

April 9, 2023



# THE IMAGE...

(Jn 12:45 & 14:9; Heb 1:3; Col 1:15)

[www.stjohnofdamascus.org](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org)

Publication of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, Poway, CA

## TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)

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### Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow  
Jesus Christ and manifest the Kingdom of  
God in the Liturgy of His Church.

If this is your first time with us, give us a  
chance to get to know you.

Please join us for our fellowship meal  
following the service

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### From the Holy Fathers

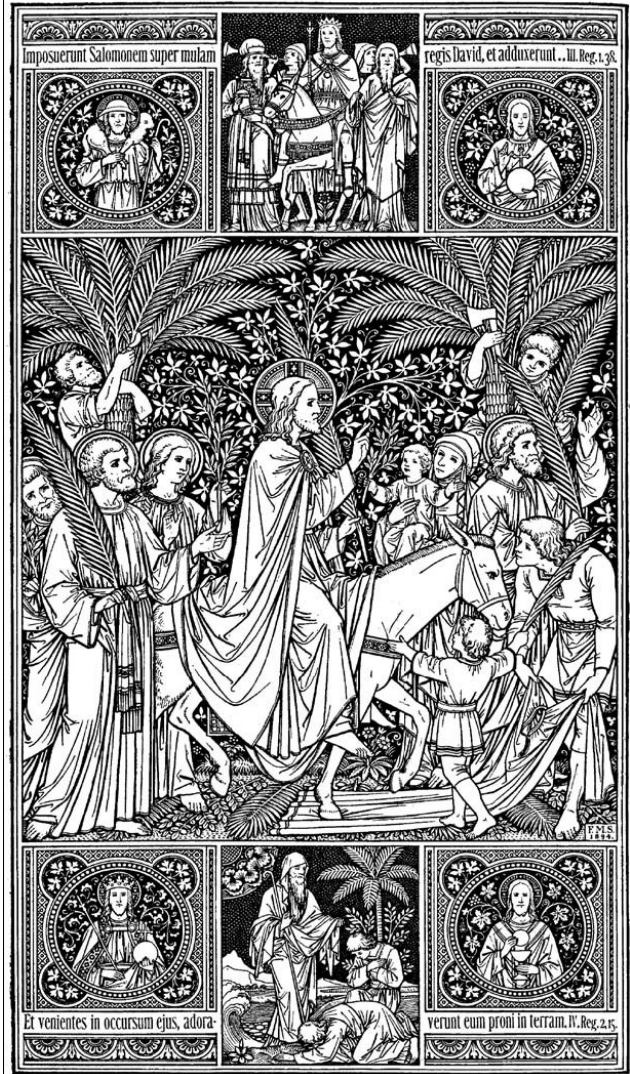
The children in the Gospel raised aloft  
their branches as the Savior entered  
Jerusalem. They kept on crying:  
“Hosanna.” ... They borrowed this word  
from Psalm 117. Hosanna, is the Hebrew  
for “O Lord, grant salvation!”

*St. Jerome*

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or  
Receive our Weekly  
Parish E-mails**

E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)  
with your request.



## Parish Life

### **Holy Saturday Break-Fast**

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday we bless:

- Bread/Rolls
- Wine
- Fruits & Nuts

If you can bring some for the blessing please sign-up using the sheet in the narthex.



### **Pascha Break-Fast Potlucks**

After Paschal services Saturday night/ Sunday morning as well as after Paschal Vespers on Sunday afternoon there are potluck meals for everyone to celebrate together.

Please see the sign-up sheets in narthex to sign-up to bring something to share.



### **Basket Blessings After Services Pascha Night & Sunday Afternoon**

People are encouraged to follow the tradition of bringing a basket full of Paschal foods to be blessed.

Blessings will occur after the Paschal services Saturday night/Sunday morning and after Paschal Vespers on Sunday afternoon in the church hall.

### **Easter Bake Sale**

#### **Thank you for all our Supporters & all our Workers!**

While the final numbers are not yet in, we have once again raised about \$8,000 through our Auxiliary's loving hard work.

We are grateful for their efforts and for everyone who supported this year's bake sale!

**BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER TODAY IF YOU DIDN'T AS YET.**



#### **“Trimmers” Needed to Help Prepare the Lamb for the Paschal BBQ Tuesday 11:30am**

Volunteers are needed to help trim and cube the lamb for our Sunday afternoon BBQ.

The group will be gathering in the kitchen on Tuesday after Presanctified Liturgy.

Please consider helping!



#### **Fellowship Meal Sign-up Posted Now through June**

The sign-up calendar for fellowship meals after Sunday Divine Liturgies for the first half of 2023 has been posted in the church hall on the bulletin board. Please take a look and sign up for a few. There is room on the form for multiple families to sign-up for a given Sunday so no one is tasked with feed the masses alone. Please be a part of this important ministry of fellowship and hospitality.

## Parish Life

### Set-up & Decoration of Tomb Holy Friday 10:30am

We need folks to help with setting up and decorating the Tomb of our Lord on Holy Friday. We will be gathering at 10:30am after Royal Hours.

Please consider joining in and helping!



### Donations for Paschal Flowers

We are collecting donations for flowers for Holy Week & Pascha.



Please give as you are able and include “flowers” on your check



### Vigil Over the Lord’s Tomb

A pious tradition is to keep vigil over the Lord’s Tomb from Friday afternoon all the way until Paschal services on Saturday night reading the Psalms (Friday night) and then the Acts of the Apostles (Saturday).

People are encouraged to sign-up for one or more time-slots using the sheet in the narthex.

### Holy Week & Paschal Sign-ups In the Narthex

Be on the lookout in the narthex (vestibule) of the church for sign-ups for various activities during Holy Week & Pascha.

There are many special opportunities for people to participate including keeping vigil over the tomb on Holy Friday & Saturday, reading Old Testament readings on Holy Saturday, and reading the Gospel in various languages on Pascha day. We will also have a potluck sign-up for the Paschal meal.



### Red Eggs for Pascha & Rose (Flower) Petals for Holy Saturday

Some folks for signed up to bring red boiled eggs for Pascha night but we need about 6 dozen more.

We also need rose petals (or other flower petals) for Holy Saturday’s Divine Liturgy

If you can help, please sign-up on the form in the narthex (vestibule) of the church.



### Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt—Sun 4/16

After the Paschal Agape Vespers we WILL have our lamb BBQ and Children’s Easter Egg Hunt.

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### **Palm Sunday 1 — Tone 1**

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion,  
Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection,  
O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory,  
we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:  
"Hosanna in the highest!!/  
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the  
Lord!"

#### **Palm Sunday 2 — Tone 4**

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O  
Christ God,  
we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy  
Resurrection.

Now we praise Thee and sing:  
"Hosanna in the highest!!/  
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the  
Lord!"

### KONTAKIA

#### **Palm Sunday — Tone 6**

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven,  
carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God,  
accept the praise of angels and the songs of  
children, who sing://  
"Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

### PROKEIMENON

**Tone 4 (Feast)** Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is  
the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

*v: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures  
forever!*

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 1** — V. O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)

V. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — Philippians 4: 4-9

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

### Gospel — John 12: 1-18

<sup>12</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus (who had been dead and whom Jesus had raised from the dead) lived. <sup>2</sup> Therefore, they gave a supper for him there. Martha served while Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of fragrance of pure nard, very precious; she anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. <sup>4</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples and the one who would betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> Now Judas said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having the money box, he used to steal what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Leave her alone! She has kept this for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, a large crowd of the Jews

learned that Jesus was there. They came, not only for Jesus' sake, but also in order to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests even conspired to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on his account many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believed in him.

<sup>12</sup> On the next day, a great multitude had come to the feast. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Having found a young donkey, Jesus sat on it. As it is written:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion!

Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but after Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about him, and that they had done these things to him. <sup>17</sup> Now the multitude that had been with Jesus when he had called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify about it. <sup>18</sup> For this reason also, the crowd had come out to meet him, because they had heard that he had done this sign.

## Our Life in Christ

### Holy Week Guide

The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

#### Palm Sunday Evening

This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. The gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus into convicting Himself as a religious heretic. Through parables, Jesus tells us of His coming betrayal, trial, conviction and execution by crucifixion. The hymns of this service commemorate two things; the first, the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the second, the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives, in which we also have failed to bear spiritual fruit.

#### Holy Monday

This evening's theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgement seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus, with the forceful resistance which Christ mounts against their evil. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

#### Holy Tuesday

The need for true repentance is the concern of Tuesday evening's service. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified for us in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift for forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is the hymn written in honor of this woman by St. Kassiani. The Gospel meditation foretells of the coming suffering of Christ and recalls His inner struggles and agony.

#### Holy Wednesday

The primary theme of Holy Wednesday is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through the life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, the faithful are anointed and thus, healed both physically and spiritually. They are also reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Lord's Supper.

#### Holy Thursday Morning

On Holy Thursday morning, we ascend Mt. Zion with Christ and the Twelve, and enter into the upper room. Once there, we witness the awesome moment when, at the Last Supper, Christ abolishes the ritual practice of the Old Covenant and establishes the ritual of the New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The faithful receive Holy Communion at that Holiest of Liturgies.

#### Holy Thursday Evening

In this service, we commemorate the undeserved suffering of Jesus Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of

## **Our Life in Christ**

a sinful humanity. This evening's service also includes the procession representing Christ carrying His own cross along the Via Dolorosa, and ends when we see before us the King of Glory crucified.

### **Holy Friday Morning & Afternoon**

The morning service is a summary of our Lord's Passion. The services is filled with readings from the Passion Gospels and singing of hymns that reflect the core understandings of our Church's teachings on our Lord's suffering and death. In the afternoon service, we are once again reverent witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. What is remembered in a special way through liturgical commemoration and procession, is 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.

### **Holy Friday Evening**

On Holy Friday evening, the theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

### **Holy Saturday Morning**

On Holy Saturday morning we celebrate the theme of faithfulness receiving its reward. The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love--to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded--they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals by the priest.

### **Holy Saturday Evening and Early Pascha Morning**

The lamentations of the previous night are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over the Enemy of our salvation. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

### **Pascha Afternoon**

Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed in this afternoon's theme. The Gospel is read in several languages to illustrate the universality of the Good News of the Resurrection and its proclamation to the very ends of the earth. Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy--these are the gifts which we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake.

***GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!***



## LOOKING AHEAD

*The following are services & parish events **IN ADDITION** to the usual weekend services (Sat 6pm & Sun 8:30am).*

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### Sunday April 9—Palm Sunday

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

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### April 10—Holy Monday

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

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### April 11—Holy Tuesday

10:00am — Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

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### April 12—Holy Wednesday

10:00am — Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with final reading of Prayer of St. Ephraim

6:00pm — Matins for Holy Thursday followed by Holy Unction

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### April 13—Holy Thursday

10:00am — Vespers & Liturgy for Institution of the Lord's Supper

6:00pm — Matins for Holy Friday with Passion Gospels

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### April 14—Holy Friday

9:00am — Royal Hours

Decorate Tomb

3:00pm — Vespers before the Cross & Entombment  
Read Psalms/Keep Vigil before the tomb throughout the day  
(see sign-up)

6:00pm — Matins for Holy Saturday with Lamentations & Procession

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### April 15—Holy Saturday

10:00am — Vespers & Divine Liturgy with OT Readings

Read Acts of the Apostles/Keep Vigil before the tomb throughout the day (see sign-up)

11:30pm — Nocturnes, Matins & Divine Liturgy for Holy Pascha followed by blessing of baskets & agape meal

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### April 16—Holy PASCHA

1:00pm — Paschal Vespers w/ Gospel in Many Languages

2:00pm — Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt

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### April 17—Bright Monday

10am — Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by annual "pilgrimage" to Incredible Cafe

### Many Years!

#### *Birthdays*

Nino Kiria 4/9

Tanya Franchak 4/14

Peter Franchak 4/10

Marie Kopcha 4/15

Panayiota Rahal 4/11

#### *Wedding Anniversary*

Nino Kiria & Levan Darjania 4/9

### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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**Attached Clergy:** V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired & Pdcn. George Shumaik

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