

## Setting the Stage for Holy Week

Some 700 years before Christ came into the world to fulfill God's plan for our salvation, the Prophet Isaiah, set the stage for the events that will unfold before our eyes and the reason they came to pass during the days ahead which we refer to as "Great and Holy Week."

In the 53rd chapter of the Old Testament book that bears his name, Isaiah writes: *"He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering and ill-treatment. He was wounded because of our lawlessness and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. Like sheep we have all gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. Although He was mistreated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth and because of the lawlessness of My people He was let to death."*

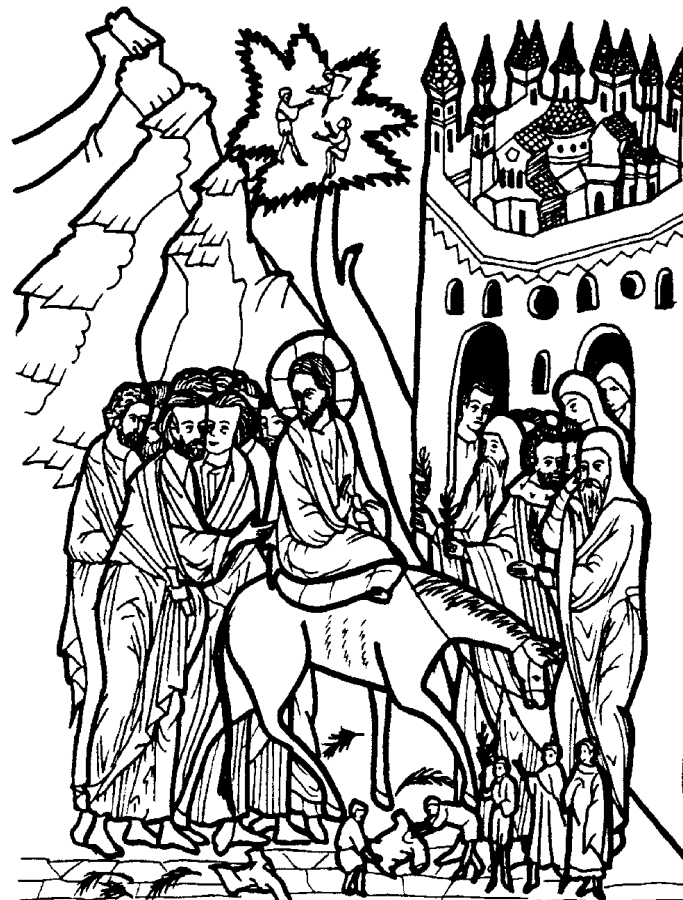
Indeed, all that we will see our Lord endure this coming week—His betrayal by Judas, His arrest, His trial before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate, the beating and scourging He suffered, the ridicule and humiliation that was heaped upon Him and, finally, His death on the Cross were all brought about—as Isaiah foretold—because of our lawlessness and the fact that in our sinful, human nature, we have all gone astray. This week, Christ will suffer in silence and in humility. He will neither protest nor defend Himself. He will willingly go to His death "as a sheep led to the slaughter." Why? Because it was so ordained by God—it was the key component for His plan to redeem mankind. For us to live eternally, Jesus had to die for our sins.

As we relive Christ's Passion this week, may we be keenly aware of God's great love for all of us. As we walk the "Way of the Cross" with our Savior, may we resolve to try with our entire being to rid our lives of the sins that made His suffering necessary.

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## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



April 13, 2014

Palm Sunday

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April 13, 2014

## Palm Sunday

Commemoration of: Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome

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### Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Tin kinin Anastasin* (Hymn of Palm Sunday) Tone 1

*To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord."*

*Sintafendes Si Hriste* (2nd Hymn of Palm Sunday) Tone 2

*We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord."*

### Kontakion

*To throno en urano* Tone 2

*In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, \* You were carried, O Christ our God; \* and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, \* Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again."*

### Epistle Reading

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.

### Gospel Reading

John 12:1-18

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.

Today

### **Palm Sunday Luncheon**

Today, in celebration of our Lord's Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), our Philoptochos has prepared for us a most delicious Fish Luncheon. We would like to thank them for all the hard work they put into it!

**Bridegroom Service**– Tonight at 6:30 p.m.

This Coming Week

### **Holy Week**

Schedules are available in the narthex to inform you of our services this coming week. Also see your April "Shorelines" or go online to our website.

### **Confessions**

Fr. Alexander is available to hear confessions this week before or after the services Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment. Please let him know, as soon as possible, if you would like to set a date and time this coming week.

### **Agape Vespers Gospel Readers**

Please sign up in narthex, if you would like to read the Gospel in a particular language on Sunday, April 20th, at the Agape Vespers. In this service, the Good News of the Resurrection is symbolically proclaimed to the entire world!!!

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### **To Our Visitors:**

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

*Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*