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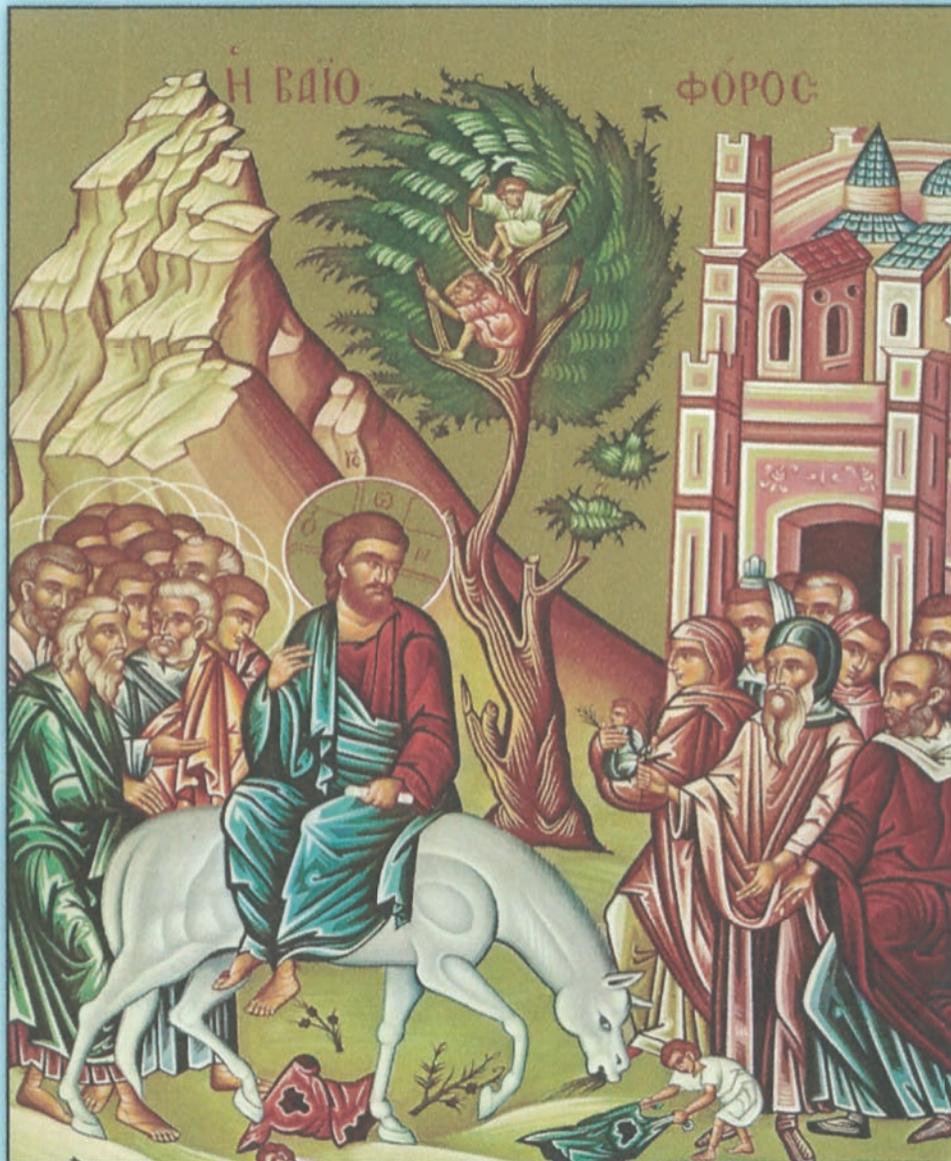
JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 13th , 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

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St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 117.26,1

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever. 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, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Πρὸς Φιλιππησίους 4:4-9

Προκειμενον. Ἦχος δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.26,1

Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου. Στίχ. Στίχ. Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ.

Ἀδελφοί, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε. Τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. Ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς. Μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν. Καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν, φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνά, ὅσα δίκαια, ὅσα ἀγνά, ὅσα προσφιλή, ὅσα εὐφημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίζεσθε. Ἄ καὶ ἐμάθετε καὶ παρελάβετε καὶ ἠκούσατε καὶ εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοί, ταῦτα πράσσετε· καὶ ὁ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν.

Palm Sunday

The Gospel of John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros 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, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box 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 Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros 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 comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey'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 him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Palm Sunday

Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 12.1-18

Πρὸ ἕξ ἡμερῶν τοῦ πάσχα ἦλθεν Ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Βηθανίαν, ὅπου ἦν Λάζαρος ὁ τεθνηκώς, ὃν ἠγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν. ἐποίησαν οὖν αὐτῷ δεῖπνον ἐκεῖ, καὶ ἡ Μάρθα διηκόνει· ὁ δὲ Λάζαρος εἷς ἦν τῶν ἀνακειμένων σὺν αὐτῷ. ἡ οὖν Μαρία, λαβοῦσα λίτραν μύρου νάρδου πιστικῆς πολυτίμου, ἤλειψε τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἐξέμαξε ταῖς θριξίν αὐτῆς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ· ἡ δὲ οἰκία ἐπληρώθη ἐκ τῆς ὀσμῆς τοῦ μύρου. λέγει οὖν εἷς ἐκ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκαριώτης, ὁ μέλλων αὐτὸν παραδιδόναι· διατί τοῦτο τὸ μύρον οὐκ ἐπράθη τριακοσίων δηναρίων καὶ ἐδόθη πτωχοῖς; εἶπε δὲ τοῦτο οὐχ ὅτι περὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ἔμελεν αὐτῷ, ἀλλ' ὅτι κλέπτης ἦν, καὶ τὸ γλωσσόκομον εἶχε καὶ τὰ βαλλόμενα ἐβάσταζεν. εἶπεν οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἄφες αὐτήν, εἰς τὴν ἡμέραν τοῦ ἐνταφιασμοῦ μου τετήρηκεν αὐτό. τοὺς πτωχοὺς γὰρ πάντοτε ἔχετε μεθ' ἑαυτῶν, ἐμὲ δὲ οὐ πάντοτε ἔχετε.

Ἔγνω οὖν ὄχλος πολὺς ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὅτι ἐκεῖ ἐστι, καὶ ἦλθον οὐ διὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον, ἀλλ' ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἴδωσιν ὃν ἠγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν. ἐβουλεύσαντο δὲ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἀποκτείνωσιν, ὅτι πολλοὶ δι' αὐτὸν ὑπήγον τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ ἐπίστευον εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Τῇ ἐπαύριον ὄχλος πολὺς ὁ ἐλθὼν εἰς τὴν εορτήν, ἀκούσαντες ὅτι ἔρχεται Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἔλαβον τὰ βαῖα τῶν φοινίκων καὶ ἐξῆλθον εἰς ὑπάντησιν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἔκραζον· ὡσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. εὐρῶν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὄναριον ἐκάθισεν ἐπ' αὐτό, καθὼς ἐστι γεγραμμένον· μὴ φοβοῦ, θύγατερ Σιών· ἰδοὺ ὁ βασιλεὺς σου ἔρχεται καθήμενος ἐπὶ πῶλον ὄνου.

Ταῦτα δὲ οὐκ ἔγνωσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τὸ πρῶτον, ἀλλ' ὅτε ἐδοξάσθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς, τότε ἐμνήσθησαν ὅτι ταῦτα ἦν ἐπ' αὐτῷ γεγραμμένα, καὶ ταῦτα ἐποίησαν αὐτῷ. Ἐμαρτύρει οὖν ὁ ὄχλος ὁ ὢν μετ' αὐτοῦ ὅτε τὸν Λάζαρον ἐφώνησεν ἐκ τοῦ μνημείου καὶ ἠγειρεν αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν. διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ὑπήντησεν αὐτῷ ὁ ὄχλος, ὅτι ἠκουσαν τοῦτο αὐτὸν πεποιηκέναι τὸ σημεῖον.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

April 13 – PALM SUNDAY EVENING

The Nymphios Service 7:00 P.M.
Heralding the Bridegroom Christ!

April 14—HOLY MONDAY EVENING

The Nymphios Service 7:00 P.M.
Heralding the Bridegroom Christ

April 15 – HOLY TUESDAY EVENING

The Nymphios Service 7:00 P.M.
The troparion of Kassiani will be sung
by the Choir

April 16—HOLY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Holy Unction 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.
Children are encouraged to attend directly
from school

April 16-- HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING

Holy Unction 7:00—9:00 P.M.
Unction will NOT be distributed for home use.

April 17—HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy 6:00--8:00 A.M.
Holy Eucharist will be distributed
DURING Liturgy only,
Please attend the service promptly

April 17—HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

12 Gospels – Crucifixion Of Christ
Lower Church: Service 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 18 – GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Apokathelosis – Descent from the Cross
Lower Church 3:00—4:30P.M.
Children are encouraged for the witnessing of the
faith and homily (sermon)

April 18 – GOOD FRIDAY EVENING

The Epitaphios 7:00 P.M.
Upper and Lower Churches
Solemn Street Procession 8:15 P.M.
Three Epitaphia will be escorted

April 19 – HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy 6:00 – 8:00 A.M.
Holy Eucharist will be distributed
DURING Liturgy only,
Please attend the service promptly

April 19 – HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT

Orthros 11:00 P.M.
THE RESURRECTION:midnight
Divine Liturgy 12:30 – 1:30 A.M.
Upper & Lower Churches

April 20—EASTER SUNDAY

Agape Vesper 11:00 A.M. – 12 :00 Noon
Children's Easter Service
Gospel Will Be Read In Many Languages.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE of SERVICES: Has been mailed to all stewards (members) of the Parish. If you desire a copy of the sacred service schedule please see the Church Office secretary. Why not register with the Church so we can mail you all pertinent information. Do it TODAY!

PASCHA WISH LIST: As every year our Parish is in need of the following items for Holy Week services: (a) Altar wine (b) euchelaion oil (c) incense (d) new white sheets (e)volunteers to do a bit of decoration work in the church (upper and lower) palm weavers! Please see the CLERGY for any further direction. Please do not make purchases without clearance from the clergy since duplication may not be necessary!

IMMEDIATE NEED: The church is in need of A new veteran's American flag for the Plaza flagpole. Many have such flags presented at funerals, stored in a closet or drawer. Let's honor the memory of our military veterans by flying THEIR FLAG OVER THEIR CHURCH. Please see the clergy for proper disposition and hoisting the flag.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY each Sunday is collecting your donations for the GOOD FRIDAY EPITAPHION 'FLOWERS'. please support this effort each week as a commemoration of the death and burial of the LORD. The ladies will be standing by the clergy at the distribution of ANTIDORON. Be prepared to GIVE. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE!

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 14TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER . The website address.



We salute our 'Golden Greeks' Troop # 531 of the Boy Scouts of America and their Stellar leader Scoutmaster Dean Veroutis for their dedicated service to our parish community when ever we are in need! Over 20 young boys are registered. Is your son or grandson a 'Scout' ? Call DEAN at: 718-668-1726.



Pride and dignity are the call - letters of our Girl Scout Troop of Three Hierarchs who serve the needs of our faithful, with outreach to civic, national and global projects . Many thanks to the able leadership of STELLA OBERLE and CHARMAINE ROSS-LE and troop mothers. Register your 'young lady' by calling STELLA 917-273-1440.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνῆν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1246 ²	Κυριακὴ τῶν Βαΐων (Ἰω. 12,1-18) 13 Ἀπριλίου 2014 (2006) πρωὶ	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν καρδιῶν

«Ὡσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου» (Ἰω. 12,13)

Πολλές περιπτώσεις, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀναφέρει ἡ ἱστορία καὶ ἡ σύγχρονη ζωὴ, ποὺ οἱ λαοὶ ἀναστενάζαν καὶ ἀναστενάζουν κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν **διακυβέρνησι σκληρῶν βασιλέων** καὶ στυγνῶν τυράννων. Εἶνε δὲ τραγικὴ εἰρωνεία, ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ὑψώνουν κάποιον στὴν ἐξουσία, οἱ ἴδιοι ἔπειτα νὰ ὑποφέρουν ἀπὸ τὸν ἀπάνθρωπο τρόπο ποὺ αὐτὸς τοὺς διοικεῖ.

Σήμερα ὁμως, Κυριακὴ τῶν Βαΐων, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ὁμιλεῖ γιὰ ἕναν **ἄλλο βασιλέα**, ποὺ δὲν ἔχει καμμία σχέσι μὲ τοὺς βασιλεῖς καὶ ἄρχοντες τῆς γῆς. Ἐκεῖνοι στηρίζουν τὴν ἐξουσία τους στὴν πείσι καὶ τῇ βία, αὐτὸς στὴν ἀνοχὴ καὶ τὴν ὑπηρεσία· ἐκεῖνοι στηρίζονται στὴν κολακεία καὶ τὸ ψέμα, αὐτὸς στὴν εἰλικρίνεια καὶ τὴν ἀλήθεια· ἐκεῖνοι στὴν δημαγωγία καὶ τὴν ἀπάτη, αὐτὸς στὴν εὐθύτητα καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη.

Ὅλη του ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὸ δείχνει. Ἰδιαιτέρως ὁμως τὰ γνωρίσματα αὐτὰ φαίνονται σήμερα, ποὺ ἔρχεται γιὰ τελευταία φορὰ στὴν πρωτεύουσα τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, γιὰ νὰ κἀνῃ τὸ τελευταῖο πάσχα τῆς ἐπιγειοῦ ζωῆς του, τὸ τελευταῖο ἰουδαϊκὸ πάσχα, καὶ νὰ ἐγκαινιάσῃ τὸ δικό του πάσχα, τὸ **πάσχα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας** του.

Τὸ **πάσχα** ἦταν ἡ μεγαλύτερη ἑορτὴ τῶν Ἰουδαίων. Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐώρταζαν μεγαλοπρεπῶς τὴν ἀπελευθέρωσί τους ἀπὸ τὴν τυραννία τῶν φαραῶ, τῶν βασιλέων τῆς Αἰγύπτου. Τὴ μεγάλη αὐτὴ ἑορτὴ τους θεωροῦσαν εὐτύχημα καὶ ἰδιαίτερη εὐλογία τῆς οἰκογενείας τους, ἂν μπορούσαν νὰ τὴν ἐορτάσουν στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ὅπου ἦταν καὶ ὁ ναὸς τοῦ Σολομώντος. Γι' αὐτὸ τίς παραμονές τοῦ πάσχα χιλιάδες κόσμος, ἄντρες γυναῖκες καὶ παιδιὰ, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, ξεκινούσαν ἀπὸ τὰ διάφορα μέρη, σχημάτιζαν καρβάνια καὶ κατέφθαναν στὴν ἱερὰ πόλι.

Ὅλος ὁ λαὸς, ποὺ προερχόταν ἀπὸ τὰ διά-

φορα μέρη τοῦ κόσμου –διότι ἀνέκαθεν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἦταν διασκορπισμένοι παντοῦ πάνω στὴ γῆ–, ζοῦσε μὲ μιὰ ἐπιθυμία· ἤθελαν νὰ δοῦν τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Εἶχαν ἀκούσει πολλὰ γι' αὐτὸν καὶ εἶχαν ζωηρὸ ἐνδιαφέρον νὰ τὸν γνωρίσουν. Γι' αὐτὸ, μόλις ἀκούστηκε ἀπὸ στόμα σὲ στόμα ὅτι **ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔρχεται στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα**, σείστηκε ὅλη ἡ πόλις καὶ ὅλοι βρέθηκαν ἐκεῖ. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ ὅπου ἀγγίζει τὰ ἅγια του χέρια δώχνει κάθε λογῆς ἀσθένεια. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ ἔδωσε τὸ φῶς στοὺς τυφλοὺς, τὰ πόδια στοὺς κουτσούς, τὴν ὑγεία σὲ κάθε ἀσθενῆ. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ μὲ μιὰ προσταγὴ του τὰ δαιμόνια φεύγουν μακριὰ. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ μ' ἕνα λόγο του κάνει νὰ χορταίνουν χιλιάδες ἄνθρωποι. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ ἡ διδασκαλία του εἶνε πιὸ γλυκεῖα κι ἀπ' τὸ μέλι. Ἐρχεται ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ καὶ τὸ θάνατο ἀκόμη νίκησε καὶ ἀνέστησε τὸ Λάζαρο. Ἐρχεται ὁ Διδάσκαλος, ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰατρός, ἔρχεται ὁ Σωτὴρ, ἔρχεται ὁ Βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ.

Ὁ λαὸς εἶνε ἀσυγκράτητος. Βγαίνει γιὰ νὰ τὸν προῦπαντήσῃ. Τί κοσμοπλημμύρα, **τί ὑποδοχὴ ἦταν ἐκεῖνη!** Κανένα βασιλέα δὲν ὑποδέχθηκαν ποτὲ ἄνθρωποι μὲ τόσον ἐνθουσιασμὸ μὲ ὅσον ὑποδέχθηκαν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι τὸν Χριστὸ τὴν ἡμέρα τῶν Βαΐων. Ἄλλοι ἄπλωναν κάτω τὰ ροῦχα τους, ἄλλοι ἔστρωναν τοὺς δρόμους μὲ κλαδιά, ἄλλοι κρατοῦσαν στὰ χέρια βᾶια καὶ κλαδιὰ ἐλιᾶς καὶ τὰ ἔσειαν. Καὶ ὅλοι ζητωκραύγαζαν καὶ ἔλεγαν· «Ὡσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ» (Ἰω. 12,13).

Ἄλλ' **ὁ Κύριος δὲν ξυπάζεται** ἀπ' αὐτὴ τὴν ὑποδοχὴ. Ἀτάραχος, γαλήνιος, πρᾶος ὅπως πάντοτε, ἀντιμετωπίζει τὴν πλημμύρα αὐτὴ τοῦ λαϊκοῦ ἐνθουσιασμοῦ. Τὸ πιὸ χαρακτηριστικὸ εἶνε, ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς μόλις ἀντίκρουσε τὴν

πόλι «**ἔκλαυσε**»^(Λουκ. 19:41). Ὡ τὰ δάκρυα αὐτὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, πόσο δὲν μᾶς διδάσκουν! Ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔκλαυσε, διότι ὡς Θεὸς ποὺ εἶνε ἐγνώριζε, ὅτι ὕστερα ἀπὸ λίγα χρόνια τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἡ μεγάλη καὶ ἱερὰ πόλις, θὰ καταστραφοῦν ἐκ θεμελίων. Οἱ δρόμοι, τὰ ὄμορφα σπίτια της, ὁ λαμπρὸς ναὸς, ὅλα θὰ γίνουν ἕνας σωρὸς λιθάρια, κ' ἐκεῖ ποὺ τώρα εἶνε χτισμένα τὰ μέγαλα θὰ ὀργώσῃ τῆ γῆ τὸ ἀλέτρι. Προβλέπει τὴν φοβερὴ καταστροφὴ τῆς ἁγίας πόλεως καὶ κλαίει. Κλαίει ἀκόμη, διότι ξέρει πῶς ὁ ἐνθουσιασμὸς τοῦ λαοῦ αὐτοῦ εἶνε προσωρινός, ἐφήμερος, καὶ πολὺ γρήγορα θὰ ἐξατμισθῇ. Σήμερα φωνάζουν τὸ «**ὠσαννά**», ἀλλὰ ὕστερα ἀπὸ λίγες μέρες θὰ φωνάξουν τὸ «**Ἄρον ἄρον, σταύρωσον αὐτόν**»^(Ἰω. 19:15). Σήμερα στρώνουν τὰ ρούχα τους, ἀλλ' αὔριο θὰ τὸν ὑβρίσουν καὶ θὰ τὸν ἐξευτελίσουν. Σήμερα τὸν ὑποδέχονται μὲ βάρια, ἀλλ' αὔριο θὰ τὸν συλλάβουν μὲ ξύλα καὶ ρόπαλα. Προβλέπει τὴ μεταβολὴ αὐτῆ τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ κλαίει· γιατί ὁ λαὸς αὐτὸς δὲν ἔχει σταθερὲς ἀρχές καὶ πεποιθήσεις· μοιάζει μ' ἕνα κύμα, ποὺ ἡ κίνησί του ἐξαρτᾶται ἀπὸ τὴν ἐκάστοτε πνοὴ τοῦ ἀνέμου.

* * *

Ὁ Ἰησοῦς ζητάει ἀποφασισμένους ἀκολουθούς ποὺ νὰ εἶνε **συνειδητὰ ἀφωσιωμένοι** σ' αὐτόν· δὲν θέλει φανατικούς ὀπαδοὺς καὶ νευρόσπαστα. Θέλει νὰ ἔχουν ἐπίγνωση καὶ βαθειὰ πεποίθησι· ὄχι ἐξωτερικὲς ἐκδηλώσεις, πομπώδεις ὑποδοχές, εὐκολες ζητωκραυγὲς καὶ φτηνὰ χειροκροτήματα.

Ἄς τὸ προσέξουμε πολὺ αὐτό. Διότι κ' ἐμεῖς ἐτοιμαζόμεστε νὰ ὑποδεχθοῦμε σήμερα τὸν Κύριο. Τὸ βράδυ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας θὰ μᾶς καλέσῃ νὰ ψάλλουμε «**Ἰδοὺ ὁ Νυμφίος ἔρχεται ἐν τῷ μέσῳ τῆς νυκτός...**»^(τροπάρ. Μ. Δευτ. κ.β.). Ἔρχεται γιὰ νὰ εἰσέλθῃ ὄχι στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀλλὰ στὴν καρδιὰ κάθε πιστοῦ. Πῶς; Διὰ τοῦ μυστηρίου τῆς θείας κοινωνίας. Ἔρχεται γιὰ νὰ μεταδώσῃ τὸ σῶμα καὶ αἷμα του σὲ κάθε Χριστιανό. **Ἄς ἐξέλθουμε λοιπὸν νὰ τὸν προῦπαντήσουμε.** Ἀλλὰ πῶς θὰ τὸν προῦπαντήσουμε; Ἄν ἦταν βασιλιάς, ἂν φοροῦσε κορώννα στὸ κεφάλι, ἂν καθόταν σὲ ἄμαξα πολυτελεῖ, ἂν εἶχε ὑπασιπιστὰς καὶ ἀκολουθούς, θὰ τὸν ὑπεδέχονταν μὲ στρατιωτικὴ παράταξι, μὲ σημαῖες, μὲ φωνὲς καὶ ζητωκραυγὲς. Ἄλλ' ὄχι· ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν θέλει τέτοιες ἐπιδείξεις, ποὺ δὲν ἔχουν κανένα νόημα. Κατ' ἄλλο τρόπο ζητεῖ νὰ τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε. Πῶς θέλει νὰ τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε;

Εἶνε **ὁ ταπεινός**. Γι' αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε μὲ ταπεινώσι. Ὅχι νὰ ρίξουμε

στοὺς δρόμους τὰ φορέματά μας, ὅπως οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι, γιὰ νὰ περάσῃ ἀπὸ πάνω ὁ Χριστὸς· αὐτὸ εἶνε εὐκόλο. Τὸ δύσκολο εἶνε νὰ ρίξουμε κάτω τὸν ἐγωισμό μας. Ἡ ταπεινώσις εἶνε τὸ χρυσὸ χαλί, ποὺ ὅλοι μποροῦμε νὰ στρώσουμε γιὰ τὴν ὑποδοχὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ὅσοι πολεμοῦν τὸν ἐγωισμό, ὅσοι ἀγωνίζονται νὰ εἶνε ταπεινοί, αὐτοὶ ὑποδέχονται μὲ τὸν καλύτερο τρόπο τὸ Χριστό. Ἄν ὁ ἐγωισμὸς διώχῃ μακριὰ τὸ Χριστό, ἡ ταπεινώσις τὸν ἐλκύει καὶ τὸν φέρνει πολὺ κοντά.

Ὁ Χριστὸς ἀκόμη εἶνε **ὁ καθαρὸς καὶ ὁ ἅγιος!** Γι' αὐτὸ ὅσοι θέλουν νὰ ὑποδεχθοῦν τὸ Χριστό, ἄς φροντίσουν νὰ καθαρίσουν σῶμα καὶ ψυχὴ ἀπὸ κάθε μολυσμὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Ὅπως τὶς μυρωδιές, τὰ ἀρώματα, τὰ βάζουμε σὲ καθαρὰ δοχεῖα, ἔτσι καὶ τὸ οὐράνιο μύρο, τὸν Χριστό, πρέπει νὰ τὸν βάλουμε σὲ μέρος καθαρό. Ὅχι σ' ἕνα σταῦλο, ἀλλὰ σ' ἕνα τόπο ποὺ ν' ἀστράφτῃ ἀπὸ καθαρότητα.

Ἡ καρδιά μας, μὲ ἄλλα λόγια, πρέπει νὰ καθαρισθῇ κατὰ τέτοιο τρόπο, ὥστε νὰ κατοικήσῃ μέσα ὁ Χριστὸς. Ἡ καρδιά μας! Ἰδοὺ, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ σαλόνι, στὸ ὁποῖο ὁ Κύριός μας περιμένει νὰ τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε καὶ νὰ τὸν φιλοξενήσουμε «**ἐρχόμενος ἐπὶ τὸ ἐκούσιον πάθος**»^(ἀπόλ. ὄρθο. Μ. Δευτ. κ.β.), καθὼς ἔρχεται νὰ πάθῃ μὲ τὴ θέλησί του γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία μας.

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Ἀγαπητοί μου! Ἐὰν σᾶς ἔλεγε κάποιος, ὅτι Ἀπόψε στὸ σπίτι σου θὰ ἔρθῃ νὰ μείνῃ ὁ βασιλιάς, θὰ τὸ θεωρούσατε αὐτὸ μιὰ μεγάλη τιμὴ, ἀλλὰ καὶ θὰ καταβάλλατε κάθε προσπάθεια καὶ θὰ κάνατε κάθε θυσία, ὥστε στὸ σπίτι σας νὰ εἶνε ὅλα καθαρὰ. Ἀλλὰ νά, ἐγὼ σήμερα μὲ τὰ φτωχὰ τοῦτα λόγια σᾶς μεταδίδω μιὰ πιὸ μεγάλη εδῆσι· σᾶς εἰδοποιῶ, ὅτι **ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς!** Θέλει νὰ μείνῃ - νὰ κατοικήσῃ στὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ καθενὸς ἀπὸ μᾶς.

Ἄς βγοῦμε λοιπὸν νὰ προῦπαντήσουμε τὸν Κύριό μας. Ἄς τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε ὄχι μὲ ψεύτικα ἀποθέματα ἐνθουσιασμοῦ, ποὺ σβήνουν σὰν ρουκέττες. Ὅχι. Ἄς τὸν ὑποδεχθοῦμε μὲ τὸν τρόπο ποὺ τοῦ ἀρέσει, **μὲ ταπεινώσι καὶ καθαρότητα.** Καὶ μὲ εὐγνώμονα καρδιὰ ἃς τοῦ ποῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὸν δοξολογικὸ ὕμνο·

«**Ὡσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου**». Χριστέ, εἶσαι ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν καρδιῶν μας. Σ' ἐσένα καὶ μόνο σ' ἐσένα ἀρμόζει δόξα, τιμὴ καὶ προσκύνησις, εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$150 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2014 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today He returns from Bethany and proceeds of His own free will toward His holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with Himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of His own free will to make His journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: He will not dispute or raise His voice to make it heard in the streets. He will be meek and humble, and He will make His entry in simplicity.

Let us run to accompany Him as He hastens toward His passion, and imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him by being humble and by trying to live as He would

wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at His coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

So let us spread before His feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.

St. Andrew of Crete

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