

April 1, 2018: THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, 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 anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: John 12:1-18:



Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil 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 had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees 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!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on 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 these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were

written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

The sixth Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Lord's Triumphal entry into Jerusalem or Palm Sunday. This is, obviously, in remembrance of the Lord's last entry into the city of David, Jerusalem.

As He Himself revealed to His disciples (and we know from the gospel readings of the last two Sundays), this time He comes to Jerusalem ready for His voluntary and redeeming Passion. It is for this very reason that He came, riding on a donkey, to show His humility and obedience to God's eternal plan for the salvation of mankind.

The day before, on Saturday, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Then, Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary made a supper for Jesus and Lazarus, His friend. It was at this supper that *Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.* When Judas the Iscariot expressed his concerns about the money spent in providing the "costly oil of spikenard," Jesus responded and said that this was a prophetic ritual, in anticipation of His burial: *"Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."*

The news about Lazarus being raised from the dead after four days spread quickly among the people. So, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, a great crowd came to meet Him with branches of palm trees, shouting *"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"*

Let us follow Christ, our Savior, on the way to Golgotha, partaking in His voluntary and redeeming Passion and asking Him to render us worthy to behold His third-day Resurrection!

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Arsenie Gavriș**

FISH DINNER

On April 1, 2018 (PALM SUNDAY), following the Divine Liturgy, the traditional FISH DINNER will be held.

**We expect you to be generous with your donations,
which will be collected at the table.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:

Thursday at 7:00 PM: Bible Study.

Friday at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VIRGIN.

Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.

Palm Sunday Raffle

Pysanka (decorated Easter eggs), icons painted on glass and other items will be raffled off on Palm Sunday. The proceeds will go towards Sunday School materials and Santa's Christmas bags.

Thank you for your generous support!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership until Easter.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Blessing of Palms, Divine Liturgy 10:00 A. M.

HOLY MONDAY

Matins of the Holy Tuesday 7:00 P. M.

HOLY TUESDAY

Matins of the Holy Wednesday 7:00 P. M.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Sacrament of the Holy Unction 7:00 P. M.

HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 A. M.

Service of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) 7:00 P. M.

GOOD FRIDAY

Taking down from the Cross (Vespers) 3:00 P. M.

Lamentation Service 7:00 P. M.

GREAT SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 A. M.

HOLY PASCHA (EASTER)

Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy 12:00 (midnight)

Blessing of the Easter baskets 3:00 A. M.

The traditional Easter fellowship will follow the blessing of the Easter baskets.

EASTER SUNDAY

Vespers Service 1:00 P. M.

BRIGHT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

BRIGHT TUESDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

BRIGHT FRIDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

Virtual Library

Those who like to read can access our Virtual Library by [clicking here](#). Any suggestions for books to be added to our virtual library should be sent to webmaster@bisericaedmonton.org.

As always, we welcome your suggestions, opinions and commentaries.

HAPPY READING!