



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 21st, 2019

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## PALM SUNDAY -- FLOWERY SUNDAY



*Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem*

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## St. Paul's Letter 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, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

### Πρὸς Φιλιππησίους 4:4-9

Ἀδελφοί, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε. Τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. Ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς. Μηδὲν μεριμνάτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν. Καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ 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 εὐφροσύνη, 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 John 12:1-8

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus 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, 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 Lazarus, whom he 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 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 Lazarus 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.

### Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 12:1-18

Πρὸ ἑξ 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· ἢ οὖν Μαρία, λαβοῦσα λίτραν μύρου νάρδου πιστικῆς πολυτίμου, ἠλειψε τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἐξέμαξε ταῖς θριξίν αὐτῆς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ· ἢ 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 ἐστὶ, 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 ἑορτήν, ἀκούσαντες ὅτι ἔρχεται Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἔλαβον τὰ βαῖα τῶν φοινίκων καὶ ἐξῆλθον εἰς ὑπάντησιν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἔκραζον· ὡσαννὰ, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. εὐρὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὄναριον ἐκάθισεν ἐπ' αὐτό, καθὼς ἐστὶ 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 ὑπήνησεν αὐτῷ ὁ ὄχλος, ὅτι ἠκουσαν τοῦτο αὐτὸν πεποιηκέναι τὸ σημεῖον.

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 21- PALM SUNDAY EVENING  
The Nymphios Service 7:00 PM

April 22- HOLY MONDAY EVENING  
The Nymphios Service 7:00 PM

April 23- HOLY TUESDAY EVENING  
The Nymphios Service 7:00 PM  
The troparion of Kassiani will be sung by the Choir.

April 24- HOLY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
Holy Uuction 7:00 PM  
Children are encouraged!

April 24- HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING  
Holy Uction 7:00 PM

April 25- HOLY THURSDAY MORNING  
\*Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM  
\*EUCHARIST CONCLUDES- 7:30 AM

April 25-HOLY THURSDAY EVENING  
12 Gospels-Crucifixion of Christ  
Lower Church : Service 7:00 PM

April 26- GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
Apokathelosis – Descent from the Cross  
Lower Church: 3:30 PM  
Children are encouraged!

April 26-GOOD FRIDAY EVENING  
The Epitaphios 7:00 PM  
Upper & Lower Churches  
Solemn Street Procession 8:15PM

April 27- HOLY SATURDAY MORNING  
\*Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM  
\*EUCHARIST CONCLUDES-7:00 AM

April 27- HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT  
Orthros 11:00 PM Lower Church  
THE RESURRECTION: 12:00 Midnight  
Divine Liturgy 12:30 – 1:30 AM

April 28- EASTER SUNDAY –Upper Church  
Agape Vesper 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon  
CHILDREN'S EASTER SERVICE

April 29- EASTER MONDAY, St. George  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**TODAY PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 21st, Morning prayers and Orthros will commence in the 'UPPER CHURCH' AT 9:00 A.M. and will continue with the DIVINE LITURGY of the PALMS at 10:30 A.M. in the LOWER CHURCH. On this occasion as in the past we welcome METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY who will address the faithful during the liturgy. The EVENING NYMPHIOS SERVICE of the BRIDEGROOM will be observed at 7:00 -8:15 P.M.**

**PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON: is being hosted by the Parish Council on Sunday April 21st, directly after the Divine Liturgy. Please see centerfold for all information. This Greek traditional fish meal is an invitation for the whole family including little kids who will be served EASTER PIZZA! Join us as we open the festal week of observance.**

**EASTER BAKE SALE: Our Ladies Philoptochos Society will be offering a variety of Paschal Sweet Treats for Easter for your home or as a gift to others you may visit for Pascha. Please see the centerfold The sweets are on sale Palm Sunday April 21st. It's all finger lickin' good !**

**PASCHAL NEEDS: as in every year, the altar needs are many and varied. Thanks be to God, so many faithful whom we may have NOT seen since last Easter are on the road back to GOD and Orthodox Christian tradition and practice. Hence our altar supplies of INCENSE, EUCHARISTIC WINE, OLIVE OIL ANOINTING, ROSE WATER, AROMATICS, LARGE KING SIZE SHEETS ( White) for the Epitaphios, CRUCIFIX WREATHS ( Good Friday) and so much more. PLEASE SEE THE CLERGY AND SECURE YOUR PERSONAL DESIRED OFFERING! Too much of one thing and not enough of another – does not help. See the clergy, please.**

**EASTER CARD POSTING: As each year, the Paschal greeting will be mailed to thousands of eyes, declaring the RESURRECTION of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The triptych Byzantine icon card will have YOUR NAME inscribed extending greetings to one and all 1,000 homes. Please fill out the form distributed by the altar boys and submit the Paschal Donation of \$20.00 (twenty dollars) as a thanksgiving to God. The OFFICE IS now OPEN!**

**RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20<sup>TH</sup> 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. W.W.W.gaepis.org (Click live audio)**

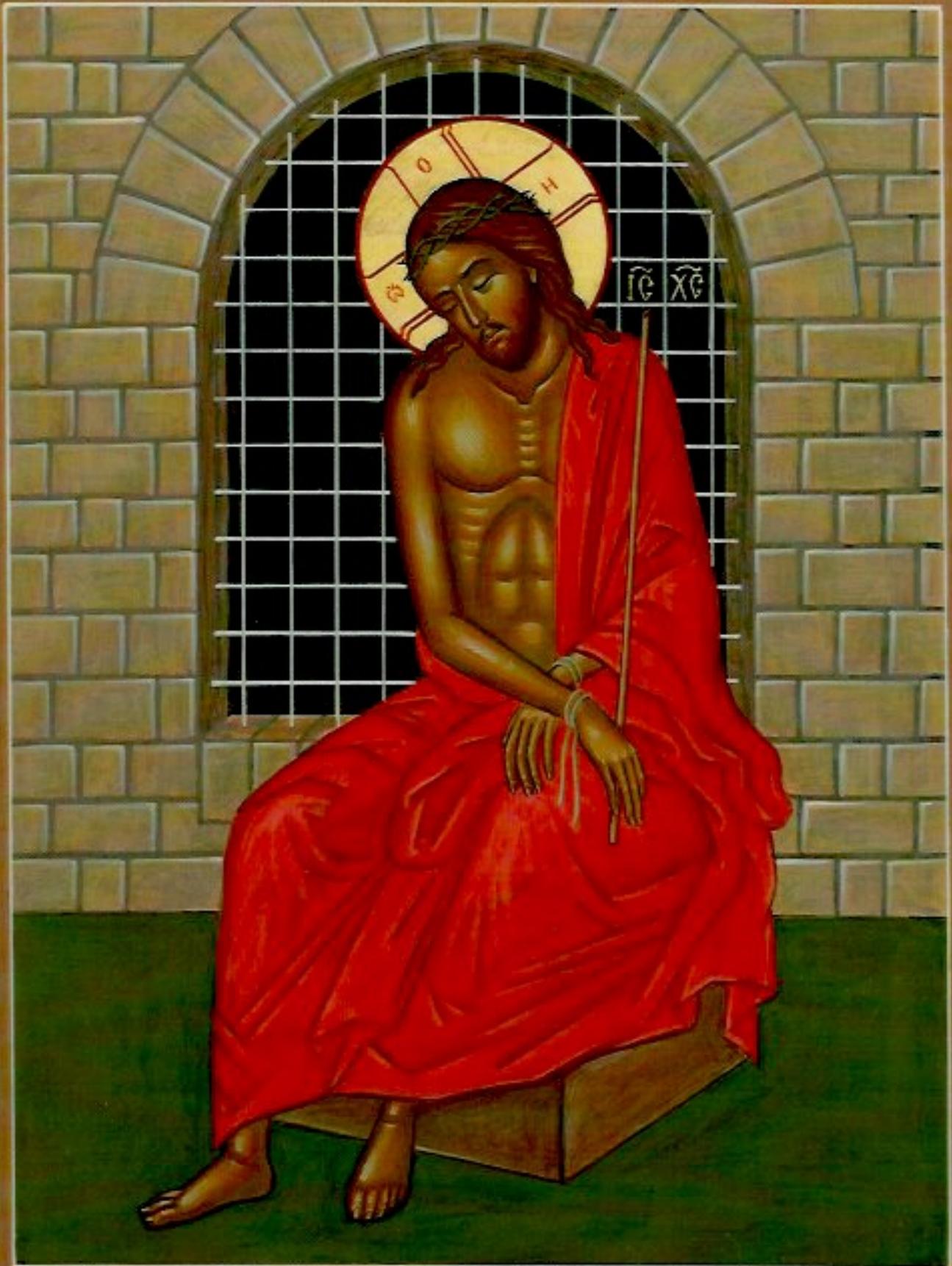
**NO MEMORIAL SERVICES are permitted until after the Sunday of Saint Thomas (MAY 05th.) Register all memorials for Sunday May 12th, (MOTHER'S DAY). Please comply!**



· Ο ΑΓΙΝΟΣ Ο ΜΥΣΤΙΚΟΣ ·



ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ: ΠΟΙΟΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ Ο ΜΥΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΣ;  
ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΗ: Ο ΜΥΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ Ο ΧΡΗΣΤΟΣ.



CHRIST, THE PRISONER



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Τετρὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – [imsaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2177	Κυριακὴ τῶν Βαΐων (Ἰω. 12,1-18) 21 Ἀπριλίου 2019 πρῶι	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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### « Ὡσαννά... »

«Ἐξῆλθον εἰς ἀπάντησιν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἔκραζον Ὡσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος...» (Ἰω. 12,13. Ψαλμ. 117,26)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε Κυριακὴ τῶν Βαΐων. Σὰν σήμερα στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα ἐγίνε κάτι πρωτοφανές, ποὺ δὲν εἶχε συμβῆ ἄλλοτε στὴν ἱστορία τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, οὔτε στὴν ἐποχὴ Δαυῖδ καὶ Σολομῶντος. Μόλις ἀκούστηκε «**ὅτι ἔρχεται Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα**» (Ἰω. 12,12), ἡ πόλις ἄδειασε· ἄντρες γυναῖκες παιδιά, μιὰ ἀνθρωποθάλασσα, βγήκε νὰ τὸν ὑποδεχθῆ ὡς βασιλέα!

**Μὰ ποιός εἶν' αὐτός;** Δὲν ἔχει καμμιά ὁμοιότητα μὲ τοὺς βασιλεῖς τοῦ κόσμου· δὲν ἔρχεται πάνω σὲ πολεμικὸ ἄρμα ἢ σὲ ἄλογο, δὲν συνοδεύεται ἀπὸ στρατεύματα, δὲν σαλπίζουν σάλπιγγες, δὲν χτυποῦν τύμπανα. Χωρὶς βία, αὐθόρμητα, χωρὶς προετοιμασία, ἡ πόλις τὸν ὑποδέχεται ὡς βασιλέα τῆς. Ποιόν; Ἐναν, ποὺ δὲν εἶχε δραχμὴ στὶς τσέπες του, ποὺ ὄχι σπίτια καὶ παλάτια ἀλλὰ δὲν εἶχε ποὺ νὰ γείρη τὸ κεφάλι του. Οἱ ἀλεποῦδες καὶ τὰ κοράκια ἔχουν φωλιές, εἶπε ὁ ἴδιος, «**ὁ δὲ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἔχει ποῦ τὴν κεφαλὴν κλίνει**» (Ματθ. 8,20)· πρᾶος καὶ ταπεινός, κάθησε σὰν ἀπλὸς χωρικός πάνω σὲ ἕναν «**πῶλον ὄνου**» (Ἰω. 12,15. 2α. 9,9), σ' ἕνα γαϊδουράκι.

Ὁ λαὸς ὁμως τὸν ὑποδέχθηκε, γιατί διαισθάνθηκε ὅτι κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ ταπεινὸ σχῆμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ κρύβεται μιὰ δύναμις ἀνώτερη ἀπ' ὅλες τὶς δυνάμεις τοῦ κόσμου, ἀπὸ ξίφη καὶ ὄπλα, **δύναμις πνευματικὴ, θεϊκὴ**. Γιατί; Διότι χθὲς ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε στὰ μνήματα καὶ τί ἐγίνε!...

Κάτι ἀφάνταστο. Ἄς μὴν πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους, ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε· ὁποῖος δὲν πιστεύει, ἄς μὴν ἔρχεται στὴν ἐκκλησία. Στὴν θεία λειτουργία ἀκοῦμε· «**ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἁγίου οἴκου τούτου καὶ τῶν μετὰ πίστεως... εἰσιόντων (=εἰσερχομένων) ἐν αὐτῷ τοῦ Κυρίου δεηθῶμεν**» (εἰρηηνά). **Εἶνε ζήτημα πίστεως** αὐτά.

Λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε χθὲς στὸ μνημα τοῦ τεταρταίου Λαζάρου· καὶ μὲ ὄση εὐκολία ἢ μὰνὰ ξυπνάει τὸ παιδάκι τῆς στὴν κούνια, ἢ μὲ

ὄση εὐκολία ὁ νεωκόρος γυρίζει τὸ διακόπτη καὶ ἀνάβει ὁ πολυέλεος τῆς ἐκκλησίας, μὲ τὴν ὄση ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε «**Λάζαρε, δεῦρο ἔξω**» (Ἰω. 11,43)· **καὶ ὁ Λάζαρος ἀναστήθηκε καὶ βγήκε ἔξω!**

Τὸ θαῦμα αὐτό, χωρὶς ἀσυρμάτους καὶ τηλεφῶνα, ἀπὸ στόμα σὲ στόμα, διαδόθηκε ἀστραπιαίως. Γι' αὐτὸ ὀλόκληρη ἡ πόλις, ἕνα ἑκατομμύριο λαός, ἄδειασαν τὰ σπίτια, γέμισαν τοὺς δρόμους, βγήκαν ἔξω, καὶ ἀλλόφρονες ἀπὸ ἐνθουσιασμό χαιρετοῦσαν τὸν Βασιλέα, ἐκεῖνον ποὺ νίκησε τὸ χάρο, **νίκησε τὸ θάνατο**.

**Καὶ πῶς τὸν ὑποδέχτηκαν;** Τὸ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Ἄλλοι σκαρφάλωναν στὰ δέντρα κ' ἔκοβαν κλαδιὰ ἀπὸ ἐλιές καὶ φοινικές, ἄλλοι ἔβγαζαν τὰ ροῦχα τους καὶ τὰ ἔστρωναν καταγῆς σὰν χαλί γιὰ νὰ περάσῃ ὁ Χριστός, καὶ ὄλοι μαζὶ φώναζαν «**Ὡσαννά...**». Τί σημαίνει τὸ «**Ὡσαννά**»; Εἶνε ἑβραϊκὴ λέξις. Σημαίνει «**δόξα νὰ ἔχη ὁ Θεός**»· «**δόξα νὰ ἔχη ὁ Θεός**» γιὰ τὴ μεγάλη αὐτὴ μέρα, ποὺ μᾶς θυμῆθηκε καὶ ἔστειλε στὸν Ἰσραὴλ αὐτὸ τὸ μεγάλο βασιλεῖα· «**εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ**» (Ἰω. 12,13. Ψαλμ. 117,26).

Αὐτὰ ἔκανε ὁ λαός. **Καὶ ὁ Χριστός;** Ἐδῶ εἶνε τὸ μεγαλεῖο του. Ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε κενόδοξοι ἄνθρωποι, ὅταν μᾶς χειροκροτοῦν ἐνθουσιάζομαστε, ὑπερηφανευόμαστε, «**φυσιοῦμεθα**» (Ἰλ. 4. Κορ. 4,6. 1θ. 5,2. Καλ. 2,18), ἀλλοιωνόμαστε, παρασυρόμαστε. Ὁ Χριστὸς ὁμως, ἐνῶ ἕνας κόσμος ὀλόκληρος τὸν ἐπευφημεῖ καὶ θέλει νὰ τὸν κἀνῃ βασιλεῖα, ἐκεῖνος **δὲν παρασύρεται**· πάει κόντρα μὲ τὸ ρεῦμα τοῦ κόσμου, δὲν συμφωνεῖ μ' αὐτὰ τὰ «**Ὡσαννά**» ποὺ τοῦ φωνάζουν.

Γιατί δὲν συμφωνεῖ; Γιατί δὲν βλέπει τὴν ἐπιφάνεια, **βλέπει τὸ βάθος, μακριά**. Βλέπει ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ λαός, ποὺ σήμερα τὸν ὑποδέχεται μὲ τέτοιον ἐνθουσιασμό, εἶνε ἄστατος. Ξέρει, ὅτι αὐτὰ τὰ «**Ὡσαννά**» εἶνε σὰν τὰ πυροτεχνήματα τῆς λαμπρῆς, ποὺ φωτίζουν γιὰ λίγο καὶ

μετά σβήνουν. Τὰ «Ψωαννά» θὰ σβήσουν, δὲν θὰ βαστάξουν οὔτε τέσσερις μέρες· Μεγάλη Δευτέρα Μεγάλη Τρίτη Μεγάλη Τετάρτη Μεγάλη Πέμπτη, καὶ τὴ Μεγάλη Παρασκευή τὸ πρωὶ στὴν αὐλὴ τοῦ πραιτωρίου, τὰ ἴδια αὐτὰ στόματα, θὰ φωνάζουν στὸν Πιλάτο «*Σταύρωσον σταύρωσον αὐτόν*» (βλ. Λουκ. 23,21. 1κ. 19,8). Αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ δόξα τοῦ κόσμου τούτου. Καὶ ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ βλέπει τὴν πραγματικότητα, ὄχι μόνο δὲν ἐνθουσιάζεται, ἀλλὰ τούναντίον ὅπως λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο «*ἐκλαυσε*»· «*ἰδὼν τὴν πόλιν ἐκλαυσεν ἐπ' αὐτῆ*» (Λουκ. 19,41)· διότι ἤξερε ποιὸ θὰ ἔνε τὸ τέλος τῆς μαιφόνου πόλεως.

Ἄπ' ὄλες τίς ἐπευφημίες, τὸ μόνο ποὺ τὸν συγκίνησε ἦταν τὰ «Ψωαννά» τῶν μικρῶν παιδιῶν. Οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ φαρισαῖοι ὅμως ὠργίστηκαν μὲ τίς φωνές τους καὶ ἤθελαν νὰ σταματήσουν τὸν ὕμνο τους.

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Ἀδελφοί μου· ἀπὸ τότε ποὺ ἐγίνε αὐτὴ ἡ θριαμβευτικὴ ὑποδοχὴ στὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ἔχουν περάσει αἰῶνες. Ἄκουσε κι ἀκούει ὁ κόσμος ζητωκραυγές. Ἄστατος λαός, χωρὶς κριτήρια, χωρὶς πείρα, χωρὶς γνώσι τῆς ἱστορίας, παρασύρεται. Ἀλλὰ τὰ «ζήτω» αὐτὰ σβήνουν – ποῦ; Στὸ νεκροταφεῖο, ὅταν ὁ ἱερεὺς πάρῃ τὸ φυτῶρι καὶ πῆ «...Γῆ εἶ καὶ εἰς γῆν ἀπελεύσει» (Μαρκ. 16,7). Εἶδατε ποτὲ κανέναν πάνω σὲ τάφο καὶ νὰ πῆ «Ζήτω»;

Τὸ «Ψωαννά» ὅμως, ποὺ ἀκούστηκε σήμερα γιὰ τὸ Χριστό, δὲν σταμάτησε· **ἐξακολουθεῖ ν' ἀκούγεται** μέχρι τῶρα διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰῶνων. Γιατὶ ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ γιγαντιαῖα βήματα βαδίζει μέσα στὴν ἱστορία, κι αὐτοὶ ποὺ τὸν συνοδεύουν καὶ τὸν ὕμνουσιν πληθύνονται.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν τὰ παιδιά, ποὺ τὸν δοξολογοῦν, γιατί κανένας ἄλλος δὲν τ' ἀγάπησε ὅπως ὁ Ναζωραῖος.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν οἱ γυναῖκες ἀπὸ εὐγνωμοσύνη· γιατί πρὸ Χριστοῦ ἡ γυναῖκα ἦταν ἔνα κουρέλι, μὲ τὸ ὅποιο οἱ ἄντρες σκούπιζαν τὰ πέδιλά τους, μὰ ὁ Χριστὸς πῆρε τὸ κουρέλι καὶ τό 'κανε μάνα, ἀδελφή, ἀγία, ὁσία, μυροφόρο· ἐξύψωσε τὴ γυναῖκα.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν οἱ ἄντρες· γιατί στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶδαν τὸ τέλειο πρότυπο τοῦ ἀνδρός – «*ἴδε ὁ ἄνθρωπος*» (1κ. 19,8)–, ποὺ δὲν στηρίζει τὴν ἰσχύ του ἐπάνω στὸν ἐγωισμό, στὴ γροθιά, στὸ χρῆμα, στὴν πονηρία, ἀλλὰ στὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν ταπεινῶσι.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν οἱ νέοι· γιατί ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία του εἶνε ἡ αἰώνια νεότης. Ὅσα χρόνια κι ἂν περάσουν, θὰ ἔχη πάντα τὸ νεάζον, τὸ ἀγέραστο. Ὁ Χριστὸς νέος ἐζη-

σε, νέος ἔδρασε, καὶ πάνω στὸ ἄνθος τῆς νεότητός του σταυρώθηκε καὶ νίκησε.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν οἱ ἄρρωστοι στὰ κρεβάτια ἀτενίζοντας τὴν εἰκόνα του. Ὁ Ἐσταυρωμένος εἶνε ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ πόνου καὶ τῆς ὀδύνης, καὶ μόνο κοντὰ στὸ σταυρὸ του ὁ δικός τους σταυρὸς ἐλαφρώνει.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν οἱ φυλακισμένοι ποὺ κρατοῦνται μέσα στὰ κελιά· γιατί μόνο τὸ φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ μπορεῖ καὶ φτάνει σὰν ἥλιος ὡς τὰ σκοτεινά τους βάθη καὶ τοὺς παρηγορεῖ.

✓ «Ψωαννά», φωνάζουν τέλος ὄλοι οἱ μεγάλοι ἁμαρτωλοί· γιατί μόνο στὸ Χριστὸ βρῆκαν τὴ λύτρωσι, τὴν ἐλπίδα τῆς σωτηρίας.

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Κάποιοι βέβαια καὶ σήμερα, ὅπως τότε οἱ φαρισαῖοι, **ἐνοχλοῦνται** ποὺ βασιλεύει καὶ ὑμνεῖται ὁ Χριστός· κάποιοι π.χ. δαιμονίζονται ὅταν ἀκοῦνε νὰ χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, κάποιοι χυδαιολογοῦν καὶ χειρονομοῦν ἀπρεπῶς ὅταν βλέπουν νὰ περνᾷ ἄγνωστος ῥασοφόρος, κάποιοι χλευάζουν ὅταν ἀκούγεται κήρυγμα εὐαγγελίου, κάποιοι μισοῦν τόσο πολὺ τὴν Ἐκκλησία ποὺ θέλουν ἂν ἦταν δυνατὸν νὰ γκρεμίσουν τοὺς ναοὺς, νὰ σταματήσῃ ἡ λατρεία, νὰ σβῆσῃ ὁ Ἐσταυρωμένος!...

Καὶ τότε οἱ ἐχθροί, ἀπὸ φθόνου, πῆγαν καὶ ζητοῦσαν νὰ σταματήσῃ ὁ ὕμνος τῶν παιδιῶν. Μὰ ὁ Χριστὸς τί εἶπε· Κι ἂν οἱ ἄνθρωποι σιωπήσουν, καὶ τὰ λιθάρια θὰ πάρουν φωνὴ νὰ φωνάξουν· «*οἱ λίθοι κεκράξονται*» (Λουκ. 19,40). **Δὲν ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ μᾶς ὁ Χριστός.** Κι ἂν ἐμεῖς σιωπήσουμε, τὸ σύμπαν ὄλο καὶ οἱ οὐράνιοι ἄγγελοι θὰ τὸν ὕμνουσιν. Ἐνώπιόν του «*πᾶν γόνη κάμψει ἐπουρανίων καὶ ἐπιγείων καὶ καταχθονίων*» (Φίλ. 2,10). Δὲν μᾶς ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἐκεῖνος, ἐμεῖς στὸ τέλος θὰ τὸν ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη.

Κλαίει ὅμως πάλι σήμερα, ὅπως τότε, ὁ Χριστός, γιατί ἀντὶ γιὰ ὕμνο ἀπὸ πολλοὺς ἀσεβεῖς **ἀκούει φρικτὲς βλασφημίες.** Καὶ κάποιοι ἄλλοι, λεγόμενοι χριστιανοί, ἐτοιμάζονται νὰ κοινωνήσουν χωρὶς μετάνοια, ἀνεξομολόγητοι, χωρὶς φόβου Θεοῦ. Προσοχή, διότι κι αὐτοὶ ποὺ βλαστημοῦν θὰ ῥθῃ ὥρα ποὺ θὰ γονατίσουν μπροστὰ στὸ Χριστό. Δὲν ὑπάρχει ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιο ἄλλο ἀπὸ «*τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν ὄνομα*» (ἐβ. 2,9) ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ.

Ἄς εὐχηθοῦμε σήμερα, νὰ παύσῃ στὸν τόπο μας ἡ βλαστήμια, ἡ πατρίδα μας νὰ γίνῃ ὄλη μιὰ κιθάρα κι ἀπὸ παντοῦ νὰ μὴν ἀκούγεται τίποτε ἄλλο παρὰ «Ψωαννά», «Ψωαννά», «Ψωαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος... βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ».

(†) **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: \$300 PER YEAR**

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR**

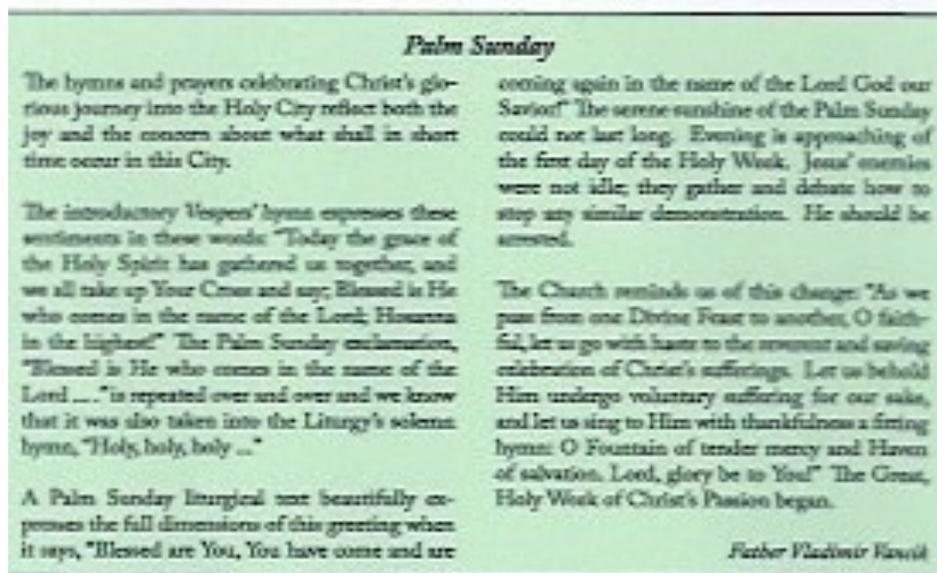
**SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR**

**SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 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 2019 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

**YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH**



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