

SERVICE OF TYPIKA ON PALM SUNDAY
ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

- The following Psalms and hymns may be chanted or plainly read.

PSALM 102: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.
- + Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee,
- + Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities,
- + Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion,
- + Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's.
- + The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged.
- + He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed.
- + Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth.
- + Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us.
- + For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him.
- + As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us.
- + Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust.
- + As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.

- + For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof.
- + But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him.
- + And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them.
- + The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion.
- + Bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 145: CHANTED IN TONE TWO

- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.
- + Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.
- + His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish.
- + Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein,
- + Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry.
- + The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen;
- + The Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes.
- + He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy.
- + The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

“O ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON” IN TONE TWO

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Only-begotten Son and Word of God, Who art immortal and Who didst deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man, and was crucified, O Christ our God, and didst trample death by Death, being yet one of the holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

THE BEATITUDES: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + In Thy kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- + Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
- + Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
- + Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.
- + Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
- + Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
- + Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
- + Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- + Blessed are ye when men shall revile ye, and persecute ye, and say all manner of evil against ye falsely for My sake.
- + Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Master, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Holy One, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

- *Both of the New Testament lessons are read without liturgical introduction or conclusion. The readers start with "The Reading from..." and proceeds.*

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul 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, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died 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, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox 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 Jesus 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 cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass'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 Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

TROPARIA BEFORE THE CREED (Plain Reading)

1st Reader: The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Come unto him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.*
The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

1st Reader: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
The choir or holy angels and archangels, with all the powers of heaven, singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten before all worlds: Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father by Whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who procedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: Forgive, remit, pardon, O God, our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in mind and in thought. Forgive us them all, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

Reader: Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (THRICE)

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

People: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

A HOMILY

Accepting the Tension Between Our Expectations and God's Fulfillment:

Homily for Palm Sunday in the Orthodox Church

Fr. Philip LeMasters, pastor, St. Luke Antiochian Orthodox Church of Abilene, Texas

In religion or anything else, we get used to whatever we get used to. We tend to take for granted whatever becomes normal, expected, and routine in our lives. Once we learn to see ourselves and the world in a certain way, it is easy to become blind to even the most obvious truths that challenge our perspective.

The chief priests and Pharisees certainly missed the point of our Lord's raising of Lazarus from the dead after four days in the tomb. They were so afraid of losing their own position and power that they were unable to recognize Him, as Lazarus' sister Martha did, as "the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." The Savior showed that He is "the resurrection and the life" by resurrecting Lazarus, but all that the religious leaders could see was a threat to themselves. Though they had the great blessings of the Old Testament law and the worship of the Temple in Jerusalem, they made themselves blind to a Messiah Who was different from what they had expected.

We see something similar in the crowd's reaction to the Savior's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. They received Him as the Messiah everyone anticipated, a conquering military hero ready to liberate Israel from the defilement of Roman occupation. "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" The irony is that Christ arrived not as a fierce warrior, but peaceably on a humble donkey. When in the following days it became clear that He is the Prince of Peace Whose Kingdom is not of this world, the same crowds yelled "Crucify Him." The Roman governor Pontius Pilate quickly saw that there was no reason to do so, but as a practical administrator, he could tolerate the death of an innocent man more easily than civil unrest.

Irony abounds in the events leading to the Savior's Passion. Raising a dead man somehow made people want to kill Him. Those who praised Him enthusiastically on Sunday called for His death on Friday. He died as a failed Messiah, rejected by Jewish religious leaders and abandoned by His disciples. When the women went to His tomb, they did so in order to complete the proper burial rituals for the deceased. They did not expect to find the stone rolled away and the grave empty; neither did they anticipate the astonishing message of the angel. The tension between what anyone thought of Jesus Christ and Who He revealed Himself to be in the final days of His earthly ministry are truly shocking and beyond normal human comprehension.

Our challenge in the coming week is to enter into the tension between our conventional expectations and the Lord's strange victory over death through His Cross and empty tomb, for it is through that tension that He has brought salvation to the world. If we approach His Passion as simply part of a story that we take for granted because it is so familiar and we have watered it down to fit our sensibilities, we will miss the point of this week entirely. Instead, we must learn to see that we have far too much in common with those who wanted a Messiah to serve their

interests in this world. Those who sought Christ's death were highly religious, upstanding members of their society, but they were ultimately idolaters of their own will. We must not shy away from facing the truth that we are often very much like them. As well, we are not much different from those who denied and abandoned the Savior when things did not go as they had hoped. There is much within us that wants to run away from the dark night of the Cross and the grave.

Even though it goes very much against our inclinations, we must struggle to abide with Christ as He offers up Himself for our salvation to the point of death. We must resist the temptation simply to disregard Him because we do not like what His Passion reveals about our need for healing that we cannot give ourselves. We must behold Him in the tomb, facing the astonishing mystery of the death of the God-Man, of the Eternal Word of God Who spoke the universe into existence, if we are to share in His great victory over Hades and death itself. We must dare to disorient ourselves from our usual schedules and preoccupations, turning away from the temptation to make the world our god and to use religion for our own self-centered purposes.

As we follow our Lord to His Passion this week, we will come face to face with the profound tension between our ways and God's ways. We will not merely have thoughts and feelings about what happened long ago, but will instead enter mystically into Jesus Christ's great Self-Offering for our salvation. We will encounter personally the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world in a way that calls us into question from the depths of our souls. The more fully we open ourselves to the unfathomable mystery of the God-Man Who enters into death, the more we will die to the prideful illusions that so easily blind us to the truth about who we are and Who He is. We will see that conventional religion that helps us get what we want on our own terms in this world is powerless to deliver us from the clutches of death. Such distorted religion is precisely why the chief priests and Pharisees rejected their Messiah and insisted on His crucifixion. It is precisely why they chose death over life. That is a tragic irony that we must avoid, if we are to share in the eternal life of our Savior, Who triumphs over the worst that corrupt human powers and death itself can do.

Throughout the coming week, we will have the opportunity to open the eyes of our souls to the brilliant light of the glory of God, shining from the empty tomb. But in order to do so, we must first endure the pitch black midnight of the God-Man hanging on the Cross purely out of love for you, for me, and for everyone He created in His image and likeness. Let us do so in obedience to the instructions of St. Paul in today's epistle reading: "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." Regardless of what else is going on in our lives in the coming week, there could be nothing more important than opening our hearts to the Savior Who offered up Himself for our salvation. He alone is able to bring us all from the dark pit of despair into the blinding light of His Kingdom. Now is the time to "lay aside all earthly cares" and to attend to Him. "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY IN TONE ONE (CHANT) (CHORAL)

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to

Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

- *If your family chooses to process around the exterior of your house, you can sing the Apolytikia of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, "[Rejoice, O Bethany](#)" and the Trisagion Hymn.*

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

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