



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

BULLETIN BUILDER

## Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Palm Sunday**

**SAINTS:** Mark the Evangelist; **Makedonios**, Patriarch of Constantinople; **Anianos** Bsp of Alexandria; **Sylvester** of Obnora; **Maughald** of Ireland; **Vasilios** the Hesychast

**HOLY MARTYRS:** Nikie; 8 Anachorites

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fish Fest:** After Div. Liturgy, please return to your cars to pickup your **Palm Sunday Fish Dinner**

**Holy Week:** Please see schedule of services. **Children activities** on Holy Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

**Philoptochos Flowers:** Please donate in order to decorate the tomb of Christ (Epitaphios)

**Greek School** is **closed** during Holy Week. Back on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Kali Anastasi!

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Matins Gospel Reading – Palm Sunday, Matthew 21:1-11; 15-17

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee." But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant; and they said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, you have brought perfect praise?'" And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there. AMEN.

### Epistle Reading – St. Paul's Letter 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, do; and the God of peace will be with you. AMEN.

### Gospel Reading – Palm Sunday, John 12:1-18

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. AMEN.

## Let's Get Crucified with Him!



Today our Lord starts His journey to His voluntary passion. Ready to fulfill the prophecies about Himself, He stops at Lazarus' house for a farewell visit. Lazarus, alive and well is sitting at the dinner table - a living testimony of Jesus' power over the living and the dead. Then, his sister Mary applies a costly ointment on Jesus' feet and wipes it with her hair - an expression of her gratitude. The price she paid to purchase it was most likely beyond her means, yet she gave everything she had to thank the Lord. Nevertheless, Judas Iscariot does not appreciate it. Pretending he cares for the poor; he suggests the money could be better spent on charity. Here, St. John immediately informs us of Judas' true motive: to steal some of this money, as he was the treasurer for the disciples and a thief at such. But neither

the Lord lets him get away with it. He who is the most humble among men, accepts the gift of Mary. This way, He shows us that God, who has everything, is still well-pleased when we, "the little-means, small children of a billionaire Father," do our best to bring Him a beautiful present. However, even though Mary spent a lot on her offering, her gift was still small in comparison to what many others will offer the Lord later. For centuries (and still today), the Holy Martyrs would (and still do) lay their own lives on Jesus' feet as the ultimate myrrh which sends a constant fragrance to God's throne. But before the "cloud of martyrs" will climb their own Golgotha, the Lord becomes the ultimate Martyr of God. He is not compelled to die, but gives Himself as ransom to death for us all.

Many Jews had gathered out of curiosity to see the Prophet who raised Lazarus from the dead. And in their presence, Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem. Like Lazarus' Resurrection was a foreshadow of His own Holy Resurrection and the General Resurrection of all of us at the end times, His triumphant entrance in Jerusalem is a foreshadow of His glorious Second Coming on Judgement Day!

But for now, He is not concerned with the Day of His Glory. Before the athlete receives his wreath, he has to first compete honestly, St. Paul tells us. And so is the Lord. He enters the city disregarding the warning of His disciples the Jews are looking to kill Him. Rather, in an earlier conversation, He answers them with an enigmatic phrase, saying they can do things when the light is with them, but the light will not always be there. This way, He willingly walks into the hands of the Pharisees. The light is about to meet darkness and wrestle with it. The Lord is entering His passion. Let us all **walk together with Him and get crucified with Him**, so we can be resurrected with Him! Crucified not physically, like some naive Christians do in Philippines, but in another way. What we are called to **crucify is our passions**. To cleanse ourselves and become children of light. Soon, the light will momentarily go dark, but then... it will shine ever so more brightly when the great stone at the entrance of His tomb will move away with the divine power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! AMEN.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

Because all their kings had mostly been unjust and covetous and subjected them to wars ... he said to them, "Trust me, I am not like them. I am gentle and mild." He demonstrated this by the manner of his entrance, not entering on a horse at the head of an army, but simply riding on a donkey.

**St. John Chrysostom** *Homilies on the Gospel of John, 66.1. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Intervarsity Press, 2007*