

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

March 31, 2018
Saturday morning

Divine Liturgy 10 am
Preparation of Palms
Great Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm

PALM SUNDAY

April 1, 2018
Sunday morning

Matins & Palm Blessing 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Procession 10 am

BRIDEGROOM MATINS

April 1, 2018
Sunday evening

Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

HOLY MONDAY

April 2, 2018
Monday
morning and evening

Presanctified Liturgy 10 am
Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

HOLY TUESDAY

April 3, 2018
Tuesday
morning and evening

Presanctified Liturgy 10 am
Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

The solemnities of Great Week are preceded by a two-day festival commemorating the resurrection of Lazarus and the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem.



It is significant that Holy Week begins with Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, personifies each one of us, for we are all friends of Jesus. With Lazarus' resurrection, "death begins to tremble." Thus begins Holy Week - the decisive duel between Life and Death - a duel that will end with the final victory of Life over Death at Pascha.

Jesus is acknowledged and acclaimed as the Messiah, the King and Redeemer of Israel. With palm branches in our hands, we identify ourselves with the people of Jerusalem. Together with them we greet Christ and confess Him to be our King.



The first part of Great Week presents us with an array of themes based chiefly on the last days of Jesus' earthly life. The name "Bridegroom Service" comes from the central figure in the well-known parable of the ten virgins (Mt. 25:1-13). The troparion "Behold the Bridegroom cometh at midnight..." sung at each service, relates us to that existential expectation: watching and waiting for the Lord, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.



Commemorations:

Joseph the Patriarch, the beloved son of Jacob (Genesis ch. 37-50), a prototype of Christ.

The cursing of the fig tree (Mt. 21:18-20).

Commemorations:

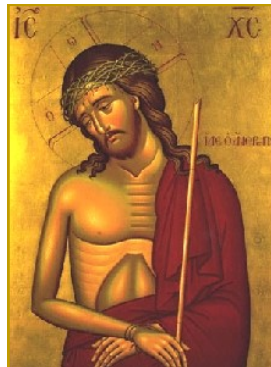
The parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt. 25:1-3).

The parable of the Talents (Mt. 25:14-30).

Commemorations:

The sinful woman who anointed the head of Jesus shortly before the Passion (Mt. 26:6-13).

Judas, the disciple who betrayed Christ.



Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight; and blessed is the servant whom He shall find awake, but he whom He shall find neglectful is verily unworthy. Behold therefore, my soul; beware, lest thou fall into deep slumber, and the door of the kingdom be closed against thee, and thou be delivered unto death. But be thou wakeful, crying, Holy! Holy! Holy! Art thou, O God; through the intercessions of the Theotokos have mercy on us.

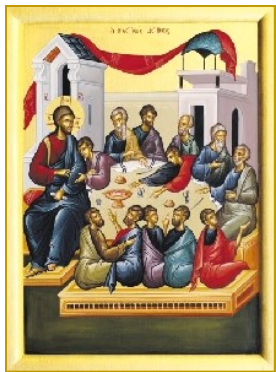
- Troparion of the Bridegroom Matins

HOLY WEDNESDAY

April 4, 2018
Wednesday
morning and evening

Presanctified Liturgy 10 am
Holy Unction 7 pm

The Mystery of Holy Unction is established upon the word and actions of our Lord Jesus Christ. It embodies, extends, and continues His healing ministry. It is the sign of His transforming presence in a bruised and hurting world, and the emblem of His promise to deliver us from sin and corruption.



HOLY THURSDAY

April 5, 2018
Thursday
afternoon and evening

Vesperal Liturgy 4 pm
Twelve Gospels Matins 7 pm

The Eucharist - In the Upper Room, while at meal, Jesus established and instituted the Mystery or Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

"Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Thy Mystical supper ... I will not give The a kiss as did Judas ... Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom."

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On the evening of Holy Thursday, twelve selected Gospel lessons are read which tell the entire story of our Lord's suffering and death. It includes his farewell talk to His disciples, His burial, and the sealing of the tomb. After the fifth Gospel lesson, the large cross and icon of the crucified Christ is carried to the center of the church to be venerated.

"Today He is suspended on a tree, who suspended the earth over the waters."

HOLY FRIDAY

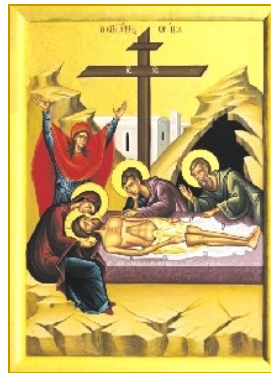
April 6, 2018
Friday morning,
afternoon, and evening

Royal Hours 10 am
Vespers of Burial 4 pm
Lamentations Matins 7 pm

On Great Friday, we remember the ineffable mystery of Christ's death. His death - tormenting, indiscriminate, universal - casts its cruel shadow over all creation.

At Vespers, the icon of the crucified Christ is removed from the Cross and we remember the holy acts of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea.

At Lamentations, we sing the burial service of our Lord. *"In a grave they laid Thee, O my Life and my Christ."*



HOLY SATURDAY

April 7, 2018
Saturday
morning and evening

Vesperal Liturgy 10 am
Nocturne, Paschal Matins &
Resurrection Liturgy 11:30 pm

On Great Saturday, the Church contemplates the mystery of the Lord's descent into hades, the place of the dead. Death, our ultimate enemy, is defeated from within.

"He [Christ] gave Himself as a ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending into hades through the Cross ... He loosed the bonds of death."

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PASCHA!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED, HE IS

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

April 8, 2018
Sunday
afternoon

Agape Vespers 2 pm



**Come, receive the Light
that is never overtaken by night!**

It is the day of Resurrection! Be illumined, people! Pascha! The Lord's Pascha! From death unto life, from the earth to paradise, has Christ our God led us, singing the song of victory: Christ is risen from the dead!

In worship we encounter the Living God. Through worship God makes Himself present and active in our time, drawing the particles and moments of our life into the realm of redemption. He bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, who makes real the promise of Jesus to be in the midst of those gathered in His name (Mt. 18:20). In our services, we do more than remember past events and recall future promises; we experience the RISEN Christ, who is "clothed with his past and future acts."