



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234

Website: saintvladimir.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666](https://www.facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666)

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

April 25, 2021

Troparion – 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.”

Troparion – 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!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

Sitting on Thy 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

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.

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge: The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday, palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!" Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom: ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11). Very Rev. Paul Lazor

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil 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 had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on 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 these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Service Schedule for the week of April 25 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the children's Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting) and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Monday April 26 – MASKS REQUIRED 6:30 PM Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday April 27 – MASKS REQUIRED 6:30 PM Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday April 28 – MASKS REQUIRED 6:30 PM Service of Holy Unction (The Sacrament of Holy Oil)

Thursday April 29 – HOLY THURSDAY - MASKS REQUIRED 9:30 AM Vespereal Liturgy; 6:30 PM Matins with reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Friday April 30 – HOLY FRIDAY - MASKS REQUIRED 2:00 PM Vespers; 7:00 PM Matins with Procession followed by reading of the Psalms

Saturday May 1 – HOLY SATURDAY - MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Vespereal Liturgy; 11:30 PM Paschal Vigil with Procession followed by blessing of baskets in Daria Hall

Sunday May 2 – PASCHA - MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by children's Easter Egg hunt if it was canceled last Sunday, followed by blessing of baskets in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

April 18 – 47 adults, 12 youth, \$3,392

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday April 24 through Monday May 3 – Masks required at all services

NOTE: Father Volodymyr will no longer serve Divine Liturgy on Saturday mornings after May 1, unless it is a Holy day.

Sunday May 9 – Masks required

Sunday May 16 – Masks not required

Sunday May 23 – Masks required

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the parish children today after services, weather permitting. The eggs will be hidden between the church and the rectory. Please bring a container for your child to put their collected eggs in. Raindate will be Pascha Sunday, May 2, after Divine Liturgy.

Red-dyed, hard boiled eggs are needed for Holy Saturday and Pascha services. Please bring the eggs to the church basement starting Good Friday evening, and leave them on the table. Thank you.

Please remember to email your thoughts on installation of an outside mosaic icon above the church doors. At this time we just need to know your interest. The postcards with a depiction of the icon are at the candle desk.

Please note that the center two pews have been opened up fully in order to seat more people instead of only one person sitting at each end of the pew. The side pews are still taped off for social distancing for those who feel uncomfortable standing with more people.

Please remember to partake of the holy sacraments of Confession and Communion in preparation for Pascha. If you need to schedule Confession, please contact Father Volodymyr.

The church is planning a Spring Fling Social on Sunday, June 6. This event is being planned because we were unable to hold our annual Turkey Social last November due to the Covid pandemic. More information will follow, but mark your calendars!

Our parish has grown so much over the last few years – thank you Father Volodymyr! - so at our last FOCA Club meeting we thought it would be a good idea to share information about the mural in Daria Hall. Several years ago, the FOCA Club undertook a Daria Hall improvement and beautification fundraiser, which is the painting of the large mural on the wall facing the church. Our very talented parishioner and club member, Anne Cheslock, created the beautiful mural and is working on completing the painting. The mural was divided into 200 “blocks” (if you look closely at the bottom left area of the mural you may see block outlines) and the blocks were sold for \$200 each. The buyer could dedicate the block “In Memory Of” or “Donated By”; you can see all of the dedications by looking at the plaques on either side of the mural. The plaque at the bottom of the mural includes the names of all priests associated with St. Vladimir Church, either by assignment or for many years of serving and assisting in our church. There are still blocks for sale! If you are interested, please see Anne Cheslock or a member of the FOCA Club. Improvements made have included replacing the kitchen screen door, a new 8-burner Vulcan stove with convection ovens, replacement of the hood fan motor, new kitchen ceiling lights and electrical improvements, a large freezer in the coatroom, two S/S utility tables, repairing the dishwasher, and a warming oven. Future plans include energy-efficient entry doors to Daria Hall, new pots and pans, additional baking trays and/or whatever other need may arise. We thank everyone who supported this project in the past and look forward to everyone’s continued interest!

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone’s health and well-being!