

I love Bridegroom Matins. I can hear the emotionally moving melody that is sung which matches these words as I type them. *Behold, the Bridegroom comes at Midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest thou be given up to death, and lest thou be shut out of the Kingdom! But rouse thyself, crying: Holy, holy, holy, art Thou O our God!* My favorite Bridegroom Matins is Tuesday night. The text is so beautiful as it juxtaposes the lover of money, Judas, who betrayed Jesus with a kiss, with the repentant sinful woman, who kissed the feet of Jesus and anointed Him with the precious oil of myrrh. She was set free, but Judas became the slave of the enemy and his desire for gain. At the Presanctified Liturgy on Holy Wednesday night, we will hear Matthew 26:6-16, and we will hear more hymns about this repentant woman. Attend at least one of the Bridegroom Matins during Holy Week. For your soul's sake, do your best to be there for as many of the services as you can. They prepare us for Pascha, for Christ's resurrection from the dead, and oh, so joyful and meaningful. —*Mat. Esther Carr*

The faithful of the Church begin to celebrate the resurrection of Christ at the Vespertal Liturgy of Holy Saturday (12:30 PM). We sing the hymns of the day, then three which begin with the words “Today Hades groans and cries aloud...” We listen to fifteen Old Testament lessons, which is the story of God's saving work, in prophecies about resurrection, the foreshadowing of baptism, the second coming and new creation. We hear the Epistle from *Romans* about Baptism and its meaning, then the hymn “Arise, O Lord, judge the earth...” during which all the purple icon stand covers and vestments of Lent are changed to white of Pascha. And then the priests and deacons, now in white vestments, read from the Gospel that “He is not here, He is risen...” Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, in his synopsis of Holy Week, wrote that on Holy Saturday “the Church proclaims that Christ has ‘trampled death by death.’ It means that even before the Resurrection, an event takes place, in which the sorrow is not simply replaced by joy, but is itself transformed into joy. Great Saturday is precisely this day of transformation, the day when victory grows from inside the defeat [it appears that XC is defeated], when before the Resurrection, we are given to contemplate the death of death itself...all this is expressed, and even more, all this really takes place every year in this marvelous Vespertal Liturgy, in this liturgical commemoration which becomes for us a saving and transforming present.”

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



April 13, 2023

Palm Sunday: The Entry into Jerusalem



• TROPARION OF THE FEAST, TONE ONE:

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou hast confirmed 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.

• SECOND TROPARION, TONE FOUR:

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 OF THE FEAST, TONE SIX:

Seated upon Thy throne in heaven, and on earth upon a foal, O Christ our God, Thou hast accepted the praise of the angels and the songs of the children who cried out to Thee: Blessed art Thou that comest to call back Adam.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Fri., April 11: 8 AM, Matins (final Lenten Matins)
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday
6:45 PM, Baptismal Instructions
- Sat., April 12: 9 AM, Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
Agape meal reception of the Newly-Illumined
1 PM, Decoration/cleaning of church
5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday/Blessing of Palms
- Sun., April 13: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and procession
11:45 AM, Agape Meal
12:30 PM, Rehearsal for the Paschal Procession
6 PM, Bridegroom Matins
- **Holy Mon–Tues:** 10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6 PM, Bridegroom Matins (*Confessions before and after Matins*)
- Holy Wed., April 16: 5 PM, Confessions (*final day for Confessions*)
6 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Holy Thurs., April 17: 11:30 AM, Vespereal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper ~ Institution of the Eucharist
6 PM, Matins of Holy Friday with the Reading of Twelve Passion Gospels
- Holy Fri., April 18: *Strict Fast Day*
9 AM, Royal Hours
3 PM, Great Vespers of Holy Friday with bringing out of Shroud (*Epitaphios*)
6 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday with the Lamentations and Procession
- Holy Sat., April 19: *Strict Fast Day*
12:30 PM, Vespereal Divine Liturgy
11:30 PM, Nocturn Service
Midnight: PASCHAL Matins and Liturgy
Blessing of Paschal Baskets after Liturgy

- PASCHA, April 20: 1 PM, Paschal Vespers and *BBQ* (*see flyer*)
- Bright Mon., April 21: *In San Anselmo:* 10 AM, Paschal Divine Liturgy

May God strengthen and continue to illumine all those who were united to Christ in Holy Baptism on Lazarus Saturday. We congratulate them and their Godparents. “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

With all Christians celebrating Pascha on the same date this year, you may want to think about whether there are friends or acquaintances or coworkers that you should invite to “come and see” (cf. John 1:39). Palm Sunday Liturgy is a particularly accessible service for first-time visitors, it seems to me, as well as Holy Friday’s 3 PM Vespers and of course, the Paschal Agape Vespers at 1 PM on Pascha itself.

On Lazarus Saturday (this Saturday) we will be decorating the church for the Feast with Palms and flowers. All are invited to help. I will be there at 12:30 getting organized and expect to be decorating by 1 PM. There are many opportunities to help and clean up. Lara Anderson will be braiding the traditional palm fronds  for our clergy. Come at 1 PM to learn how to create these traditional adornments for Palm Sunday. It would be great to have 5–6 volunteers (please bring your own stapler). If you have any questions call or text me at: 707-364-6445. —Denise Anna Pellizzer

Daphne Russell will be organizing the floral decorations for Holy Friday and Pascha. Please speak with her about when and how you can help. She can be reached at (707) 291-8546.

The Bridegroom Matins of Holy week are served on Sunday–Tuesday evenings (April 9–12) of Holy Week at 6 PM. These are the *Services of the Bridegroom*. The name comes from the central figure in the well-known *Parable of the Ten Virgins* (Matthew 25:1–13). The title *Bridegroom* suggests the intimacy of love. It is not without significance that the kingdom of God is compared to a bridal feast and a bridal chamber. The Christ of the Passion is the Divine Bridegroom of the Church. The imagery connotes the final union of the Lover, Christ and the beloved, His Church. See the link [here](#) for a full description of *Bridegroom Matins*.