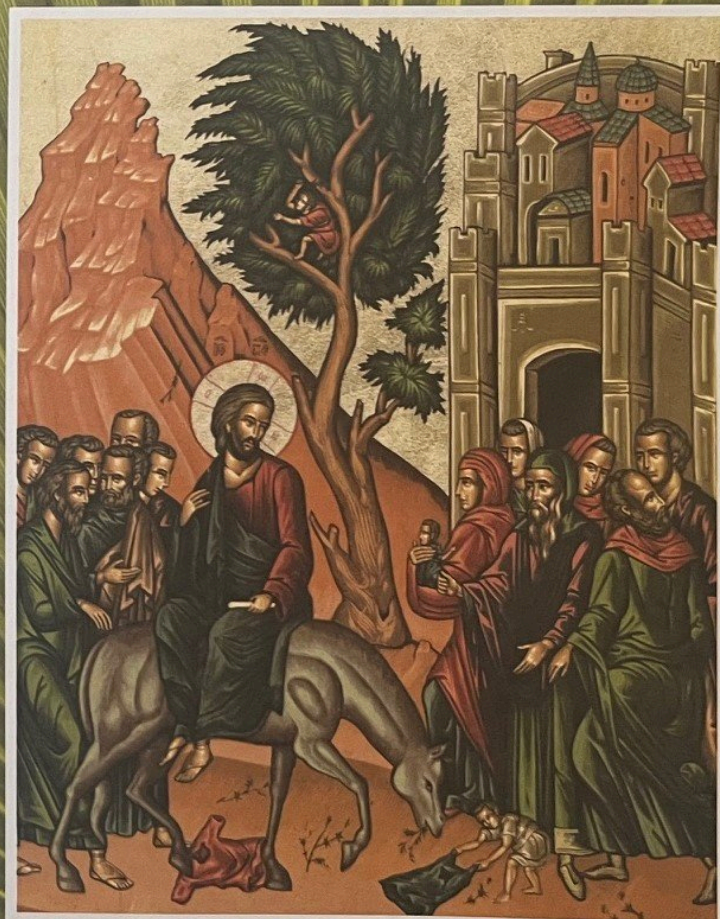
hymns and iconography of the Feast. Perhaps the Church meant to point out that children receive Christ with joy and gladness, with no other motive hidden beneath their cries of faith, while adults have other motives and waver in their devotion. You have to realize that the people of Jesus' time were expecting a different Messiah. It will not be long before the cries of Hosanna are changed into Crucify Him!

The icon depicts the fulfillment of Prophecy. The Old Testament prophet Zechariah foretold the coming King, meek and riding on an animal. The act of spreading garments was reserved for anointed royalty. Let us "roll out the red carpet" and embrace the Lord wholeheartedly.

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PALM SUNDAY



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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Church Calendar: Check the Link <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY APRIL 05, 2026

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY IN TONE ONE

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PALM SUNDAY

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

MEGALYNARION FOR PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us; ordain a feast, and rejoicing, come let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, crying out with hymns: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

We Celebrate Today

On this day in the Holy Orthodox Church, the Sunday of Palms, we celebrate the radiant and glorious festival of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

Verses

Riding a colt, He that with a word stretched out Heaven,
Seeketh to loose mortals from brutish want of reason.

Jesus came to Bethany on the Sunday falling before the six days of the Mosaic Passover. On the following day He sent two of His Disciples, who brought Him a donkey on which He sat to enter the city. And when the great multitude heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they immediately took palm branches in their hands and went out to meet Him. All cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, King of Israel!" The branches of palm trees were a symbol of Christ's victory over Satan and Death. And the meaning of "Hosanna" is, "We pray Thee, save."

The donkey's colt, which was still an untamed animal, and impure according to the law, as well as Christ's sitting thereon, symbolize the former savagery and impurity of the Gentiles; and their subsequent taming and obedience to the holy law of the Gospel.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us victors over our deceitful passions, and deem us worthy to behold Thy brilliant victory over death and Thy radiant and life-bringing Resurrection, and have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Drew Anderson. Jackson ballinger. Carla Leese.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries April, Evan Fedell (9), Remy Massey, Laura Thomas (12). Nicole Thornton Aramoonie, Misty Jabour (19)

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Palm Sunday Luncheon. is offered by Rhonda & Gary, **Potluck Meal** (Seafood allowed).

+GREAT HOLY WEEK, Holy Sunday, Monday & Tuesday, Bridegroom Service @ 6 pm.

Great Holy Wednesday, Unction Service, Sacrament of Holy Oil for healing @ 6 pm.

Great Holy Thursday, Last Supper Divine Liturgy @ 7:30 am.

Great Holy Thursday, 12 Gospels & Procession of the Cross @ 5:30 pm.

Great Holy Friday, Royal Hours @ 8:30 am. Un-Nailing Vespers @ 10 am.

Lamentation Service & Procession @ 6 pm.

Great Holy Saturday of the Light, Vesperal Liturgy @ 10 am. Sprinkling Bay Leaves.

Great Holy Saturday Evening, Paschal Service @ 10:00 pm. Followed by Agape Meal.

Great Holy Sunday of Pascha Agape Vespers, Multilanguage's Gospels reading @ 11 am.

Paschal picnic, Children Egg Hunt and games @ 4 pm.

The Church Fathers Teach

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

In ancient cultures, palm branches symbolized victory, honor, and peace. By waving them, the people recognized Jesus as a spiritual king and the long-awaited Messiah.

Palm branches became the main symbol of the celebration because they represent triumph and new life. During Palm Sunday services, priests bless the branches and distribute them to worshippers. Many believers take them home and place them near icons or in their prayer spaces as a reminder of faith.

DIVINE LITURGY APRIL 5, 2026

“DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM”

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

THE EPISTLE

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

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died 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, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox, 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 Jesus 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 cometh in the Name of the Lord, 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 Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.