

April 5, 2015 ~ Palm Sunday

Matins Gospel Reading: The Gospel of 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 any one 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.

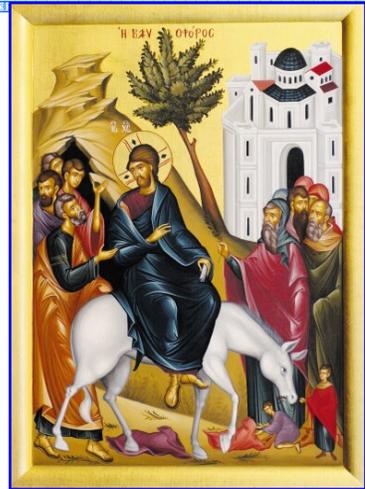
Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

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.

Gospel Reading: The Gospel of 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.



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Fr. Michael Kallaur, Economos
Daniel Korba, Presbyter
Dn. Frank Dickos

Please visit our website at: www.holycrosspgh.org
for details on announcements and church calendar.

April 5, 2015 ~ Palm Sunday

Altar flowers and altar candles are sponsored in loving memory of +Mike Andrews and +Emmanuel Andrews from Aliko Andrews & family and Anna Andrews & family.

*Epitaphion flower donations should be included in the regular basket passed today.
Easter bread will be sold today in the narthex.*

<i>Sunday</i>	5:00 pm Bridegroom Service
<i>Monday</i>	9am Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Bridegroom Service
<i>Tuesday</i>	9am Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Bridegroom Service
<i>Wednesday</i>	9am Presanctified Liturgy 3pm Holy Unction 6pm Holy Unction/Matins of Holy Thursday
<i>Thursday</i>	9am Vespereal Divine Liturgy 6:30pm Passion of our Lord/Reading of 12 Gospels 10pm-6am Vigil by the Cross & Sandwiches for the Homeless
<i>Friday</i>	9am Royal Hours JOY Good Friday Event: Candle-making and lunch <i>Please join us for candle-making craft and reflective activities, followed by a light, lenten lunch. Activities will conclude at 12:30.</i> 3pm Apokathelosis 6:30pm Praises/Matins of Holy Saturday
<i>Saturday</i>	9am Vespereal Divine Liturgy 11pm Nocturnes 11:30pm "Come Receive the Light" Orthros /Liturgy of the Resurrection followed by AGAPE MEAL
<i>Sunday</i>	Noon: AGAPE Vespers

Submit Your 2015 Pledge Card Online: You can now submit your pledge card online at www.holycrosspgh.org Click on Stewardship, then click Pledge Online and enter your info and 2015 pledge. Your stewardship and support are what sustains the day to day operations of our parish. Pledge cards are also available at the candle stands in the Narthex, or you can just call Nena, in the church office with the amount. Thank you, Ted Sofis, Stewardship Chair

WELCOME – AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION...

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today, trusting that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Greek Orthodox Churches are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in the Holy Lands, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus and throughout the world. Like the ancient Christians, we engage the whole person, heart, mind and all senses in Divine Worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said “We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among human beings.” (*Russian Primary Chronicle*) That communion experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship. It culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life between all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for observant Orthodox Christians. This does not mean, however, that non-Orthodox are ‘excluded’ - rather, the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity when actual unity does not exist. While working to restore the full communion that did exist in antiquity, today we offer the sign of the blessed bread at the service’s conclusion as a symbolic gift of hospitality and growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or *Holy Communion*, please approach Fr. Michael or one of the clergy following services.

Thank you for joining us, and again, we welcome you all.

The Church - A Holy Place

When you enter the church building as the “House of Worship,” you are entering into the Great Throne Room of the “King of Kings” as His subjects and His soldiers. The “King of Kings,” Jesus Christ, is enthroned on the Holy Altar and all the angels, prophets, saints and the Most Holy Mother of God are present. His soldiers should be attentive and standing at attention. No one in the presence of the “king of Kings” would sit with his legs crossed, or his hands in his pockets, or chewing gum, or looking at his watch because to do any of these things would be disrespectful. The only proper disposition a soldier can have before his commander is that of reverence which is indicated by a bowed head, a submissive heart and prayer.