



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

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April 5, 2015 – Palm Sunday

The Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem
Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Today's Ministries

Holy Bread and Coffee Hour
Families of St. George Church

Epistle
David Anderson

**Next Sunday's Holy Bread
and Coffee Hour**
Bob Abraham

Welcome to our parish!

Our Orthodox services can be followed in one of the service books found in your pew. While we are only able to invite faithful Orthodox Christians to our communion cup, Father encourages all to come forward to receive a blessing and a piece of blessed bread. Please join us for coffee, food, and fellowship downstairs after the service.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

:: Fr. Alexander Schmemmann :: On the Meaning of Palm Branches

“But we know that the King whom the Jews acclaimed then and whom we acclaim today, is on His way to Golgotha, to the Cross and to the grave. We know that this short triumph is but the prologue of His sacrifice. The branches in our hands signify, therefore, our readiness and willingness to follow Him on this sacrificial way, our acceptance of sacrifice and self-denial as the only royal way to the Kingdom.

“And finally, these branches, this celebration, proclaim our faith in the final victory of Christ. His Kingdom is yet hidden and the world ignores it. It lives it as if the decisive event had not taken place, as if God had not died on the Cross and Man in Him was not risen from the dead. But we, Christians, believe in the coming of the Kingdom in which God will be all in all and Christ the only King.

“In our liturgical celebrations, we remember events of the past. But the whole meaning and power of Liturgy is that it transforms remembrance into reality. On Palm Sunday this reality is our own involvement, our responsibility to, the Kingdom of God. Christ does not enter into Jerusalem anymore, He did it once and for all. And He does not need any "symbols," for He did not die on the Cross that we may eternally "symbolize"



His life. He wants from us a real acceptance of the Kingdom which He brought to us... And if we are not ready to stand by the solemn oath, which we renew every year on Palm Sunday, if we do not mean to make the Kingdom of God the measure of our whole life, meaningless is our commemoration and vain the branches we take home from the Church.”

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for St. 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 for 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 for Palm Sunday (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.



The Epistle and Gospel Readings for Palm Sunday

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 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 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, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

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 donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king

Gospel continues on next page

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 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.

Continued Announcements

A new donation box has been made for the **candle stand** at the bottom of the steps. Suggested donation per candle is \$1.

Church School Corner

- Today we will gather downstairs to learn a little about the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and get our decorated candles. Then we will return upstairs to participate in the outdoor procession with palms around the church. Parents may wish to have coats or sweaters ready!
- Next week: **BLESSED PASCHA!** (no classes)

Notes from Father

Dear Friends,

Blessed Holy Week to all of you! Thank you for joining us in our celebration of Palm Sunday today. This week, we have a full slate of services. Please join us for as many of them as you can, as we journey with our Lord Jesus Christ to the Last Supper, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the cross, and to the empty tomb.

The sufferings and cross of our Lord are difficult, but at the end, may all of us experience the joy of the resurrection with Him: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

Blessings in Christ,
Father Andrew

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone. If you are not on the church's email list and would like to be, please let Fr. Andrew know.

PARISH LIFE

Upcoming Events and Services

- **Today:** Children's Sunday School, immediately after communion. See Church School Corner (p.5).
- **Today:** Weather permitting, our annual Palm Sunday outdoor procession will take place at the end of the Liturgy.
- **Monday and Tuesday:** Holy Week Bridegroom services, 6pm
- **Wednesday, Apr. 8:** Holy Unction service, 6pm
- **Thursday, Apr. 9:** Divine Liturgy for Holy Thursday, 10am; Service of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6pm
- **Friday, Apr. 10: Good Friday services 10am, 6pm, and 7pm**
- **Saturday, April 11: Holy Saturday Liturgy 10am, and Paschal Vigil 10pm**
- **Next Sunday, April 12: Pascha (Easter) Agape Vespers service, noon**
- See complete Holy Week schedule (available downstairs).
- **Sunday, April 19:** Parish Council meeting after coffee hour

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org or take a print-out from the table downstairs.

Announcements

Lenten collections. Please turn in your "Food for Hungry People" boxes on or after Easter Sunday. If you did not get a donation box for your home, you are not too late: They are available downstairs near the food table.

Kaitlynn Kelly is also collecting canned and other non-perishable food items for a project. Please be generous and donate food items to the box downstairs!

Please consider a donation today to the **Patriarch's Fund**. (See Metropolitan Joseph's insert.) Every Palm Sunday, our entire Archdiocese takes up a collection for our Patriarch in Syria. These funds are used for charitable work in that part of the world, a place which truly needs our help these days. Please make your checks to St. George Church, with "Patriarch" in the memo line.

Our annual Easter Vigil will begin this Saturday at 10pm. Please plan to bring some simple finger foods to share downstairs after the service. It is also our custom to bring colored eggs to be blessed at this service.

Dinner for the Ladies of St. George. Ladies, mark your calendars for Thursday, May 14 for a dinner at Liberty Restaurant in Peru, at 6pm. All the ladies of our church are invited to attend.

(Announcements continue on page 5)

