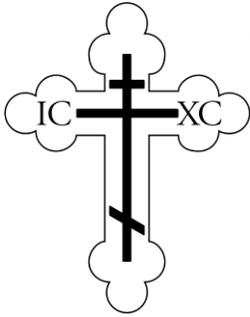
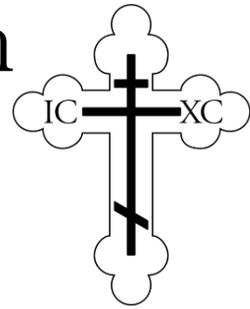


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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April 12, 2020 Palm Sunday

Great Lent and Holy Week are two separate fasts, and two separate celebrations. Great Lent ends on Friday of the fifth week (the day before Lazarus Saturday). Holy Week begins immediately thereafter. Let's explore the meaning of each of the solemn days of Passion Week.

On **Palm Sunday** our Lord enters Jerusalem and is proclaimed king – but in an earthly sense, as many people of His time were seeking a political Messiah. Our Lord is King, of course, but of a different type – the eternal King prophesied by Zechariah the Prophet. We use palms on this day to show that we too accept Jesus as the true King and Messiah of the Jews, Whom we are willing to follow – even to the cross.

The services of **Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** are known as the Bridegroom Matins services. We behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of His suffering, yet preparing a marriage Feast for us in God's Kingdom. Each of these Bridegroom services has a particular theme. On **Holy Monday**, the Blessed Joseph, the son of Jacob the Patriarch, is commemorated. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a pit, and sold into slavery by them. In the same way, our Lord was rejected, betrayed by His own, and sold into the slavery of death. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is read on **Holy Tuesday**. It tells the story of the five virgins who filled their lamps in preparation for receiving the bridegroom while the other five allowed their lamps to go out, and hence were shut out of the marriage feast. This parable is a warning that we must always be prepared to receive our Lord when He comes again. The theme of **Holy Wednesday** is repentance and forgiveness. We remember the sinful woman who anointed our Lord in anticipation of His death. Her repentance and love of Christ is the theme of the wonderful "Hymn of Kassiane" which is chanted on this night, reminding us one more time, before "it is too late," that we too may be forgiven if we repent.

On **Great and Holy Thursday** we turn to the last events of our Lord and His Passion. Thursday morning begins with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy commemorating the Mystical Supper. It was at the Mystical Supper that our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist. At this Liturgy a second Host is consecrated and kept in the Tabernacle. It is from this Host that Holy Communion is distributed to the shut-ins and the sick throughout the coming year.

The services of **Great and Holy Friday** begin Thursday night with the Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels commemorating our Lord's Crucifixion. After the reading of the fifth Gospel, the holy cross is carried around the church in procession, and Christ's body is nailed to the cross in the center of the church. In the afternoon we celebrate the Vespers Service of the taking down of Christ's Holy Body from the Cross. The Plaschanitsa (burial shroud) with Christ's body on it is carried in procession and placed in the recently decorated tomb. In the evening the

Lamentations service is sung. This service begins in a solemn manner, but by the end of the service we are already anticipating the Resurrection of our Lord. Remember again, that the Holy Friday evening Orthros is actually the first service of Holy Saturday, the day in which we commemorate our Lord's body resting in the tomb while His all-pure soul descends into Hades to free the faithful of the Old Covenant.

Great and Holy Saturday is a day of hope and waiting. In the morning we celebrate a Vespereal Divine Liturgy which commemorates Christ's victory over death. Bright vestments are worn as we anticipate Christ's Resurrection. The whole Church is changed from the black of mourning to the white of the resurrection as the choir chants "Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to You belong all the nations." The Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday concludes the services of Holy Week, and brings us to the eve of Great and Holy Pascha.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard
the voice of my supplication.

Ref: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me;
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

I suffered distress and anguish,
so I called on the Name of the Lord.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted.”

Ref: O Son of God who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to You:
“Alleluia!”

What shall I render to the Lord
for all the things He has given me?

I will receive the cup of salvation
and call on the Name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all His people.

Third Antiphon

*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!
Let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!*

Tone 1 – Troparion of the Feast

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,
You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God.
Like the children with the palms of victory,
we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death:
“Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

*Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!
Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures
forever!*

Repeat the Troparion

After the Entrance, we sing the Festal Troparion again, then:

Tone 4 – Another Troparion for the Feast

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God,
we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection.

Now we praise You and sing:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Tone 6 – Kontakion of the Feast

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven,

carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God,

accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing://

“Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for Palm Sunday (Psalm 117)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Brethren: 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

Six days before the Pascha, 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.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

NDep. Joseph Clark

Wayne Fritz

Ev.Mem. Michael Nazaruk

Alexy Maikovich

Peter Lubeck

Andrew Pillar

Mary Lescisn

Health/Salvation:	Laila	Phyllis	Gerald
Archpr. Peter	Paula	Kay	Nadia
Pr. John	Melissa	Fred	Charlene
Pr. Christopher	Jonathan	Larry	Milka
Mat. Jennifer	Matthew	Rollie	Daniel
Andrew	Gail	Joseph	Russell
Gideon	Maria	Mark	Brendan
Dn. Nicholas	Stacy	Alexa	Benjamin
Kevin	Jeramie	Paula	William
Jon	Olivia	James	Kara
Tanya	Parker	Joanne	Nathan
Jovan	Barbara	Michael	Sharon
Julia	Thomas	Joseph	Michael
Warren	Jessica	Kathleen	John
Carol	Eduardo	Paul	Miriana
Tom	Christine	William	Vern
Elizabeth	Nicholas	Frederick	Janice
Tina	Natalie	Janet	Olga
Brittany	Barbara	Lea	
Jennifer	Kristin	Hania	
Lennox	Linda	James	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

Instead of "It is Truly Meet..." we sing the following:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
 Celebrate the feast and come with gladness!
 Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,
 singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Paul has given a blessing for **Confessions** to be heard during this time **over phone or video**. However, any who are uncomfortable or unable to confess in this way may postpone their confession. If you would like to make a confession, please make an appointment.

We have put together a **parish email list** for communicating important information during this time of isolation. If you are not receiving emails, please send your email address to ptvmchurch@gmail.com to be added.

We will resume **Bible Study** next week.

Parishioners are asked to **continue their stewardship** either by mail or online through the “donate” button on our website: www.ptvm.com

If anyone in our community is suffering hardship, please reach out to Fr Jacob. The parish council is establishing a **benevolence fund** to help those in need during this crisis.

Our **Spring Fashion Show** has been postponed to Friday, May 29. Doors will open at 5pm. Dinner is at 6pm.

Mark your calendars:

- Apr 12: **Bridegroom Service @ 7pm**
- Apr 13: **Bridegroom Service @ 7pm**
- Apr 14: **Bridegroom Service @ 7pm**
- Apr 15: **Bridegroom Service of the Holy Supper @ 7pm**
- Apr 16: **The Twelve Passion Gospels @ 7pm**
- Apr 17: **Taking Down from the Cross @ 2pm**
Lamentations @ 7pm
- Apr 18: **Vesperal Liturgy of Pascha @ 10am**
Paschal Nocturns @ 9pm
- Apr 19: **Pascha: Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy @ 9am**

Glory to God for all things!