

# THE ST. ELIZABETH NEWS

## A loving Community of Orthodox Christians

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Mission Church  
 2265 E. Cherokee Drive Woodstock, GA 30188  
*A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
 Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*  
 Ruling Hierarch: His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa



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[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)



**Palm Sunday**  
**The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem**  
**Epistle:** *Philippians 4:4-9*  
**Gospel:** *John 12:1-18*

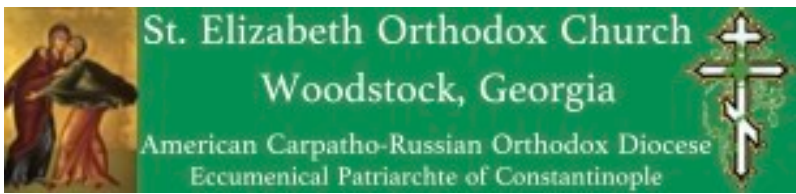
### Christ is Among us!

Christ is among us! He is and always shall be! Welcome to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church and thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us!! What a joy it is to be together in God's House. If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is the work of the people and that means that all of your prayers are necessary and you have a job to do this morning! We hope you will stay and join us for coffee hour in the atrium. Please feel free to ask Fr. Matthew any questions you might have! May God's blessing be with all of you!

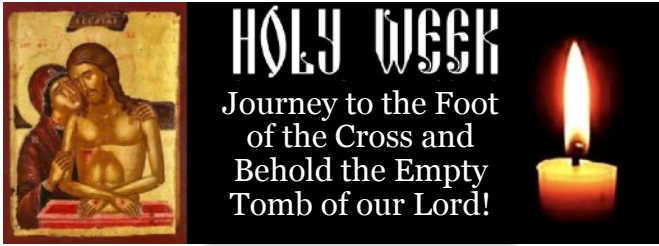


### This Week's Music...

Tropar, Kondak, & other Special Hymns for Palm Sunday can be found on -.Pages 188-192



### Palm Sunday



**Today - 1 pm-** Bridegroom Matins  
**Holy Monday 4/29 9 am -** Presanctified Liturgy  
**5:15 pm-** Bridegroom Matins  
**Holy Tuesday 4/30 9 am-** Presanctified Liturgy  
**5:30 pm-** Bridegroom Matins  
**Holy Wednesday 5/01 9 am-** Presanctified Liturgy  
**6 pm-** The Sacrament of Holy Unction  
**Holy Thursday 5/02 9 am-** Vespertal Liturgy: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist  
**6 pm-** The Matins of Good Friday: The Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels  
**8 pm-** *Setting up the Tomb & Preparing the Church for Good Friday*  
**Holy Friday 5/03 9 am-** The Royal Hours of Good Friday  
**7pm-** The Vespers of Good Friday: The Burial Service of our Lord  
**Holy Saturday 5/04 9am-** The Vespertal Liturgy of Holy Saturday  
**7pm-** Resurrection Matins  
**PASCHA 5/05 10 am-** The Divine Liturgy on the Great Day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
**11:45 am-** Basket Blessing, Egg Hunt, and Paschal Picnic  
**2 pm-** Paschal Vespers  
**Bright Monday 05/06 9 am-** Divine Liturgy  
**Bright Tuesday 05/07 9 am-** Divine Liturgy  
**Bright Wednesday 05/08 6 pm-** Paschal Vespers  
**Bright Friday 05/10 9 am-** Resurrection Matins  
**Bright Saturday 05/11 4 pm-** Great Vespers  
**Sunday 05/12 10 am-** Divine Liturgy

**Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**  
*using the Blue Pew Book*

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*Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end if the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).*

## Who will I be this Holy Week?

This Palm Sunday, as we gather in the beautifully adorned Church, we are inspired to live a life in Christ by the joyous proclamation of the resurrection of Lazarus and Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As we participate in this solemn and transformative celebration once again, we have to opportunity before us to reflect on the profound journey of faith that is unfolding before us. Soon we will transition from the joys of Palm Sunday to the to the emotional and physical pains of the Passion of Christ. The celebration of today must transition to the call of repentance.

The scene in Jerusalem as Christ enters on the colt of a donkey mirrors the jubilation of our hearts today. Christ, the King of all Creation, enters the Holy City to the joyful singing of children, the waving of palms and branches, and the apostles' humble offering of their garments as a royal carpet for His procession. The bells ring out, proclaiming the victory of our Lord over sin and death, Lazarus is risen from the dead, the messiah has come, and the crowd chants with joy "Hosanna in the Highest!"

Yet, how swiftly can joy turn to sorrow. Just as the palms and branches fall, so too does the mood of the crowd change. Within days, the same voices that cried "Hosanna" would cry "Crucify Him!"

All too often we act just like the people of Jerusalem so long ago. How quickly we abandon our loving, life giving God and run towards sin and death. In moments of communion with Christ, we can find ourselves betraying Christ with His Body and Blood still on our lips if we simply turn to anger or judge or neighbor. How often do we like Peter promise to love Christ and serve Him, and then deny Him with our actions and words. The devil's whispers deceive us into justifying our sins, allowing pride and resentment to take root in our hearts.

But amidst this turmoil, there is hope.

The journey from follower to betrayer must be like that of the Prodigal Son, there is always the opportunity for repentance and return. Just like Peter weeps over his sins when he hears the rooster crow and remembers Christ words to him, we always have the opportunity to remember Christ and place Him at the center of our hearts, minds, and souls. Every moment presents us with the chance to turn back to Christ, to seek forgiveness, and to embrace the saving gift He gives us by His Cross.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday, hold fast to the joy of Lazarus' resurrection. Christ is the giver of life and light. As we journey through Holy Week, walk with Christ in the light of day. Greet Him with palms and branches, singing "Hosanna in the Highest!" Let this be a week of true change—a week of introspection and repentance. A week where we crucify our sins by the grace of God.

Follow the example of the Mother of God and the Apostle John, who stood at the foot of the Cross. Attend as many Church services as possible, pray fervently throughout every day, practice forgiveness as God forgives us, make a good Confession, read the scriptures, and work toward being the person whom God created you to be. By doing so, we can nurture the garden of our hearts, ensuring that the seeds of faith planted within us flourish and grow.

In this way, we will not scatter our palms like the crowds in Jerusalem but stand steadfast at the foot of the Cross, ready to embrace the transformative power of Christ's love and sacrifice. This Palm Sunday, may our hearts be open to the journey of repentance, knowing that through Christ, every moment offers the chance for a new life in His most Holy Name.



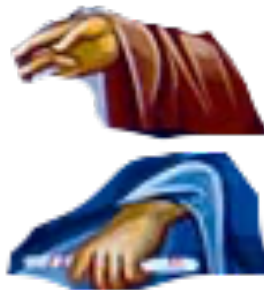


## Icon of Palm Sunday "Search & Find!"

Can you find all the images below in the Icon of Palm Sunday?



Do you see Christ riding into Jerusalem on Donkey? This is the fulfillment of the the Prophecy of Zachariah (9:9) that the King would enter into Jerusalem triumphantly on a donkey.



Can you find Christ's hands? What is He doing? Christ is blessing us with His right hand, and in His left hand He holds a scroll. The scroll symbolizes that Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies; that He is the Messiah Who comes to saves us.



Do you see the disciples? They joyfully entered into Jerusalem with Jesus on Sunday. But after Jesus' arrest crucifixion they all abandoned him. Only John stood by Jesus at the Cross. Do I ever walk with Christ in the daylight, when things are easy and abandon Him in the darkness when life becomes difficult?



Can you find any palms? These palms were waived before the Messiah to acknowledge that He is the King of Glory. These palms are just like the ones we blessed to take home on Palm Sunday.



Do you see the children laying down clothes and blankets for Christ to ride over? Do you see them waving palms and branches to honor their Savior? This is like rolling out the red carpet for the King as He enters the city.



Can you find the people holding up palms and crying out "Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!" They joyfully greet Christ with palms and branches on Sunday, but by Friday these same people chant for Christ to be crucified. How quickly do I abandon Christ and choose sin?

## How to Treat a Seminarian

Entering into ministry in the Church is no light burden. It is a great blessing and honor for our community to have a Seminarian in our Parish. We are privileged to be a part of Alex, Kelly, Henry, and Benjamin's journey. The Saint Elizabeth Parish Family is accompanying the Huresteller's on their walk with Christ. This is indeed a blessing, but it also comes with a significant responsibility for all of us.

The time spent in seminary is a crucial period of spiritual formation for every seminarian and their family. It is a time of discernment for the vocation to serve God and His Church. As with all times when we move towards Christ, it can also be a time when the devil may attempt to sow doubt, knowing the immense good that Alex, his family, and all seminarians can bring to the Church. Therefore, it is vital that each of us keeps the Huresteller's in our prayers.

Beyond prayer, our community has a role to play in supporting their journey. We must provide them with the space and peace necessary to foster their vocation.

Most seminarians typically live at or near their seminary. The parishioners at the Cathedral in Johnstown have, for nearly 100 years, understood the importance of having seminarians as part of their community. They recognize the necessity of shielding seminarians from certain aspects of Church life. Seminarians require tranquility. It is my hope that everyone understands that Alex should not be posed questions expecting specific answers. Queries such as "Why do we practice this in our diocese?" or "Why don't we do that?" are not appropriate for Alex or Kelly. As a seminarian, Alex should not be viewed as a counselor or source of pastoral guidance. We all need to safeguard the Huresteller's from gossip and assist them in keeping their focus on Christ as they continue their seminary journey.

This note is not a reaction to any specific incident. However, with Alex now living above the Church Hall, it is essential that we provide him with the necessary separation from parish life to allow him to concentrate on his vocation and studies. Please feel free to discuss theology with Alex and continue to be the supportive friends you have been since he and his family joined our community.

If we are able to help Alex, Kelly, and their family during this time, it can be a part of their story that by the grace of God when they are serving a Church somewhere in fifty years they can look back with joy and the experience they had during their time in seminary here at Saint Elizabeth's and all of us will be grateful for the blessing to be a part of their story; a part of their life in Christ.



SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

HELP TO DECORATE  
THE CHURCH WITH  
FLOWERS FOR  
EASTER

*We Need You!*

EACH YEAR THE TOMB OF  
CHRIST AND THE CHURCH  
IS BEAUTIFULLY ADORNED  
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF  
HOLY WEEK & PASCHA  
THANKS TO SPECIAL  
DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU!

TO MAKE A SPECIAL DONATION  
FOR EASTER FLOWERS GO TO  
[WWW.STELIZABETHGA.ORG](http://WWW.STELIZABETHGA.ORG) &  
CLICK ON THE TAB THAT SAYS,  
"GIVE TO ST. ELIZABETH". ALL  
OFFERINGS FOR FLOWERS ARE  
A "FREE-WILL OFFERING".

MAKE SURE TO RIGHT ON THE  
MEMO LINE THE NAMES OF THE  
LIVING & DEPARTED LOVED  
ONES WHOM YOU WOULD LIKE  
TO BE REMEMBERED DURING  
THE PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY.

*God Bless You!*

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## Announcements:

- **Holy Week has begun-** We have one more opportunity this week to turn away from the world and turn with Christ towards Golgotha, the Cross, and after three days the empty tomb of our Lord. The Holy Week services give us the whole story; and we need to hear it! Being in Church this week is so very important for our souls. I can't express the importance of your participation enough. I can't express how necessary it is for all of us. Do everything you can to be in God's House this week as often as you can. You won't regret it. Let's use this time, this opportunity to move together hand in hand as a community to behold the Resurrection of Christ as a parish family united in Christ. *Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!*
- **Palm Sunday Group Photo Today after Festival Procession With Palms and Branches around the Church!**
- **Sunday School Today-** Both of the rooms in the back are ready for Sunday School! There is still some reorganizing work, but the rooms are cleared out and ready for our Little Saints!
- **Your Help is Needed Today!-** If you have some extra time today and you're able to move some boxes upstairs for storage, please see John Marion!
- **Please Read the Article on Page 6-** "How to Treat a Seminarian".
- **Thanks for all your efforts this week!-** Thank you to everyone for helping things get cleaned and organized at the Church in preparation for Pascha. Thank for helping with floral arrangements, helping the Hurstellers, and all the cleaning and decorating. The Church looks beautiful!
- **Looking to serve the Church this Week?-** This is a great week to volunteer your time and talents by helping to beautify the Church and Church grounds.
- **Make a Special Donation for Flowers to decorate the Church for Holy Week and Pascha-** The Church is always so beautiful this time of year. Please consider helping to beautify the Church by making a special donation for flowers to decorate the Church. Donations can be made in memory or for the health of a loved one. If you make a special donation, please email me names and intentions to be posted in a special prayer list in the Easter Bulletin.
- **Help Needed to set up and decorate the Tomb of our Lord after Matins of Good Friday on Thursday Evening-** If you've never been to the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels Service of Holy Thursday, this service tells you the whole story of Holy Week. Prayerfully participating in this service is like visiting the Holy Land. Come and see and stay to help prepare the Tomb of our Lord for Good Friday.
- **ACRY Weekend over Memorial Day-** Over a hundred faithful members of our Diocese and our Bishop will be here to visit with us for the National ACRY Weekend over Memorial Day! **I hope that all of you are able to attend the events of the weekend!** There is a meal package available for purchase that includes the hospitality welcome on Friday night at the Church, dinner on both Saturday and Sunday night and breakfast on Sunday morning. Please support this event by attending, you won't regret it! **Please also consider purchasing an add for the memorial booklet!** All purchases can be made at [www.ACRYWoodstock.com](http://www.ACRYWoodstock.com)
- **Coffee Hour During Lent-** Make sure to prepare lenten, fasting appropriate dishes that are meat and dairy free. Every Sunday is potluck, so bring a dish, and don't forget to make an offering in the coffee hour area to cover coffee hour supplies!
- **Help Your Parish Continue to Grow by Making a Special Contribution to the Building Fund!**
- **Saint Elizabeth Magazine** to be published in the Paschal Bulletin with articles written by you! All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this fruitful ministry. Write an article on anything related to the Orthodox Church and submit to Fr. Matthew for review and publication. Your article could be about theology, Church History, personal experience, parenting, spirituality, or really anything that would be appropriate in an Orthodox Magazine. Please consider writing an article during lent for everyone to enjoy on Pascha! The deadline to submit an article is Palm Sunday, April 28th.
- **Celebrate Armed Forces Day at the Home of Ray & Cathy Sparks:-** Save the date - 05/18/24 from 2pm-7pm. Please RSVP by texting or calling 678-315-3856. Directions and more in next weeks bulletin!





WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA



# NATIONAL ACRY WEEKEND

74TH ANNUAL  
METROPOLITAN  
ORESTES  
BOWLING  
TOURNAMENT

MAY  
24-27  
2024



HOSTED BY SAINT  
ELIZABETH'S  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

[WWW.ACRYWOODSTOCK.COM](http://WWW.ACRYWOODSTOCK.COM)

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FUN



## Invitation to the 74th Annual Memorial Metropolitan Orestes Bowling Tournament

Dear Members of the Saint Elizabeth's Parish Family,

We hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits as we travel through the final days of great Lent and approach the solemn time of Holy Week. The members of our local ACRY chapter are writing to extend a warm invitation to you and your families to join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, and fun in Christ as we host the 74th Annual Memorial Metropolitan Orestes Bowling Tournament.



Before we delve into the exciting details and great opportunities of this event, we wanted to shed some light on the organization behind it - the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Youth (ACRY). The ACRY is more than just an organization; it's a vibrant community and family filled with Orthodox Christians from all across our diocese. The ACRY is dedicated to fostering fellowship, philanthropy, and spiritual growth. Local chapters like ours here at Saint Elizabeth's come together under the umbrella of the national organization, supporting our parishes, engaging in charitable endeavors, and nurturing strong bonds of camaraderie. As many of our local families here at Saint Elizabeth's have discovered, this group is for everyone!

Our parish began its relationship with the ACRY back in 2016, recognizing the value of connecting with fellow diocesan members and Orthodox Christians beyond the confines of our local community. Since then, we've witnessed the profound impact of this decision, both within our parish and in the wider diocesan family. It's been a source of joy to see individuals of all ages and backgrounds come together, united by their love for our faith in Christ, their desire to serve others, and promise of developing bonds of friendship with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

This year, we have the distinct honor of hosting the 74th Annual Memorial Metropolitan Orestes Bowling Tournament. This tournament holds a special significance as it pays homage to our founding bishop, Metropolitan Orestes, a beloved figure known not only for his spiritual leadership but also for his passion for sports, particularly bowling. It's a fitting tribute to his memory and a testament to the enduring spirit of fellowship that he championed throughout his life.

We invite you to partake in this weekend of celebration and fellowship, where you'll have the opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow parishioners, members of our diocesan family, and our beloved bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory. Whether you're a seasoned bowler or just looking to enjoy some quality time with your church community, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

In addition to the bowling tournament, we have planned a series of fellowship events and activities designed to deepen our bonds as a parish and strengthen our connection to the wider diocesan family. Aside from the bowling, there will be fellowship events and meals at the Church on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this Memorial Day Weekend from the 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of May. Please consider volunteering and participating in the events of the weekend by purchasing a meal package. A special prize will be offered to members and families who like to learn more about the ACRY and volunteer to host this special event in the life of our community. The Church will be full that weekend for Vespers and Liturgy and it is something you will be grateful that you attend. The memory of our Church full echoing the Paschal Hymn "Christ is Risen!" with full voice will be one to cherish.

Our priest, Fr. Matthew spent his childhood and young adult years very active in this organization and he currently serves as one of the spiritual advisors for the Jr. ACRY. This event promises ample opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together in faith and fellowship.

We sincerely hope you'll join us for this memorable weekend as we come together to celebrate our shared faith and the beauty of belonging to a faith community that extends far beyond the walls of our church. Together, let's embrace the spirit of unity and love that defines the ACRY and make this event one to remember.

With warm regards & love in Christ,

The members of Saint Elizabeth ACRY Chapter #9

★ WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA ★

# NATIONAL ACRY BANQUET BOOKLET

74TH ANNUAL METROPOLITAN ORESTES  
BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
BANQUET BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENTS AND  
MEMORIALS



PLEASE HAVE YOUR AD IN  
BY MAY 10TH  
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE AT

[WWW.ACRYWOODSTOCK.COM](http://WWW.ACRYWOODSTOCK.COM)

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FUN

# Help Make the National ACRY Diocesan Bowling Tournament Weekend a Success!

You can help make National ACRY Weekend & Bowling Tournament a success this year, by placing a small ***note / comment / commemoration / thought / family photo / ad*** in the booklet for yourself or your family or by passing this information on to a friend or someone you do business with.

(See page 2 for formatting and cost))

You can submit your completed art in jpg, png or pdf format (at least 200dpi, please)

OR

you can write out a description, or scribble it on a piece of paper and we will do the art for you at no additional charge.

Send information to [sajem@aol.com](mailto:sajem@aol.com) or if scribbled on a napkin, bring it to church.



Payment can be made at:



**www.ACRYWoodstock.com**

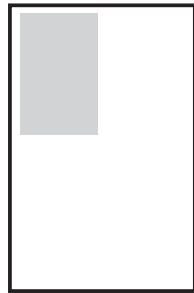
Deadline for inclusion in the booklet is May 10, 2024



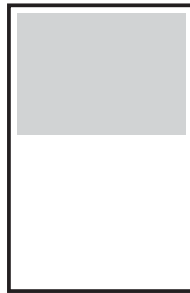
# Specifications



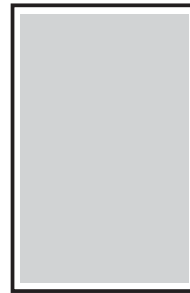
BOOSTERS	\$ 5
PATRONS	\$ 10
MEMORIAL LISTING	\$ 15
1/4 PAGE (3.6h x 2.3w)	\$ 35
1/2 PAGE (3.6h x 5w)	\$ 60
FULL PAGE (7.5h x 5w)	\$ 100
INSIDE FRONT COVER (7.5h x 5w)	\$ 150
INSIDE BACK COVER (7.5h x 5w)	\$ 150
OUTSIDE BACK COVER (7.5h x 5w)	\$ 200



QUARTER PAGE



HALF PAGE



FULL PAGE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

My Ad:



😊 SEND A KID TO CAMP

**APRIL  
MAY  
DONATIONS**

# HELP SEND A PRISONER'S KID TO AN ANGEL TREE CAMP!

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE" MATTHEW 19:14



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE FOR ETERNITY!**  
It's a safe place to get away from their problems, experience the great outdoors, make new friends, and just... be kids! but most important, at an Angel Tree camp, prisoners' kids hear the Gospel and many receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

<https://www.prisonfellowship.org>

**Donations to Church  
write in memo:  
Angel Tree Camp**

# Traditional Saint Elizabeth's Parish Family Paschal Feast

Our Parish family at Saint Elizabeth's has a beautiful tradition we follow as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Following the Paschal Divine Liturgy, we bless baskets that we've all prepared in our homes, filled with our favorite foods, and share in the feast together. This tradition has become something that we love and look forward to with great anticipation each year. Sharing in the joys of the Resurrection in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ is so important for all of us. It's good for the soul. I ask all of you to please stay after the Liturgy on Pascha (05/05) and share in this joyous event with your parish family. Invite your family and friends and give them the blessing of sharing in the joys salvation given to us by our Lord. There will be seating inside and outside under tents and the grills will be hot! Make the most of the rest of the days of Lent to truly appreciate the joys of the Great Day!



# How do I make an Easter Basket?

The next page has pictures and descriptions of many items that you would find in a Traditional Carpatho-Rusin Easter Basket. Similar foods could be found in any Eastern European or Russian basket. But that doesn't mean that's what you need to put in yours. You can use the picture on the next page as guide. A basket usually has a basket cover and candle (*along with the food of course!*).

The basket is filled with all the foods that we've fasted from in Church over the days of Lent & Holy Week. That means that your basket should be filled with all the things you plan to eat as you *break the fast* and celebrate the Paschal Feast here at Saint Elizabeth's.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the Feast of Feasts; and so like with any celebration, we should share in a joyous meal. It is a long standing tradition in the Church to prepare a basket with the foods you've been fasting from and bring it to Church to have it blessed by the Priest. At Saint Elizabeth's we bless our Easter Baskets following the Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Bring your basket and share in the feast!

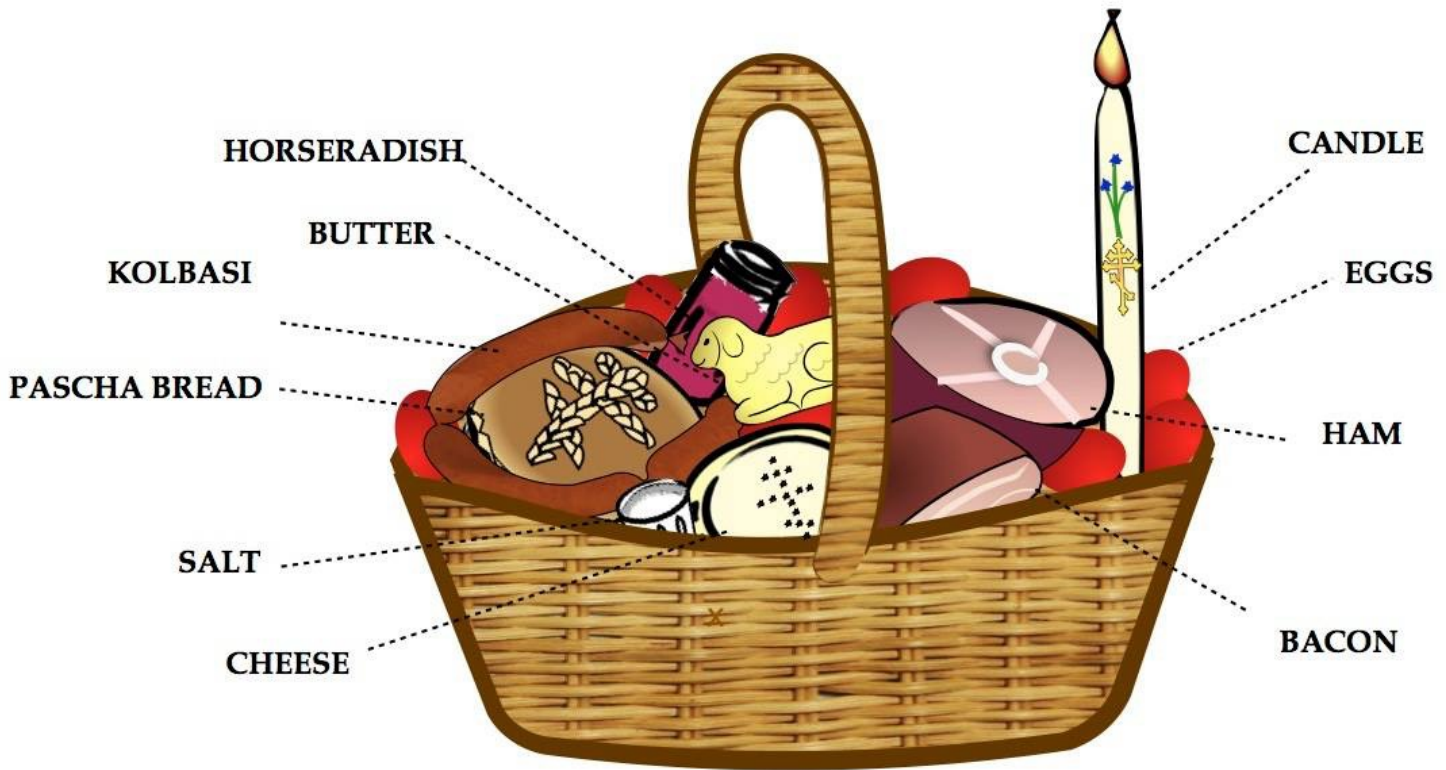
If you have any questions about preparing an Easter Basket please let me know. **You can make this a tradition that your children will cherish, associate with Christ's Resurrection, and look forward to each year!**



*The Blessing of Easter Baskets*

# HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET

"TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KRAYNYAK, GCU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979" ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BANNON



**PASCHA** - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek

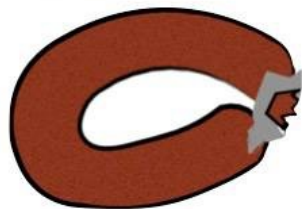
**CHEESE** - (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.



**HAM** - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

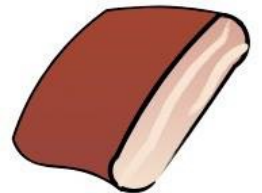


**BUTTER** - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

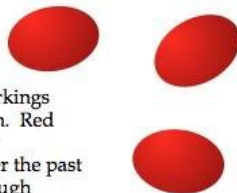


**SAUSAGE** (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kolbus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

**BACON** - (Rusyn: Slanina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



**EGGS** (Rusyn: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.

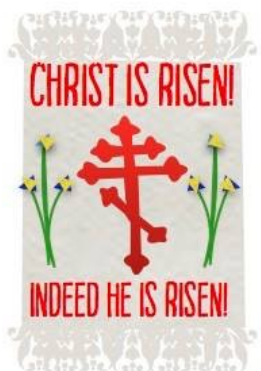


**SALT** - (Rusyn: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



**HORSERADISH** (Rusyn: Chrin pron. khirin) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church. In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought





# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

*Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)*

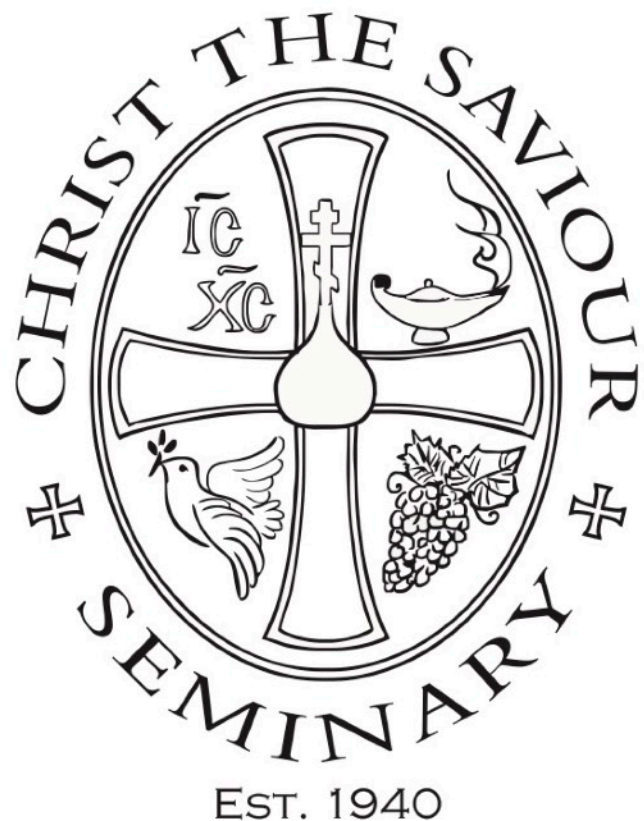
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 28th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ..... <b>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</b> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>MAY 3rd</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>MAY 5th</b> NO FASTING!	 ..... <b>BRIGHT WEEK</b> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

## Prayer For Vocations

Master of all, You promised us, "I will be with you always, even until the very end of the world," and You have taught, "I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mindful of this pledge, we beseech Your great goodness to inspire men to the Holy Priesthood, the service of Your Holy Orthodox Church, so that she may properly be able to fulfill Your will for Your people in this age. There are children to baptize, the sick to heal, and the dying to care for. There is the Bread of Life to distribute, and the Word of God to teach. There are sins to forgive, and charity to be done in Your Name. Send Your Church in this hour and in every age "vessels of clay" to be instruments of Your presence. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

## Prayer For The Priesthood & For our Diocesan Seminarians

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Metropolitan Gregory, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, all our Seminarians and their families. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



## A Daily Account of the Services During Holy Week- READ AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH DAY

*Rev. George Mastrantonis- Adapted for parish use from goarch.org*

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; after that, He was seen of above five thousand brethren at once." 1 Cor. 15:3-6

### Daily Observances of Holy Week at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

#### Saturday Morning of St. Lazarus

"In Remembrance of a Pledge of Resurrection"

*(Saturday before Palm Sunday; the service consists of the Divine Liturgy.)*

On this day, the rising from the dead of St. Lazarus, the righteous friend of Christ, is celebrated. Holy Week begins with the phrase: "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany..." (John 12:1) His arrival coincided with the Jewish Passover. It started on the 15th of the month of Nisan in commemoration of the freeing of the Hebrew people, under the leadership of Moses, from the slavery of the Egyptians by the miraculous act of God. The Church relates preparation and redemption to the events of this week.

Six days before the Passover, a feast was given for Christ in Bethany of Judea, where Christ had stopped on His way to Jerusalem. Lazarus, His friend, and his sisters were present. A short time earlier, Christ had raised Lazarus from the dead, thereby gaining the respect and faith of the people, but also the hatred of the fanatics. The Church names this day the "Saturday of Lazarus" in remembrance of the resurrection of Lazarus and its promise of universal resurrection for all men. The Church connects this celebration, by anticipation, with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem: "We carry the Symbols of victory and cry Hosanna in the highest."

*The readings are Hebrews 12:28-13:8 and John 11:1-45.*

#### Palm Sunday Morning

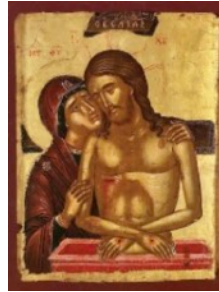
"Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord..."

*(Palm Sunday service is held in the morning and consists of the Divine Liturgy. On the Eve of Palm Sunday, Great Vespers is served)*

Palm Sunday celebrates the glorious and brilliant feast of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Zechariah had prophesied the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem, saying: "Rejoice greatly...O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King comes unto Thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." (Zech. 9:9) The contemporary Jews associated this prophecy with the expected Messiah. This action of Christ testifies to His nature as Savior, but with the definite declaration that His Kingdom was not of this world. The news that Christ was in Bethany provoked a general enthusiasm of acceptance, but also of indignation among the High Priests, who had decided to kill Christ. The main road leading to Jerusalem was covered with palm trees. The multitudes, with palm branches in their hands, spread their cloaks on the road as a show of respect, crying out, "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. 'All the actions and words of the people and of Christ had a Messianic meaning readily recognized by the Jews of that time. As usual, Christ went immediately to the Temple, where He prayed and taught. That evening He departed for Bethany.

A custom of distributing branches of palms to the people in the Church prevails to this day, commemorating the victory of Christ against the evil powers.

*The Epistle reading is Phil. 4:4-9, and the Gospel reading is John 12:1-18.*



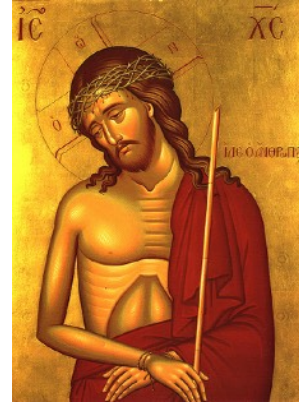
**HOLY WEEK**  
OUR JOURNEY TO  
FOOT OF THE CROSS



**"Behold the Bridegroom Cometh in the Midst of the Night..."**

*(The service is Matins of Great Monday and is sung by anticipation on Palm Sunday afternoon.)*

Monday of Holy Week (sung by anticipation, now on Palm Sunday Evening) commemorates the blessed and noble Joseph and the fig tree which was cursed and withered by the Lord. The withering of the fig tree was a miracle of special symbolism, since the tree had leaves, but no fruit. It is symbolic of the many people who claim ethical and religious identity, but who in reality have empty lives that yield no fruit. This was also the case with some of the Pharisees of that period. Jesus cursed the tree: *"May no fruit ever come from you again!"* (Matt. 21:19) The reference to the story of the virtuous Joseph of the Old Testament (Genesis 37-41) is made only for contrast, since the life of Joseph was a model of propriety and sincere observance of ethical principles.



On this evening, we begin with the Hymn of the Bridegroom, "Behold the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the night...beware, therefore, O my soul, lest thou be borne down in sleep...and lest thou be shut out from the Kingdom..." The canticle hymn also has a symbolic exhortation: "I see thy bridal hall adorned, O my Savior, and I have no wedding garment...O giver of Light, make radiant the vesture of my soul and save me." At this time, the solemn procession of the Icon of Christ-Bridegroom takes place around the church. The people, anticipating the sufferings of Christ, sing: "Thy sublime sufferings, on this day, shine upon the world as a light of salvation."

The Gospel reading during this service is Matthew 21:18-43. It mentions that *"the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?'"* (v. 23) They sought to have Christ accuse Himself in answering this question.

**Great Holy and Monday** *(Presanctified Liturgy is celebrated in the Morning)*

"Both watch and pray..."

*(The service is Matins of Tuesday morning sung by anticipation on Monday evening.)*

Tuesday of Holy Week (sung by anticipation, now on Monday evening) commemorates the parable of the Ten Virgins, Matt. 25:1-13. Ethical preparation and wakefulness are the foundations of vivid faith. The parable of the Ten Virgins is developed around the theme of the Bridegroom: "Why are Thou heedless, O my soul?...Work most diligently with the talent which has been confided to thee; both watch and pray." The hymnologist reminds us, "I do not possess a torch aflame with virtue, and the foolish virgin I imitate when it is the time for action"; and "Into the splendor of thy saints, how can I, who am unholy, enter?" The exhortation is given: "Come, Ye faithful, let us work earnestly for the Master...increase our talent of grace...Wisdom through good works."

*The Gospel is Matthew 22:15-23 through 23:39; 24:26 through 26:2.*

**Great Holy Tuesday** *(Presanctified Liturgy is celebrated in the Morning)*

"When he came to himself...he came to his father..."

*(The service is Matins of Wednesday morning sung by anticipation on Tuesday evening.)*

On Wednesday of Holy Week (sung by anticipation, now on Tuesday evening), it has been ordained by the Holy Fathers of the Church that commemoration should be made of the anointing of Christ with myrrh by the woman in the house of Simon, the leper, in Bethany. Repentance was the mission of the prophets. It would be an apt one-word title for the Bible, because *"repentance"* was the mission of our Lord. This woman who demonstrated her repentance and her warm faith toward our Lord still presents to us the aroma of her virtue for imitation today.

On this evening is sung the beautiful "Hymn of Cassiane," probably a work of Patriarch Photius. It begins: "The woman who had fallen into many sins recognized thy Godhead, O Lord; Woe to me, saith she; receive the sources of my tears, O Thou who doth gather into clouds the water of the sea. Who can trace out the multitude of my sins and the abysses of my misdeeds? "O Thou whose mercy is unbounded."T

The Gospel reading is John 12:17-50.

**Great Holy and Wednesday Morning**

"The light of Christ shines for all..."

*(The Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts)*

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is celebrated on this day for the last time during Lent. This very ancient Liturgy is a Vesper Service, with the Holy Gifts presanctified in the Liturgy on the previous Sunday. This Liturgy is offered every Wednesday and Friday during Lent so that the people may receive Holy Communion. This Liturgy is solemn and reflects the grandeur and simplicity of the early Church. During Lent, no other Liturgy is held except on Saturday, Sunday, and March 25, when the Liturgies of St. Basil (on Sundays) and St. Chrysostom are officiated.

**Great Holy Wednesday Evening**

"Anointing him sick with oil in the name of the Lord..."

*(The Mystery of Unction)*

The sacred ceremony of the Mystery of the Holy Unction takes place on this Wednesday evening, following an old custom. It is the evening of repentance, confession, and the remission of sins by the Lord, preparing the faithful to receive Holy Communion, usually the next day, Holy Thursday morning. Holy Unction is the Mystery for cleansing sins and renewing the body and the spirit of the faithful. Holy Unction is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church, and it has its origin in the practice of the early Church as recorded in the Epistle of James (5:14-15). At the end of the service, the priest anoints the people with Holy Oil, the visible carrier of the Grace of God.

*(This Holy Oil is used on sick calls by the Priest throughout the year)*

**Great Holy Thursday Morning**

"Do this in remembrance of Me..."

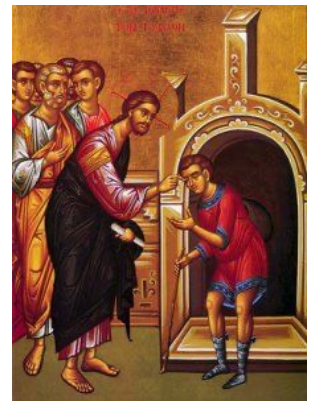
*(The service is the Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Thursday evening which is sung in the morning by anticipation.)*

Jesus drew His last breath of freedom on this Thursday night. Christ knew all the incidents which were about to take place and called to Him His Apostles in order to institute the Holy Eucharist for them and for the Church forever. At the end of March, with the full moon as a brilliant lantern in the sky and the weather mild, the people in Jerusalem enjoyed the beginning of spring. In this atmosphere, Christ presented Bread and Wine as the Elements of His Very Body and His Very Blood; they are the Precious Gifts which have been left as His perpetual Presence in the Church. The institution of the Holy Eucharist and its re-enactment through the centuries, both as a sacrifice and sacred ceremony (Mystery), is the life-giving remembrance which, along with the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, constitutes the basis of salvation for the Christian.

Then followed the incidents of the dramatic closing moments of Christ's life. After the washing of His Apostles' feet, He pointed out the betrayer, inaugurated the Eucharist, and pronounced the new commandment of love for one another. He spoke to them words of comfort, promising the descent of the Holy Spirit to complete man's union with Christ. His departure, Christ said, would bring to them and the world joy. Christ took His Apostles out in the mild night where He could see face-to-face His co-workers in the bright light of the full moon. In this spiritual mood and physical setting, Jesus withdrew to pray. After this agony of the "bloody sweat" came the kiss of Judas and His arrest. He thus became the source of spiritual and physical freedom for mankind.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil is officiated on this day. The readings are: 2 Cor. 11:23-32; Matt. 26:2-28; John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-44; Matt. 26:40-75; Matt. 27:1-2.

During this Liturgy, the priest prepares the "Reserved Sacrament," the Holy Communion, which is kept throughout the whole year in the Tabernacle on the Altar, and given the faithful in times of sickness. The Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Church during the entire year and throughout the ages. On this day, with greater feeling than ever, Christians come for Holy Communion singing: "Receive me Today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Thy Mystic Feast; for I will not speak of the Mystery to Thine enemies, I will not kiss Thee as did Judas, but as the thief I will confess Thee. Lord, remember me when I comest to Thy Kingdom."



**Great Holy Thursday Evening**

"We worship Thy passion, O Christ..."

*(The service of the HOLY PASSION of our Lord Jesus Christ. The service is Matins of Friday morning sung by anticipation, on Thursday evening.)*

Good Friday celebrates the holy, saving, and awesome Passion of Christ. To take away our sins, Christ willingly endured spitting, scourging, buffeting, scorn, mocking, and purple robe; the reed, sponge, vinegar, nails, spear, and above all, the Cross and Death. The confession from the cross of the penitent thief, crucified with Christ, is celebrated. This service is long, but its content is dramatic and deeply moving for the devout Christian. Participation in the prayers and the historical sequence of the events, as related in the Gospels and hymns, provides a vivid foundation for the great events yet to come. Following are the references of the "Twelve Gospel" readings of this service

1. St. John 13:31 thru Ch. 18:1
2. St. John 18:1-29
3. St. Matthew 26:57-75
4. St. John 18:28 thru Ch. 19:16
5. St. Matthew 27:3-32
6. St. Mark 15:16-32
7. St. Matthew 27:33-54
8. St. Luke 23:32-49
9. St. John 19:38-42
10. St. Mark 15:43-47
11. St. John 19:38-42
12. St. Matthew 27:62-66



These readings relate the last instructions of Christ to His disciples, the prophecy of the drama of the Cross, the dramatic prayer of Christ and His new commandment. The day should be devoted to reading the "Gospel of the Testament" of Christ which He left for all men. The Church services during Holy Week re-enact the events of this Gospel.

After the reading of the fifth Gospel comes the procession with the Crucifix around the church, while the priest chants the 15th antiphon: "Today is hung upon the Tree, He Who did hang the land in the midst of the waters. A Crown of thorns crowns Him Who is King of Angels. He is wrapped about with the purple of mockery Who wrapped the Heavens with clouds. He received buffetings Who freed Adam in Jordan. He was transfixed with nails Who is the Bridegroom of the Church. He was pierced with a spear Who is the Son of the Virgin. We worship Thy Passion, O Christ. Show also unto us thy glorious Resurrection."

During the Procession, the faithful Christian kneels and prays for his spiritual welfare, imitating the thief on the Cross who confessed his faith and devotion to Christ. He then approaches and reverently kisses the Crucifix.

**Good Friday Morning**

"They cast lots upon my vesture..."

According to the Hebrew custom, the "Royal Hours," four in number, are read at this time. These services consist of hymns, psalms, and readings from the Old and New Testaments, all related prophetically and ethically to the Person of Christ. In some churches, the "Hours" are read in the afternoon, before the Vesper services.

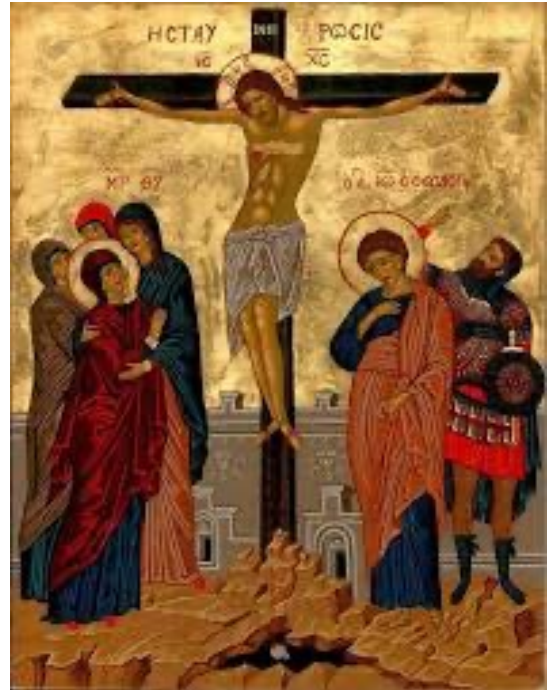
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## **The Holy Sunday of Pascha: Saturday Evening**

*(The service of Matins of Pascha is celebrated on Saturday evening in anticipation.)*

The Matins of the Resurrection begins in complete darkness. The priest takes light from the vigil light and gives it to the faithful, who are holding candles. The priest sings: "Come receive light from the Light eternal, and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead," and all the people join him in singing this hymn again and again. From this moment, every Christian holds the Easter candle as a symbol of his vivid, deep faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Savior. In many churches, the priest leads the people outside the church, where he reads the Gospel which refers to the Angel's statement: "He is Risen; He is not here." (Mark 16:1-8)

Then comes the breathless moment as the people wait for the priest to start the hymn of Resurrection, which they join him in singing, repeatedly: "Christ has Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon Death, and has bestowed life upon those in the tombs." From this moment, the entire service takes on a joyous Easter atmosphere. The hymns of the *Odes and Praises* of Resurrection which follow are of superb meaning and expression. The people confess, "It is the Day of Resurrection, let us be glorious, let us embrace one another and speak to those that hate us; let us forgive all things and so let us cry, Christ has arisen from the dead." By this hymn, they admit that love of one's fellowman is the solid foundation of the faith in the Resurrection of Christ. At the end of the service, a part of the marvelous festival sermon of St. Chrysostom is read, which calls upon the people to "Take part in this fair and radiant festival. Let no one be fearful of death, for the death of the Savior has set us free...O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is Thy victory? Christ is Risen and Thou art overthrown. To Him be glory and power from all ages to all ages."

## **The Holy Sunday of Pascha: Sunday Morning**

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated.

The readings are Acts 1:1-8 and John 1: 1-17.

## **Easter Sunday Afternoon Vespers**

*"Peace be unto you..."* On Easter Sunday afternoon, the faithful gather once more for prayer with lighted candles. All sing the hymn, "Christ is Risen from the Dead." The people greet one another joyously, saying: "Christ is Risen," the Easter salutation which is answered, "Truly He is Risen." They sing, "The dark shadows of the Law have passed away by the coming of grace," and standing in exaltation, they exclaim, "Who is so great a God as our God?" The Gospel according to John (20:19-25) is read in various languages, proclaiming the Good News of Resurrection all over the universe without discrimination. The fruit of faith in the Resurrection of the Lord is love in His Name; therefore, this day is called "Sunday of Agape" (love feast), a day dedicated to Christian principles, especially to forgiveness and charity. At this time, Christians seek to end misunderstanding and arguments among those with whom they may be at odds. Apostle Paul firmly interprets the Resurrection of Christ, saying: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." (1 Cor. 15:14) The Church also states in its Creed, "The Third day He rose again."

## **A Living Faith**

Remembrance of the events of the last week in the life of Jesus Christ has a practical appeal to the heart of the Christian believer. One's beliefs constitute his being; the more our beliefs are true and firm, the more purposeful meaning life has. The Resurrection of Christ strengthens and illuminates our beliefs; this is our being. It is not only a belief in a historical fact which took place in a certain place and time, but it is marvelous in its nature. The Resurrection of Christ in relation to His Crucifixion and Mystic Supper continue to be present in the mind of the believer as a fact, as well as the source of "the power from above," for which the believer prays. Assurance of a personal participation in the enactment of the same events in the life of Christ becomes an unfaded happiness for the Christian.

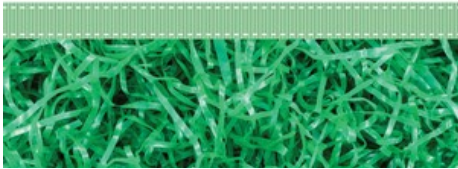
This is the divine inheritance that the Church of Christ keeps as its treasure and solid foundation. The goal of a member of the Church is to keep his faith living and working in his everyday life and relations with others. The Christian will be recognized and identified as the friend and disciple of Jesus Christ. His beliefs will be like the flag which flies from the top of the centermost of his own ship, sailing to its divine destiny. The flag's inscription bears the assurance that *"Christ is Risen, Indeed."*





# Palm Sunday

"Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!"  
- Matthew 21:9 -



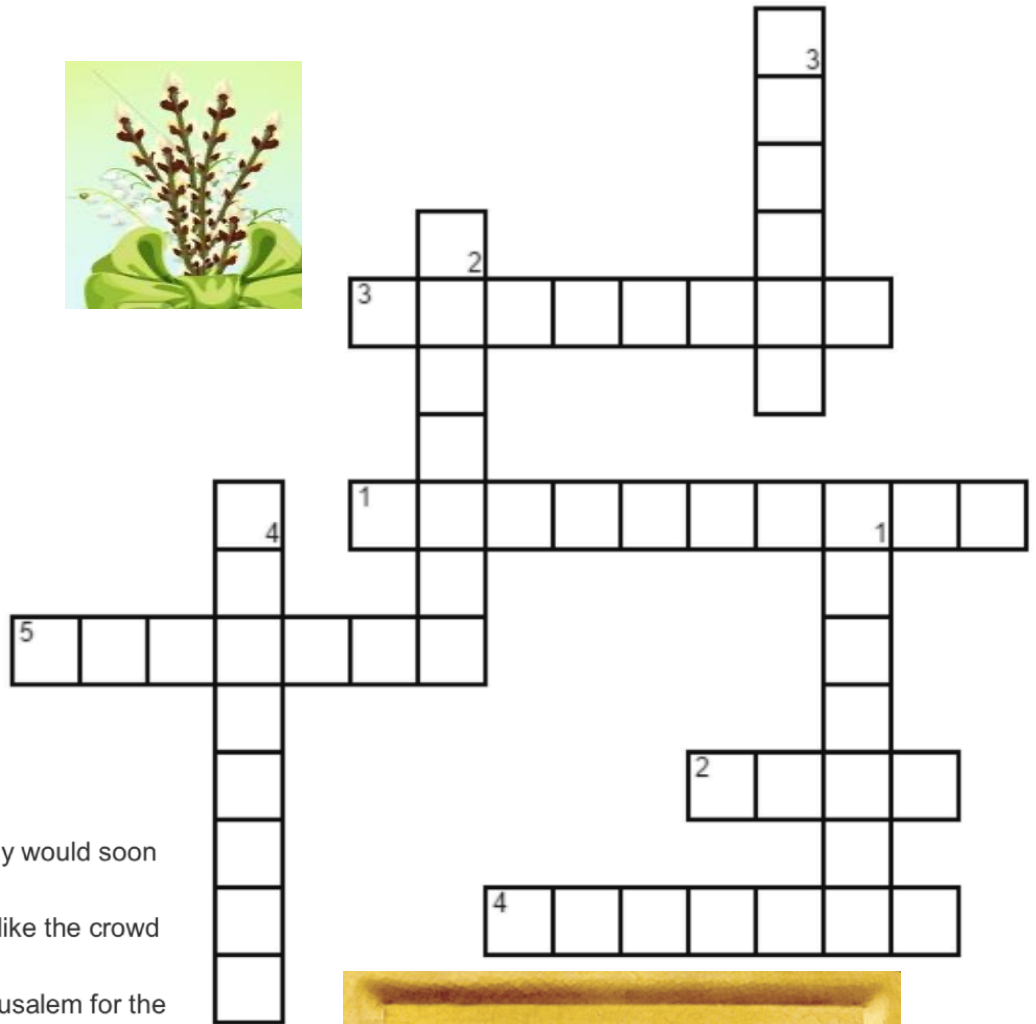
## Across

1. The cheers of the crowd on Sunday would soon turn to the murderous chant...
2. On this day we receive Christ just like the crowd did, as our Lord and...
3. Many people were gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.
4. On Palm Sunday, the crowd in Jerusalem saw Christ as the long anticipated \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The people greeted Christ with branches and they even laid out their own...

## Down

1. The crowd in Jerusalem greeted Christ saying Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ In the Highest!
2. The crowd was amazed because they heard about the raising of \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.
3. Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Zachariah 9-9 by riding into Jerusalem on the colt of a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the Orthodox Church we call Palm Sunday, the Triumphal \_\_\_\_\_ into Jerusalem.

# Palm Sunday Crossword Puzzle





# ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 31, 2024

Dear Parish Family Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church,

As we journey through the Lenten season, reflecting on the eternal significance of the cross and the empty tomb of our Lord, we are called to remember God's blessings freely bestowed upon us as a growing Orthodox Christian family. All that we have is not our own, but is lent to us for a time by our Creator. It is with a heart filled with gratitude and hope that I write to you today, seeking your generous consideration for a special contribution to our building fund. Last week we approved the spending of \$30,000 to renovate our Church Hall, but in the life of the Church there is always more that God is calling us to do for His glory.

Saint Elizabeth's Orthodox Church in Woodstock, Georgia, stands as a testament to the faith and generosity of those who have come before us. The ongoing renovation of our Church Hall is a tangible expression of our commitment to continue the mission entrusted to us—to share the Gospel of Christ and the Orthodox Faith with the world around us.

The transformation of our Church Hall into a larger and more comfortable space for fellowship and community gatherings is more than just a physical renovation; it is an investment in the spiritual growth and unity of our parish family. This space will not only provide comfort but also serve as a hub for nurturing relationships and deepening our understanding of the Orthodox faith as we break bread together, share in the ministries of Christ's Church, and collectively carry our own crosses.

The fact that we have been able to undertake this project with a cost of \$30,000 is only possible because God is with us, and He has blessed our community with so many talented and generous parishioners. Just like we are thankful for the efforts of all the founders, builders, and benefactors of Saint Elizabeth's, we are blessed that in this moment we have talented individuals who are willing to use their skills to glorify God by selflessly contributing their construction expertise, efforts, and resources for the continued development of Saint Elizabeth's.

It is also important to acknowledge the work of past and present parishioners whose stewardship and generosity have built the foundation upon which we stand today. Your ongoing support is essential as we continue to grow as an Orthodox Christian family and embark on various capital building projects and kitchen upgrades essential for the growth and vitality of our community.

**Continued on the Next Page...**

# ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Matthew Dutko  
Pastor/Administrator  
[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)



As I was packing up my office to move down the hall, I rediscovered some items from our Church's early days. Next to my filing cabinet was poster board of special pledges made by parishioners towards the building fund, which was established to erect a permanent Church building. The generosity of our founders is a testament to their faith in Christ and commitment to build an Orthodox Christian Church in the Woodstock area.

Today, as we continue to carry our cross and build up God's House, I humbly ask you this Lent to prayerfully consider making a special contribution towards the renovation of our Church Hall, building fund, the burning of our mortgage, or any other project that resonates with your heart. The Church remembers forever the founders, builders, and benefactors of the Church in the Great Entrance during the Divine Liturgy. Contributing to this campaign makes you a builder and a benefactor of God's House here at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church. That means that the Church will remember you and pray for you forever in her holy prayers.

Donor	Pledge	Donor	Pledge
1	10,000.	<del>23</del>	<del>100.</del>
2	2,000.	24	50.
3	25,000.	25	500.
4	25,000.	26	10.
5	1,000.		
6	905.		
7	500.		
8	10,000.		
9	5,000.		
10	10,000.		
11	1,000.		
12	1,000.		
13	500.		
14	2,500.		
15	500.		
16	5,000.		
17	10.		
18	120.		
19	500.		
* 20	1,000.		
21	500.		
22	200.		

The endeavor to renovate our Church Hall stands as one of our most important current building projects, yet there is still much work to be done. Some of those specific projects include the parking lot, driveway, kitchen equipment—encompassing the stove hood, new mixer, and large freezer—outdoor storage sheds, an outdoor pavilion, additional Church Dome/Dome on the Bell Tower, and expanded outdoor lighting. Each of these initiatives are important parts of our ongoing mission and the ministry of Saint Elizabeth's. Yet with the expense of our Church Hall renovation, and without your additional financial support, these important projects will need to be placed on hold for a time.

As we move heavenward towards Christ, every contribution, every gift, regardless of its size, moves us closer to our shared objective of serving Christ, sharing the Orthodox Faith with our greater community, and nurturing our parish family here at Saint Elizabeth's.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). May our contributions be a reflection of our love for God, the Orthodox Faith, and Saint Elizabeth's.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and dedication to the health and growth of the parish family of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church.

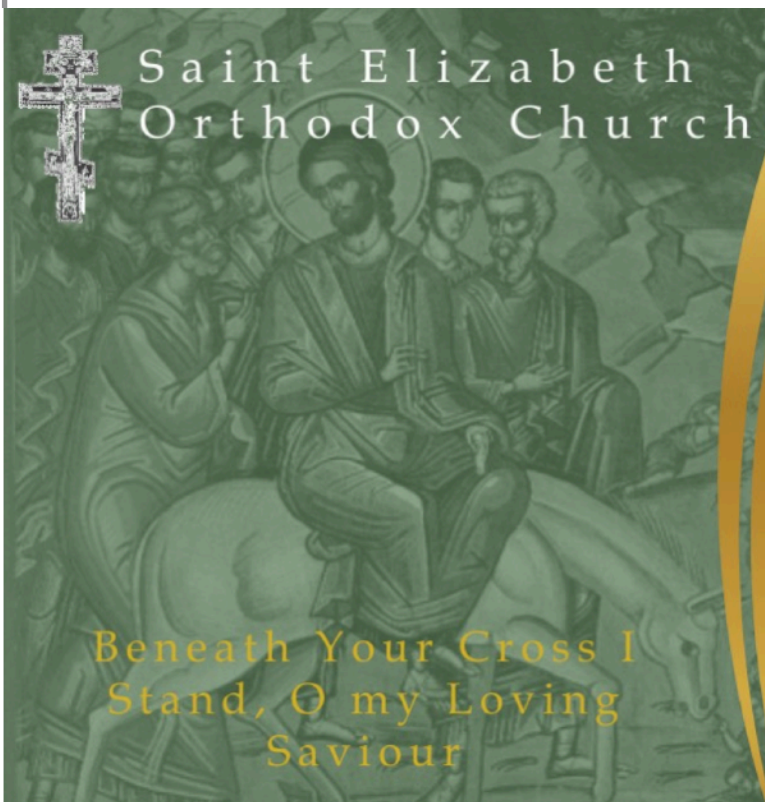
With heartfelt gratitude and love in Christ,

## Parish Family Prayer List

*For the Health of:* The Melnikoff Family, Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Kara, Joanna, James, Athanasia, Ethel, Tyler, Maria, Page Family, Dean, Metropolitan Gregory and his family, David, Joseph, Maria Starcova, David & Paulette Novak, Suzette, Bob, David, Marilyn & family, Mark, Fr. Dcn. Stephen, Michelle, James, Rachel, Kate, Fr. Blaschak & Family, Larry, Alexandra, Tammy, Trahan & Skiba Family, The Hood Family, the Mileszko Family, the Blonar Family, Burt, Sandy, Stephanie, Mary, Tommy, Stephen, Emilia, Simon, Alisha, & Aaron Zak, the Puziculiks Family, Fr. Andy, Davina, & Alexandra, Stan, Fr. Dcn. Charlie & Family, Justin, Charlie, Herbert Schleining, Spencer, Julie, Anna, Galina & Family, Irinia & Family, Fr. Jim & Pani Kathy Dutko, Rick, Katlain, Elenor, Teddy, Mark, Robert & Cindy, Melissa, Ben, Anthony, Rachel, Christine, Cora, Rick, Michelle, Tim, Robert, The Kelemecz Family, Leonard, Leo, & the Olaru Family, Joanna Price, Kim, Isaiah, the Wells Family, Dave, Ashley & family, Mary, Tim, Andrew, Robert, Derrick, Michael, Eli, Ean, Ellie, Amber, Christopher, Deborah, Nick & Rosemary, Mike, Elaiane, Roy, Lin, Dave, Sarah, George, & Edward, Stephen, Caleb, Amelia, Simon, David, the Gdovin Family, the Rodgers Family, the Kundrat Family, Yvone, George, Amberly, & baby Stella, Jessie, Dexter, Julia, Dan, Cora, Gabriel, Ethan, Tripp, Rachel, Lilly, Emmie, Charlie, Michelle, Serge, Mark, Johnny, Yvette Christine, Johanna, Nicole, Caroline, Alexander, Kelly, Henery, & Benjamin

*For the Departed:* Evelyn & Boris Melnikoff+, Patricia+, James+, Stephen+, Anna+, Charles+, Robert+, Loraine+. Helen+, Lewis+, Jean+, Vera+, George+, George+, Ernie+, Eddie+, Maria+, Carl+, Mark+, Barry+, Josph+, Phillip+, Jenny+, Peter+, Bryan+, Rebecca+, Fr. Paul+, Maria+, Fr. Hazuda+, George Smisko+, Helen Spanovich+, Bob+, Alma+, Bo+, Saddy+, Fr. William George+, Violet+, Fr. Kozar+, Benjamin+, John Haddad+, Fred & Helen Mileszko+, Anna+, Natalie+, Lilly+, Christine+, Anna+, Tamara+, Anastasia+, Yvonne+, John+, Betty+, Ada+, Peter+ & Wanda+, George+, Jerry+, Barb+ & Harry+, Beth+, Louise+, Nikolay+, David+, Fr. Michael+, Natalie+, Helen+, Ted+, Tom+, Mike+, Madeline+, Tim+, Fr. John Baranek, Reader Stephen+, Dean+, Fr. Larry+, Kris+, Wathen+, Pani Elenor+, Fr. Michael+, Sally+, David+, Gene+, Kenny+, Ava+, Fr. Tony Josph+ & Pani Patsy+, Anatoly+, Fr. Scott+, Steve+, Claudia+, Dave+, Fr. John Duranko, Michael+, Sarah Elizabeth+ Ester+, Julie+, +Michael, +Joe, Mary+, Joseph+, Joan+, Margaret+

*Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers & Mothers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!*



Saint Elizabeth  
Orthodox Church

Beneath Your Cross I  
Stand, O my Loving  
Saviour

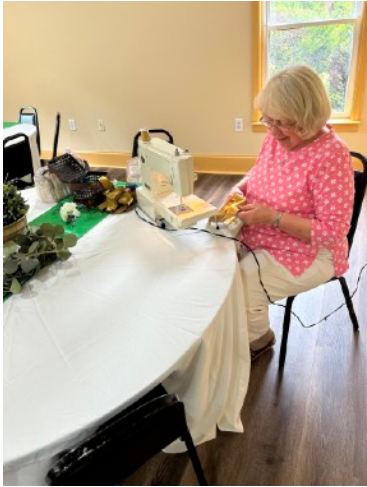
When Christ our Saviour rides into Jerusalem on the colt of donkey He is greeted with by people crying out and saying  
"Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
Just a few days later, those same people, having dropped thier palms and branches chanted the horrifying words:  
"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"  
Let us be like John the Beloved Disciple and Mary the Mother of God and follow Christ to the Cross. Hold tight to your palms and branches throughout your life. Worshiping Christ and choosing light and life over sin, darkness, and death.

[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)

# The Joys of Holy Week are Upon Us!

The Memory of Something Good

*“You must know that there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and good for life in the future than some good memory...if one has only one good memory left in one's heart, even that may sometime be the means of saving us.” -The Brothers Karmazov*



Grant O Lord to Your Newly Illumined Servants Joy, Melanie, and Brooke along with their family peace, health, prosperity for many happy and blessed years!