

Today's Scripture Readings

Song of Solomon 1:1-2:3, Zechariah 9:9-15, Philippians 4:4-7,
Matthew 20:29-21:17

Holy Week: Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the feast of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when Christ was hailed by the people as the Messiah and New King of Israel. As He entered the city on a donkey the people waved branches and cried: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Zech. 9:9)

Christ came to Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecies and having chosen the way of the Cross, invited the faithful to witness His passion that they might share in His Resurrection.

On this day palms are blessed in church and distributed to the people. Also on Palm Sunday two things are sung:

The Ode: *"This day the creatures leap for joy; they bless the Lord and rejoice, Heaven and Earth in company dance and clap their hands. This day on Mount Zion the nard has spread its fragrance, the rose is aglow with diverse hues, in crimson, red, and violet..."*

The Introit: *"Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and adorn thy bridal chamber, O Zion, for behold the King Christ, seated on the new colt, showeth meekness and cometh to enter into thy chamber. And cry aloud, Hosanna, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, who hath great mercy."* In the service of the **Opening of the Doors** the priest and people pray for entry once again into God's glorious Kingdom and wait for the church to symbolically open its doors just as Christ, through the raising of Lazarus, opened the doors for the resurrection of humanity.

There was a time when the faithful would actually gather outside the church building and ritually enter. In fact, in earlier days in Jerusalem, a procession would begin in Bethany and come to stand at the actual gates of the city. After a service of prayer, chanting, and song, the gates would be opened and the faithful would proceed to worship. Today, the clergy and congregation kneel before the closed altar curtain and beseech God to "Open the gates of virtue." (Psalm 119)

Palm Sunday is ACYOA Day: Today is the ACYOA (Armenian Church Youth Organization of America) day throughout Eastern Diocese. This day our young parishioners get a chance to present the functions of their organization as well as to use the opportunity to raise funds. There will be a luncheon prepared by the youth and served to our parishioners, also bake sale. Please encourage your children to participate ages 15-29 so the day can be celebrated in due and with all the encouragements that are well deserved.

Announcements

Celebrant: This morning Rev. Fr. Hrach Sargsyan will be the celebrant and preacher. Please join us in worship.

Lectors: Today's Holy Scripture will be read by the following:
Epistle – Oktyabrina Mollaeva; Gospel – Justin Kalemkarian

Fellowship: Today's fellowship is sponsored by ACYOA Minnesota. If you wish to sponsor a fellowship please use the sign-up sheet to do so.

SIGN-UP SHEET: Dear Parishioners please put your name on the sign-up sheet for the Scripture readings for Sundays.

Women's Guild: Dear Women, we are very much looking for volunteers to take responsibilities and leadership roles within the Women's Guild. There are lots of functions within Women's Guild where you can have an important and helpful role. WG upcoming events:

1. March 21st Soup Potluck
2. March 23rd Baking day/Potluck/ Meeting
3. March 28th Baking Sale
4. April 10th Easter Dinner
5. April 30th –May 2nd 24th Annual Women's Guild Assembly
6. November 14th Children's Fair

For all other details and additional information feel free to contact Dana Nyholm by email, or by phone: dana_nyholm@hotmail.com, phone: 612-816-0255.

Prayers for the sick: Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or recovering from illness. May God strengthen their souls so that they may overcome this difficult time of their lives.

If you know anyone that needs our special prayers, please contact Rev Fr. Hrach by each Thursday so that their names are included in the Bulletin.

Christian Studies: Every Thursday from 6:30pm-8:30pm join us for evening worship and Christian Studies with Fr. Hrach.

ACOM Armenian Language classes: Eastern Armenian language classes are scheduled on the last two Sundays of every month. Classes are held upstairs after lunch, at 1:00pm with Mariam Khachatryan. Any further changes regarding day and time will be announced ahead of time.

Saint Sahag School of Music: The St. Sahag School of Music provides professional instruction in piano and flute. Anyone interested in taking lessons may contact Maestro Stepan Khachatryan or the Church Office for more information.

Diocesan Programs: The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is offering a number of programs to the faithful in the Armenian Church. Please contact Fr. Hrach Sargsyan for more information about any of these programs.

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm
Fr. Hrach is available 24 hours for spiritual guidance and support.

Sunday Bulletin

March 28th, 2010

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



PALM SUNDAY

(Holy Week)

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The Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Please feel free to contact Fr. Hrach Sargsyan with any additional community activities so they may be included in the calendar of events.

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Calendar of Events: Please make note of the following activities and mark your calendars accordingly.

March 28th <i>Today</i>	10:30am Divine Liturgy. Palm Sunday 12:00pm ACYOA luncheon/ Bake Sale 1:00pm Parish Council Meeting. 1:00pm ACOM Armenian language classes with Mariam Khachatryan.
March 29th <i>Thursday</i>	Holy Monday: 10:00am Matins/Morning service
March 30th <i>Tuesday</i>	Holy Tuesday: 10:00am Matins/Morning service
March 31st <i>Wednesday</i>	Holy Wednesday: 10:00am Matins/Morning service
April 1st <i>Thursday</i>	Holy Thursday: 9:30am Matins/Morning service 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Order Washing of the feet 7:00pm Khavaroom (Vigil)
April 2nd <i>Friday</i>	Holy Friday: 6:00pm Burial Service
April 3rd <i>Saturday</i>	Holy Saturday: 5:30pm readings 6:00pm Easter Eve, Jrakalouytz Divine Liturgy
April 4th <i>Sunday</i>	Easter Sunday: 10:30am Easter Divine Liturgy

SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE WEEK



Lazarus Saturday, March 27th

Lazarus Saturday, along with Palm Sunday, ushers in Holy Week and Christ's gift of Resurrection, as we accompany Him through His Passion.

On Lazarus Saturday, the Eve of Palm Sunday, the following Resurrectional hymn is sung:

"With the raising of Lazarus by which the dead were given hope, the descendants of Adam were also raised..."Lazarus was Jesus' friend and the brother of Martha and Mary. When he became very ill, his sisters informed Jesus. But before He was able to visit him, Lazarus died. Shedding tears for his friend, Jesus hurried to his tomb and brought him to life again. This foreshadows Christ's own Resurrection and serves to remind us of the new life in Christ. (*John 11*)

REFLECTION

Abba Evagrius said, "Sit in your cell, collecting your thoughts. Remembering the day of your death. See then what the death of your body will be; let your spirit be heavy, take pains, condemn the vanity of the world, so as to be able to live always in the peace you have in view without weakening. Remember also what happens in hell and think about the state of the souls down there, their painful silence, their most bitter groanings, their fear, their strife, their waiting. Think of their grief without end and the tears their souls shed eternally.

"But keep the day of resurrection and of presentation to God in remembrance also. Imagine the fearful and terrible judgment. Consider the fate kept for sinners, their shame before the face of God and the angels and archangels and all men, that is to say, the punishments, the eternal fire, worms that rest not, the darkness, gnashing of teeth, fear and supplications. Consider also the good things in store for the righteous: confidence in the face of God the Father and His Son, the angels and archangels and all the people of the saints, the kingdom of heaven, and the gifts of that realm, joy and beatitude.

"Keep in mind the remembrance of these two realities. Weep for the judgment of sinners, afflict yourself for fear lest you too feel those pains. But rejoice and be glad at the lot of the righteous. Strive to obtain those joys but be a stranger to those pains. Whether you be inside or outside your cell, be careful that the remembrance of these things never leaves you, so that, thanks to their remembrance, you may at least flee wrong and harmful thoughts."

from "The Desert Christian," by Sr. Benedicta Ward, (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1975), pp. 63-64

EDUCATIONAL

Eastertide (Sacred Period that Follows Easter) From Easter to the Sunday of Pentecost is a 50-day period called **Eastertide (also known as Quinquagesima)**. The first 40 days of Eastertide culminate with the **Feast of the Ascension**, celebrated on the Thursday of the sixth week. This entire period is dedicated solely to the mystery of the resurrected Savior's encounters with His Apostles and followers, with the exception of four special remembrances that do not detract from the preeminence of the Resurrection. The first of these special remembrances is the **Decapitation of St. John the Baptist**, which occurs on the first Saturday of Eastertide. It is remembered by the lection (during the Morning Service) of the Gospel of St. Mark, which describes the episode.

The second is **New Sunday**, which is the first Sunday after Easter. Its purpose is to emphasize the wondrous Resurrection, with only minor variables in the hours services. The next is the **Sunday of the World Church**, which follows New Sunday and commemorates the establishment in Jerusalem of the first Christian Church. According to some, it was founded in the Chapel on Zion, where the Upper Room was and where our Lord established the Sacrament of Holy Communion. (According to others it is the Cathedral of the Holy Sepulcher.) The last is the fifth Sunday of Quinquagesima, when the **Feast of the Apparition of the Holy Cross** over Jerusalem is celebrated. This event took place during the time of Emperor Constants of Byzantium and Patriarch Cyril of Jerusalem.

After the Feast of the Ascension, which commemorates our Lord's ascent into heaven, the ensuing nine days until Pentecost celebrate Christ's Resurrection and Ascension. The **Seventh Sunday of Eastertide**, which falls within this 10-day period, combines an ecclesiastical and national tradition, which is recalled in the *sharagan* of the day.

According to tradition, an angel visited St. Gregory the Illuminator daily during his imprisonment in Khor Virab; yet on one day the angel did not appear. On the following day when the saint asked the angel about his absence, the angel explained that each day a rank of heavenly hosts celebrated Christ's Ascension and since it was the fourth day and he belonged to the fourth rank he took part in the celestial celebration. This Sunday is also known as the **Second Palm Sunday** because the gospel readings of Sunday recall Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday).

The final feast of the Resurrection series is the **Advent of the Holy Spirit**, which takes place on the 50th day of Quinquagesima (a Sunday 10 days after the Ascension). It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the

Apostles in the Upper Room in tongues of fire, granting power and grace to them for the establishment of the Christian Church.

In ancient times this feast was celebrated only one day, since the next day the Fast of Elijah commenced. In the 12th century, St. Nersess the Graceful established the 7-day celebration of **Pentecost** retaining the fast.

ON THE LEAVING THE SANCTUARY AFTER BADARAK

<p><i>Q. <u>What do I say when approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy?</u></i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>You say:</u></p> <p>Heeshestzeh Der zamenaym Badarakus koh. May the Lord remember all your offerings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Priest answers:</u></p> <p>Datseh Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn khorhoortus koh na gadarsestseh. May the Lord grant you according to your own heart, and fulfill all your counsel. (Psalm 20:4)</p>
<p><u>THE KISS OF PEACE</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The GIVER says:</u></p> <p>Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav Christ is revealed amongst us</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The RECEIVER says:</u></p> <p>Orhnyal eh haydootyoonun Kreesdosee Blessed is the revelation of Christ</p>
<p><u>THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL</u> <u>PSALM 34</u></p>	<p>Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenyn zhamorhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.</p> <p>I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be at all times in my mouth</p>