

PALM SUNDAY -- FLOWERY SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

HOLY GHOST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

315 Fourth Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania 18042

Rectory (610) 252 – 4266 cell: 717-554-2994

Website: www.holyghost-ukrainian-catholic.org dan.troyan@yahoo.com

Archpriest Fr. Daniel Troyan : Pastor

March 25-April 1, 2018

Palm Sunday: Feast of the Annunciation

Epistle: Hebrews 2: 11-18

Gospel: John 12: 1-18

SATURDAY 6:00PM (English) 40th day +Hadley Elizabeth Koehler- Family

PALM SUNDAY March 25, 2018 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

9:30AM (Ukrainian) For the People

11:00AM (English) +Anna Tomko – Greg & Dorothy Neff

12:15 Religious Instruction

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

MONDAY: 5:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

6:30PM Choir Practice for Easter

WEDNESDAY

5:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Healing and Anointing Service

HOLY THURSDAY 10:30 AM (MT CARMEL PA) Liturgy of St Basil

6:00PM Twelve Passion Gospels

(cleaning and decorating church for Easter)

HOLY AND GOOD FRIDAY (Good Friday Vigil at the tomb 6:00PM-11:00PM)

**Day of Strict FASTING 5:30PM Vespers for Good Friday Procession with
the Shroud (Plaschanitsa)**

8:00PM Jerusalem Matins (English & Ukrainian)

HOLY & GOOD SATURDAY (Vigil at the tomb 8:00AM – 6:00PM)

12:00 noon Liturgy of St Basil +Walter & Lillian Kiniuk- Pearl Kiniuk

Reading of the Resurrection Gospel

Day of Fasting from Meat Lighting of the Paschal Candle

3:00PM Blessing of Easter Baskets

(ENGLISH) 6:00PM Easter Procession and Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy for Easter

EASTER SUNDAY

(UKRAINIAN) 9:00AM Easter procession and Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy for Easter

Blessing of Easter Baskets

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

CHRISTOS VOSKRES! VOYEESTINU VOSKRES

PALM SUNDAY FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER GOD

First Antiphon:

I love the Lord, /because He listened to my voice in supplication.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

For He turned an ear to me/ on the day I called.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us

. I was caught by the cords of death; /the snares of Sheol had seized me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

I felt agony and dread, /and I called on the name of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory be to the Father... O Only begotten Son and Word of God....

2nd Antiphon:

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Troparion: O Christ our God, You confirmed the resurrection of all /before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead. /Therefore, we, as the children of Israel carry the symbols of victory/ and cry out to You, the Conqueror of Death: /Hosanna in the highest!/ Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Let the house of Israel say: His love endures forever.

Troparion: O Christ our God, You confirmed the resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead. Therefore, we, as the children of Israel carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Let the house of Aaron say: His love endures forever.

Entrance Hymn:

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless You from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Troparion (1): O Christ our God, You confirmed the resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead. Therefore, we, as the children of Israel carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparion (4): We have been buried with You through baptism, O Christ our God,/ and we have become worthy of immortal life by Your resurrection./ So we cry out to You: Hosanna in the highest!/ Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparion (4): Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the revelation of an eternal mystery: /the Son of God becomes a virgin's Son, /and Gabriel announces this grace. /Therefore, let us exclaim with him to the Mother of God: /Rejoice, O Woman Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.

Kontakion (6): In heaven You are carried upon a throne;/ on earth You rode upon a colt, O Christ our God. /You received the praise of Angels and the hymns of children crying out to You:/ Blessed is He Who came to restore Adam.

Prokimenon: (4): Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord;/ God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His love endures forever.

Prokimenon (4): Day after day, announce the salvation of the Lord.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians (Phil 4,4-9) My brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia Verses:

Verse: Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has worked wonders. Alleluia

Verse: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of the Lord. Alleluia, .

Verse: He shall descend like rain on the meadows, like raindrops on the earth.

Gospel: (Jn 12,1-18)

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one [of] his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him. On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast

heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, [even] the king of Israel." Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written: "Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass's colt." His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him. So the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from death continued to testify. This was [also] why the crowd went to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign.

It is truly right... (Or the Hirmos of the Feast):

O earth, proclaim the good news of great joy./ You heavens sing the glory of God.
/Let no unclean hand touch the living Tabernacle of God;/ but let the lips of the faithful sing endlessly with joy/ to the Mother of God the greeting of the angel:/
Rejoice O Woman Full of Grace,/ the Lord is with you!

Communion Verse:

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us./ The Lord has chosen Zion; He has chosen it for His dwelling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VISITATION OF THE SICK

The sick and infirm will be visited this week with the sacrament of Holy Communion for Easter. Anyone presently not being visited who would like to receive the sacraments please contact the rectory office. Happy Easter!

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR EASTER

There will be choir practice on Monday evening at 6:30PM to go over the music and songs for Holy Week. Your choice and your voice will help make our celebration of the Resurrection most prayerful and enjoyable! Thank you for your participation.

HELP TO PREPARE CHURCH FOR EASTER

The Painting will be finished on Wednesday March 28. On Wednesday evening we will be returning all the church furniture to the church for the celebration of Holy Week. Anyone able to assist us in the carrying and clean up you help would be greatly appreciated. Thursday morning we will be dressing the altars, and have final clean up before Thursday evening's celebration of the 12 Passion Gospels. Please Help us if you are able. Thank you !

PALM SUNDAY : HOLY WEEK

“ Come together all you children of the New Israel which is the Church of the Gentiles! Let us proclaim with the prophet Zecharias: “Rejoice and exalt O Daughter of Zion! Shout for joy O Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you, meek and riding upon the donkey’s colt and bringing salvation! Feast like the children, bearing green fronds and branches in your hands and singing to Him a hymn of praise: “ Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes , the King of Israel!”

During this Great and Holy Week, Christ is followed in every moment that witnessed his Passion and death, and preceded his Resurrection. The last hours of Jesus are relived and his teaching and last will is received: that we love one another and be united to Him and in Him, so that we may be witnesses in his real presence through the Holy Spirit .

Holy Monday and Wednesday there is the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts which commemorates the story of the Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1-13) and Joseph, who was sold into bondage in Egypt but remained faithful to God. He is the prototype of Christ, persecuted by his own people and delivered to foreigners, but raised up by God to be the King and Master of all nations. Wednesday’s readings remember Mary Magdalene, and how she washed the Lord’s feet with her tears of love and repentance, and anointed them with oil perfume. (Luke 7:36-50)

We are anointed with oil after services in remembrance of that action of salvation brought by love and returning to God.

Great and Holy Thursday we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. (Matthew 26: 1-75) together with His love and humility as he washed the feet of his followers. ***The Passion Gospels*** are read in the evening to prepare us for Good Friday.

Holy & Good Friday we commemorate the Passion and death of Jesus.. During vespers the story of the crucifixion is read and the body of Jesus is carried in procession to the tomb . Vigil is kept at the grave in the joyful expectation of Resurrection.

After the darkness and repentance of Lent we enter into the light of life as children of God in the Resurrection! Easter is the time of rejoicing! We offer one another the kiss of peace, confirming our Lord’s commandment to love one another! Celebrating the end of the enmity between God and man, being reconciled to God through Jesus, by his conquering death by death.

We greet one another during the 40 days of Easter with: ***CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRES! VOYEESTINU VOSKRES!***

Holy Wednesday focuses on our need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Unction**. We confess our sins and seek to be reconciled with God. The priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually. (Epistle readings: James 5:10-16, Romans 15:1-7, I Corinthians 12:27-31-13:1-8, II Corinthians 6:16-18;7:1, II Corinthians 1:8-11, Galatians 5:22-6:2, I Thessalonians 5:14-23. Gospel readings: Luke 10:25-37, Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 10:1, 5-8, Matthew 8:14-23, Matthew 15:21-28, Matthew 9:9-13.)

Holy Thursday Evening is when we have the service of the 12 Gospel Readings which relate the events of Jesus' Holy Passion, and His last instructions to the Disciples. The Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, His trial and conviction, and finally His torture, crucifixion and death.. After this the congregation is invited to come and light candles at the foot of the Cross.

Holy Friday is a day of mourning, fasting and prayer. On this day, Our Lord went to the Cross and died to take away our sins. The power of death and the reality of evil rule the world on this dreadful day. Yet, Jesus Christ's death marks the beginning of His -- and our -- victory over death's power.

Taking Down from the Cross is on Friday afternoon. In this vesper service we are witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. We remember through a moving liturgical procession the faithfulness and love of Joseph of Arimathea who tenderly removed Christ's body from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen, and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial. (I Corinthians 1:18-2:2; Matthew 27:1-38, Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54, John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61)

Hymns of Lamentations: Jerusalem Matins at 9:00PM Friday evening. We lament Jesus' undeserved death for our salvation. With both sorrow and joy we sing the Lamentations (Praises) to Him who is symbolically buried, yet Who we already know is the Risen Lord and Giver of Life. Ezekial 37:1-14; I Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 3:13-14; Matthew 27:62-66)

Holy Saturday is a day of strict fasting but one of hope and waiting. The **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil** (12:00noon) anticipates the Resurrection. This day celebrates Christ's descent into Hades where he preached the Good News to all mankind, from Adam and Eve on. The joy and the Good News is commemorated through the lighting of the Paschal Candle t at a particular time in the Divine Liturgy. Anticipating Christ's victory over the power of death we sing, Arise, O God, judge the earth. for to thee belong all the nations. (Romans 6:3-11 and Matthew 28:1-20)

PENTECOST SUNDAY: BLESSING OF RENOVATIONS OF CHURCH

On May 20th 2018 : Pentecost, we will have the official blessing of the newly renovated dome and church interior with our Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan Soroka at a 10:00AM Divine Liturgy. There will be an informal celebration afterwards in the church hall for our families and friends. Please mark the date on your calendars and plan on joining with us. There will be a meeting April 3 at 5:30PM in the church hall to plan the celebration on Pentecost. . .

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

. Anyone wishing to remember their family with a donation for Easter Flowers, please use the envelope in your Church Envelope box, and mark the names you wish remembered clearly. Final day for flower memorial envelopes is this Sunday March 25 to be included in the Easter Church Bulletin.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to John Drozd Jr, Donna Sidlar Paulette Bellis, Kathy Sargent, Joann Fulmer, Judy Palinkas, Donna Hale, Marlene Lightcap, Larry & Kathy Birgl, Fr Dan, and all those who helped and purchased Paska Bread for Easter. God Bless you! Christ is Risen!

PUSSYWILLOWS

Special thanks to Marion Sroka, John Drozd Jr, and Robert Leciston for their cutting and supplying pussy willows for our use this Sunday. We got them right before the snow! Special thanks to Judy Palinkas, JoAnn Fulmer, Bill Hutnik, Paulette Bellis, Marlene Lightcap, Donna Hale for preparing the willows and palms for distribution. Good Job! Thanks!

HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY IN MT CARMEL

Archbishop Stefan and the priests of the archdiocese will celebrate Holy Thursday services in SS Peter & Paul Church in Mt Carmel PA , hosted by your former pastor, Archpriest Michael Hutsko. The service commemorates the Last Supper, the washing of the feet of the disciples and the blessing of the Holy Chrism (used for the sacrament of Confirmation/Chrismation) by Archbishop Stefan. The Divine Liturgy starts at 10:30AM Holy Thursday. All are invited. Directions to the church are posted in the vestibule of our church.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday April 8 at 1:00PM in the church yard, weather permitting. Please register your children and grandchildren on the registration sheet in the vestibule of the church. Thank you
Donations of candy gifts etc, graciously accepted by April 3.

SPAGHETTI DINNER: Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday April 8 from 12:00noon to 3:00PM. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll and beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults. Children under 10 are free. Please register in the vestibule of the church. Donations of baked goods appreciated. Please sign the dessert donation list.

VISITING ICON OF BLESSED NICHOLAS CHARNETSKY AND RELIC

During the week of April 9th to the 16th the icon and relic of Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky will be visiting our church. There will be moleben services the week of the 9th : Monday/Wednesday/ Friday at 5:30PM. The church will be open from 9:00AM-12:00noon during the week for anyone wishing to visit and pray. Blessed Nicholas was a bishop of our church and martyred for the faith during the communist Soviet occupation of Ukraine and the suppression of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The Servant of God Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky, C.S.S.R.

Bishop Charnetsky was appointed by the Pope for the areas outside of Galicia, where the Ruthenian rite of his childhood was observed. As a result he was a missionary bishop of the Russian rite. His driving inspiration was the message of Our Lady of Fatima and Her promise of the Conversion of Russia. On 10th October 1939, Metropolitan Sheptytsky made him Exarch of Volyn, Pidlassia, Kholm and Polessia. Confessor of the Catholic Faith, 11 years imprisoned, released 3 years before he died, his tomb is a source of miracles.

Ours are the Catholic spirit and convictions of Kyr Nicholas Charnetsky the Redemptorist missionary bishop-monk for the territories beyond Halychyna, a tireless apostle among the Orthodox for Holy Re-Union; in 1933 alone he united 56 villages with the Catholic Church.

We are convinced that Kyr Nicholas Charnetsky's apostolic zeal for the conversion of the territories beyond Halychyna and of Ukraine, Belarus' and Russia is an example of authentic missionary charity that must be applied today. The salvation of souls is the supreme law of the Church; no human law or ecumenical agreement can be permitted to restrict missionaries and separate souls from the Catholic Church.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

We celebrate this Palm Sunday the Feast of the Annunciation. The feast celebrates the Angel Gabriel announcing the Good News to Mary, and her saying "Yes" to God inaugurates the incarnation of God as man in his conception in her womb. We honor Mary and give praise to God today for our salvation through the coming of Jesus as both God and man.

HOURS OF ADORATION AT THE GRAVE

The hours of adoration at the grave are posted in todays bulletin. Please honor our Lord by keeping vigil at his tomb. Invite your family and friends to join with you as we use this opportunity to pause and give thanks and praise to our God who has loved us so much and given his life for our salvation.

COLLECTION \$ 2295.15 Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
BonTon: \$20 Chrissy Mattes, \$20 Jane Atherholt

Eternal Light & Altar Candles In memory of +Helen Terleski -

Please remember to pray for the sick and all those who have requested our prayers

Betty Terleski	Paul Ridilla	Catherine Kutzler	Olga Tyrczyn
Mae Kulczycki	Sophie Troyan	Claudette Kemmerer	Iryna Stefurak
Melvne Thatcher	Craig Stoken	Richard Suter	Cindy Cawley
Olga Bryksa	Julian Trusz	Michael Sidlar	Fr Dan Gurovich
Joseph Bodnar	Lillian Opp	Frank & Betty Maltski	Sarah Shanks
Kim Lightcap	Gregory & Dot Neff	John Wolfgang	Fr Mark Fesniak
Margaret Dashe	Helen Potak	Kathleen Cremona	Olga Trusz
Mary Heverling	Frieda Lubosky	Barbara Hacker	Fr. David Clooney
Delbert Atherholt	Harold Osmun	Michael Brodt	Paulette Bellis
Stefania Trusz	Diane Troyan	Bryant Pfaff	Archbishop Stefan
Jean Lakomski	John Grabowski	Joseph Liptock	Yanochka Masley

THE CHAPEL SCHEDULE

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** Every Monday at 7:00AM there is an open meeting for those interested in learning more about alcoholism and alcoholics.
- **Ukrainian American Veterans Post 42** meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00PM for their business & Post meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 25 : Children's Religious Education Classes: 12:15-1:00PM**
- **March 26: Choir Rehearsal for Easter 6:30PM**
- **APRIL 1 EASTER SUNDAY**
- **APRIL 3 ARCHBISHOPS VISIT AND DEDICATION MEETING 5:30PM**
- **APRIL 8 EASTER EGG HUNT 1:00PM**
- **APRIL 8 SPAGHETTI DINNER**

INTERIOR PAINTING OF THE CHURCH.

Please consider offering a donation at Easter time towards the painting of the church interior. There are envelopes in the vestibule of the church marked for the Painting Project,. Thank you for your continued support.

PAINTING RENOVATION FUND : \$1000.00 Donna Hale \$500.00 Marion & Teodozia Sroka \$200.00 Wilhelmina Wichryk \$200.00 Stefania Trusz \$200.00 Olga Bryksa \$100.00 Pearl Kiniuk In memory of +Walter & Lillian Kiniuk \$50 Yaroslawa Zuk \$250.00 Barbara & Shawn Maloney \$500.00 Wynne Family \$100 JoAnn Fulmer

Vigil at the Tomb: An hour of meditation at the tomb of our Lord
Good Friday,

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. ; Morykan; Suter ,Lakomski
Eible, Maloney, Bryksa, , Laurenzi

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Bodnar; Frable; Karen Clark, Kaczmar
ILeczko Leciston

JERUSALEM MATINS 8:00-9:00PM

9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Thatcher; Sidlar; Balaziuk; Mirchuk,Savkanitch
Kolodii, Shevtziv Stefurak Vovchuk, Mirchuk

10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Hutnik, Jack; Wright, Stoken Drozd, John Jr; Wujkiw
Fr Dan Patskan

Holy Saturday,

8:00a.m. – 9:00a.m. Bogusky,; Lightcap; Kucynda, Steele
Poleschuk, DeVito

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Trusz; Zuk, LaChance, , Peleschak
Reka, Wichryk

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Fulmer; Mattes; Bellfy; Wynne; Palinkas
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Atherholt;; Leiby ; Beery, Noe
Sidlar, Thatcher,

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **LITURGY of ST BASIL**

1:00PM – 2:00PM Hale; Bellis; Sargent; Michtchak; Wichryk
Martinez, , Tyma

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Leciston; ; Morykan; Wright
Kramer Hutnik, Bodnar

BLESSING OF BASKETS

3:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. Tomori Sharpless Poleschuk
Birgl

4:00p.m - 5:00p.m. ; Stoken; Sroka; Hacker, Dunigan

MEDITATION FOR PALM SUNDAY, 2018

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka

Have you ever felt alone even when surrounded by people? You feel that no one really knows you for the person you really are. Jesus knows how you feel. The Palm Sunday Gospel story tells of one such occasion in the life of Jesus. Jesus knew the crowds singing 'hosanna' was hollow. They had hoped that Jesus would deliver them from political domination by Rome. Jesus had not come to give them political freedom. He had come to give them something more. He had come to Jerusalem during the Passover to be their sacrificial lamb. He had come to give them eternal life with God. Even the disciples did not comprehend the significance of that ride into Jerusalem. No one seemed to be aware that Jesus had come to Jerusalem to die. He would not set up an earthly kingdom, but he would establish a spiritual kingdom by sacrificing himself. How lonely Jesus must have felt. Jesus carried the weight of loneliness. Jesus survived Palm Sunday because he had hope and faith in his heavenly Father. Next time you feel alone or think that no one really understands your secret thoughts, take heart. Someone does know how you feel. He is waiting for you in the calm lonely eye of the stormy crowd. He went through his Palm Sunday experience alone, so that you will not have to go through yours the same way. Even when those around you will not, or cannot understand you, God does! Reach out to Jesus Christ this Holy Week in special prayer, meditation and through Holy Confession. You will come to know Him more personally in His resurrection on Easter Sunday! A Blessed Holy Week!

Palm Sunday

The hymns and prayers celebrating Christ's glorious journey into the Holy City reflect both the joy and the concern about what shall in short time occur in this City.

The introductory Vespers' hymn expresses these sentiments in these words: "Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and say; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" The Palm Sunday exclamation, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" is repeated over and over and we know that it was also taken into the Liturgy's solemn hymn, "Holy, holy, holy ..."

A Palm Sunday liturgical text beautifully expresses the full dimensions of this greeting when it says, "Blessed are You, You have come and are

coming again in the name of the Lord God our Savior!" The serene sunshine of the Palm Sunday could not last long. Evening is approaching of the first day of the Holy Week. Jesus' enemies were not idle; they gather and debate how to stop any similar demonstration. He should be arrested.

The Church reminds us of this change: "As we pass from one Divine Feast to another, O faithful, let us go with haste to the reverent and saving celebration of Christ's sufferings. Let us behold Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake, and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: O Fountain of tender mercy and Haven of salvation. Lord, glory be to You!" The Great, Holy Week of Christ's Passion began.

Father Vladimir Vancik