

**Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem:**

**Palm Sunday** is the celebration of the **triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem**. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!*"(John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "*Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass*" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph, in an earthly sense, is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which most enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

**The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events.** It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

**On Palm Sunday willow branches are blessed in the Church.** We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "**Do you accept Christ?**" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "**I accept Him as King and God!**"

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

**... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible, I may attain the resurrection from the dead** (Philippians 3:10-11).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor

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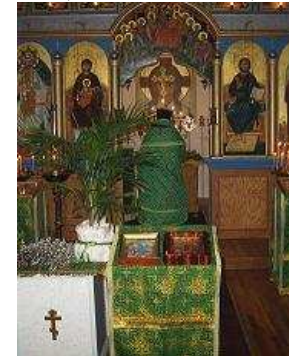
[Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God**  
**"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"**

115 Hudson St.  
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**Rev. Boris Slootsky, Rector**

2B Pembroke Lane  
Manchester, New Jersey 08759  
(Phone: 732-350-9588)



Palm Sunday

**On this day the Church remembers:**

- **Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)** • Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia, and those with him: Martyrs Abdechalias and Ananias—Presbyters • Usthazanes, Fusicus (Pusicius), Ascitrea, Azades the Eunuch, and many others (344) • St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (ca. 433) • Ven. Zosima, Abbot of Solovétsky Monastery (1478) • Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Svir (1641) • Martyr Adrian of Corinth (251) • St. Agapitus, Pope of Rome (536) • Repose of Ven. Macarios of Corinth (1805)

***By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion,  
You did confirm 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!***

(Troparion - Palm Sunday)

**April 17, 2011**

**Triumphant Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem**

**Palm Sunday**

Holy week

| **Tone 6** of the Octoechos. |

Triodion week 10

**Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:****For the health of:****Andrew Morris** on his birthday, grandson of Lory Stefy.**Robert Morris Jr. and Robert Morris Sr.**, for their Birthdays,  
by Lory Stefy.**Linda Jankowski** birthday, requested by her family.**Readings:**

- Philippians 4:4-9
- John 12:1-18

**Six days before Passover**, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros 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 Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros 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 Lazaros 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.

**Sunday service:**

9:40 AM – Hours

10:00 AM - **Divine Liturgy**

(9:00 am - St. Thomas Sunday)

Church School - 9:30

Coffee hour after Liturgy

**2011 Services for Holy Week and Pascha****Thursday, April 21, 6:00 PM** - Thursday evening service (Friday Matins -  
12 Passion Gospels)**Friday, April 22, 2:00 PM** - Friday Vespers**Friday April 22, 6:00 PM** - **Good Friday Service** (Called Saturday  
Matins)**Sunday, April 24, 2011** **Pascha - Midnight Service and**  
(Saturday April 23, 2011 11:30 PM) - **Divine Liturgy**

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour downstairs.**

**Announcements:**

- **Sunday, May 1, 2011** (St. Thomas Sunday), **Divine Liturgy** will start one hour earlier at **9:00 am**. After the Liturgy there will be **Blessing of graves**.
- **Raffle tickets!** • **Raffle tickets!** • **Raffle tickets!**  
Today is the last chance to purchase raffle ticks for our Pascha basket raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased from Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine. The raffle will be held today at coffee hour.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- **Dues and assessments** are being collected for the year 2011, **Total is \$175.** (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment) Partial payments are gladly accepted.