

(There were no Bulletin sponsors this week.)

Readings: **Philippians 4:4-9** (*Palm Sunday*)
John 12:1-18 (*Palm Sunday*)

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

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus 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, 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 Lazarus, whom he 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 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 Lazarus 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:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy - 6:30 PM

Saturday: Personal Confessions - between 6:30-7:30 PM

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in person services in our parish have been cut back for now. Fr Matthew has sent out reader’s services via email each week to follow at home. In addition, the diocesan web page nynjoca.org has online services for viewing.

Sunday services are celebrated with only the allowed number of people in attendance. Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend as part of the restricted number. (No one else should attend in person.)

Church School

Church School is temporarily not meeting.

We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let’s keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

Announcement:

- **Father is available to hear personal confessions between 6:30-7:30 PM on Saturday evening.**
- **Services this week:** (Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend)
 - **Tuesday, April 27 - 6:30pm** Presanctified Liturgy,
 - **Wednesday, April 28 - 7:00pm** Holy Unction ,
 - **Friday, April 30 - 7:00pm** Great and Holy Friday services ,
 - **Saturday, May 1 - 11:30pm** – Holy Pascha services – Blessing of Pascha Baskets
- **The Sisterhood’s Pascha basket raffle** is being held at 5pm on Saturday April 24th. If you purchased an entry, check your email for a link to the live drawing. Thank you and good luck.
- **The Sisterhood will be purchasing flowers to decorate our church for Pascha.** Donations for flowers will be greatly appreciated. Please leave your donation in an envelope marked “Sisterhood Flowers” at the candle stand. **Checks should be made out to the Sisterhood.** Thank you.
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **please consider mailing your weekly donation to our treasurer:**

Church of the Mother of God, c/o Holly Dawson, treasurer,
111 Main Ave, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.

Reminders:

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org. We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via e-mail to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem:

The Saturday of Lazarus, from the liturgical point of view, is the Pre-feast of **Palm Sunday – the Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem**. Both feasts have a common theme: triumph and victory. **Saturday reveals the Enemy, which is Death; Palm Sunday announces the meaning of victory as the triumph of the Kingdom of God, as the acceptance by the world of its only King, Jesus Christ.** In the life of Jesus the solemn entrance in the Holy City was the only visible triumph. Up to that day, He consistently rejected all attempts to glorify Him. But six days before the Passover, He not only accepted to be glorified, He Himself provoked and arranged this glorification by doing what the prophet Zecharias announced: *‘behold, Thy King cometh unto thee . . . lowly and riding upon an ass . . .’* (Zecharias 9:9) He made it clear that He wanted to be acclaimed and acknowledged as the Messiah, the King and the Redeemer of Israel. And the Gospel narratives stress all these messianic features: the Palms and the Hosannah, the acclamation of Jesus as the Son of David and the King of Israel. The history of Israel is now coming to its end, such is the meaning of this event, for the purpose of that history was to announce and to prepare the Kingdom of God, the advent of the Messiah. And now it is fulfilled. **For the King enters His Holy City and in Him all prophesies, all expectations find their fulfillment. He inaugurates His Kingdom.**

*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!

Kontakion – Tone 4

*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 that comes to recall Adam!

Kontakion – Tone 6

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/04/25>

Please check the website of our Diocese:

<https://nynjoca.org/>

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:

<https://www.oca.org/>

and our website:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem

**Glory to Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*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 – Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:

**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM • Palm Sunday • Holy
Apostle and Evangelist Mark (1st c.) • Ven. Sylvester, Abbot of Obnora (1379)**

April 25, 2021

Triodion week 10

Palm Sunday