

Ss. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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April 17, 2022

PALM SUNDAY

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| Today | 10:00am | Divine Liturgy <i>Palm Sunday</i> |
| | 4:00pm | Lenten Vespers |
| Wed. 20 | 7:00pm | Unction |
| Thu. 21 | 7:00pm | Passion Gospels |
| Fri. 22 | 3:00pm | Vespers |
| | 7:00pm | Lamentations |
| Sat. 23 | 9:30am | Vespers & Divine Liturgy PASCHA |
| | 11:30pm | Midnight Office |
| Sun. 24 | 12:00am | Matins & Divine Liturgy |
| | 1:00pm | Vespers of Pascha |

One must be baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion. Guests are invited to receive a blessing at the chalice and partake of the post-Communion bread (Antidoron).

Fast Days: Every day (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 1 (Palm Sunday)

*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 6 (Palm Sunday)

*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!”*

Prayers for those in our Sts. Peter and Paul community (parishioners, family, friends) can be listed for remembrance in our litanies during the Liturgy. Feel free to give names to Fr. Nicholas - please indicate how each person listed is connected to us (parishioner, family, friend, etc.), as well as why we are praying for them (health, memory, travel, etc.).

Confessions can be heard by appointment. If you need, I will come to you during the week. Please do not hesitate to call for a time to drop by the church or to have me visit you.

Remembrances for both the living and the dead during the prayers of preparation of the Eucharistic Lamb and during the Augmented Litany should be given the week before the desired remembrance so that the names can be put into the bulletin and given to the Deacons for the prayers. Any names of the living that are not marked as sick or traveling will be listed under general prayers.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

Philippians 4:4-9
John 12:1-18

Monday

Matthew 21:18-43
Matthew 24:3-35

Tuesday

Matthew 22:15-23:39
Matthew 24:36-26:2

Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-11
Genesis 43:26-31, 45:1-16
Proverbs 21:23-22:4

Thursday

1 Corinthians 11:23-32
Matt. 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matt. 26:40-27:2

Friday

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2
Matt. 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matt. 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matt. 27:55-61

Saturday

Romans 6:3-11
Matthew 28:1-20

Reading the Bible in a Year

Apr 17: Esther 5-8

Apr 18: Esther 9-10

Apr 19: Job 1-4

Apr 20: Job 5-8

Apr 21: Job 9-12

Apr 22: Job 13-16

Apr 23: Job 17-20

APRIL EVENTS

April

17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Palm Sunday

20 – 7:00pm Holy Unction

21 – 7:00pm Matins and Passion

Gospels

22 – 3:00pm Vespers

7:00pm Matins and
Lamentations

23 – 9:30am Vespers & Divine Liturgy

PASCHA

11:30pm Midnight Office

24 – 12:00am Matins & Divine Liturgy

1:00pm Vespers of Pascha

Coffee Hour

Flower Donation

A Prayer for the Week

Lord Of Mercy, Your wisdom invites me to a sober life. The Wisdom of Your Church, the lives of the saints, the divine mysteries of the Faith, all conspire to sober me up from the intoxicated cloudy mind gripped by the passions. You call me to a life freed from the mastery of the passions and to tame my passions so they serve and not dominate my life. I am all too often “drunk” and blinded by my passions and my choices reflect the inebriated thinking of foolish choices. Buy You offer me a different life if only I will repent and sober up! Help me embrace this spiritual sobriety so my life doesn’t tumble into the gutter! Amen

Children's Word

The kids who shouted “Hosanna”

Do you ever help with things at church? Do you pass out bulletins, or clean up at the end of the service? Do you sing or serve in the altar?

Today is Palm Sunday. We know what happened on Palm Sunday, don't we? We know about Jesus. We know about Jerusalem. We know about the donkey. But do we know about the children?

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we hear about the children who were in the temple. They were shouting “Hosanna” to our Lord, Jesus Christ. “Hosanna” means something like “Lord, save!” They shouted because they were happy because Jesus had come. He had come into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.

Sometimes, just sometimes, we forget that children have a big job here at church! Yes, the adults are doing lots of things. The priest is an adult. The chanters and the choir are usually adults. The ushers and the other helpers are adults. But you, the children, are here too! You are here to praise God, just like the children praised God in the temple 2,000 years ago! Today, let's remember these kids who shouted, “Hosanna!” They were happy to wave their palm branches. They were happy to throw clothes on the ground so Jesus could ride over them. Most of all, they were happy to be with Christ!

THE GREATEST TREASURE ST. ALEXANDRA, THE EMPRESS

Have you ever wanted to be super rich and famous? Maybe you day-dreamed about how great it would be to have tons and tons of money, and to walk around with people staring at you, or even bowing down!

Well, on Thursday, we celebrate the nameday of a person who had all that. Alexandra had the most valuable treasures in the world, because she was the emperor's wife. Sadly though, her husband, Emperor Diocletian, was a cruel and evil man who hated Christians. Lots of times, he would try to think of ways to get rid of all the Christians in the empire. Alexandra wasn't a Christian, but she saw how awfully the Christians were treated.

She even saw how one brave soldier, Saint George, refused to give up his Christian faith...even when the emperor told him he would be killed! Saint Alexandra saw this brave man, and she decided she wanted to be a Christian too. She saw that all her money and power didn't mean anything! She wanted to really have the greatest treasure...to be with Jesus Christ in heaven! When she said that she believed in Christ, her husband was so angry that he even decided to punish his own wife. Saint Alexandra was killed two days before her teacher, Saint George. Now they are saints together, with the treasure of heaven!

We celebrate St. Alexandra on Thursday, April 21st.

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.

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.



*"The people who, in spite of the bonds of sin
which fetter them and hinder them (by
constraint and by inciting them to new sins),
come to Him, our Savior, with perfect
repentance for tormenting Him, who despise
all the strength of the fetters of sin and force
themselves to break their bonds ? such people
at last actually appear before the face of God
made whiter than snow by His grace. Such
people were once seen by the holy seer of
mysteries, John the Theologian, 'clothed in
white robes,' that is, in robes of justification,
and 'palms in their hands,' as a sign of victory,
and they were singing to God a wonderful
song: Alleluia. And no one could imitate the
beauty of their song. Of them an angel of God
said: 'These are they who have come out of
great tribulation and have washed their robes,
and have made them white in the blood of the
Lamb' (Rev 7:9-14). They were washed with
their sufferings and made white in the
Communion of the immaculate and life-giving
Mysteries of the Body and Blood of the most
pure spotless Lamb ? Christ ? Who was slain
before all ages by His own will for the
salvation of the world."*

-St. Seraphim of Sarov



Clear Headed Sobriety

April 14, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

In my old law enforcement days, I served on the DUI Task Force in our local community. This was when Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) was just getting started and there was a real push to get impaired drivers off the road. We had to do extensive training on just how alcoholic beverages or any intoxicant affected a person's ability to safely operate their car. One tool we had was a car that was rigged to simulate the slowed reaction time that happens to a person when they are drunk. It really got the attention of teens as they tried to drive that car and realized they were really in danger if they were drunk behind the wheel.

Turns out that what's true of physical intoxication is true of spiritual intoxication too!

Look at our lesson today in Proverbs 23:15-24:5:

My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too will be glad. My soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your mind in the way. Be not among winebibbers, or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. Hearken to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad, let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. For a harlot is a deep pit; an adventuress is a narrow well. She lies in wait like a robber and increases the faithless among men. Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine, those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind utter perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink." Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them; for their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of mischief. By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is mightier than a strong man, and a man of knowledge than he who has strength.

The real power of the wisdom of physical fasting that is at the heart of Great Lent is to wake us up to how we are made “sluggish” in our lives by the intoxicating effects of “too much” on our everyday lives.

We humans don’t live well drunk, both physically and spiritually.

So, the Church gives us the wisdom to sober us up so that life doesn’t catch us off guard and we don’t run our lives into the ditch of bad choices and short-sighted mistakes.

But, the only way to sober up is to admit we have to discipline our desires and make them our servants and not our masters. And the only way to do that is to insist that our desires obey the truth and not be indulged just because we “want” something or someone! We have to fast to be sober. We have to learn to say “no” to good things for a short period of time SO THAT those good things don’t make us sluggish and drunk and unable to see trouble coming! Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were asked to fast from only one tree, and they failed. Now we have to undo their short-sightedness and grow up so that we are not drunk and unable to steer our lives in the right direction.

Today, are you sober? Are you clear-headed enough to see trouble coming? Can you navigate your life well? If you allow the wisdom of the Faith to keep you clear-headed, you’ll be Orthodox on Purpose!

К Филиппийцам 4:4-9

Радуйтесь всегда в Господе; и еще говорю: радуйтесь. Кротость ваша да будет известна всем человекам. Господь близко. Не заботьтесь ни о чем, но всегда в молитве и прошении с благодарением открывайте свои желания пред Богом, и мир Божий, который превыше всякого ума, соблюдет сердца ваши и помышления ваши во Христе Иисусе. Наконец, братия мои, что только истинно, что честно, что справедливо, что чисто, что любезно, что достославно, что только добродетель и похала, о том помышляйте. Чему вы научились, что приняли и слышали и видели во мне, то исполняйте, --и Бог мира будет с вами.

От Иоанна 12:1-18

За шесть дней до Пасхи пришел Иисус в Вифанию, где был Лазарь умерший, которого Он воскресил из мертвых. Там подготовили Ему вечерю, и Марфа служила, и Лазарь был одним из возлежавших с Ним. Мария же, взяв фунт наядового чистого драгоценного мира, помазала ноги Иисуса и отерла волосами своими ноги Его; и дом наполнился благоуханием от мира. Тогда один из учеников Его, Иуда Симонов Искариот, который хотел предать Его, сказал: Для чего бы не продать это миро за триста динариев и не раздать нищим? Сказал же он это не потому, чтобы заботился о нищих, но потому что был вор. Он имел [при себе денежный] ящик и носил, что туда опускали. Иисус же сказал: оставьте ее; она сберегла это на день погребения Моего. Ибо нищих всегда имеете с собою, а Меня не всегда. Многие из Иудеев узнали, что Он там, и пришли не только для Иисуса, но чтобы видеть и Лазаря, которого Он воскресил из мертвых. Первосвященники же положили убить и Лазаря, потому что ради него многие из Иудеев приходили и веровали в Иисуса. На другой день множество народа, пришедшего на праздник, услышав, что Иисус идет в Иерусалим, взяли пальмовые ветви, вышли навстречу Ему и восклицали: осанна! благословен грядущий во имя Господне, Царь Израилев! Иисус же, найдя молодого осла, сел на него, как написано: Не бойся, дщерь Сионова! се, Царь твой грядет, сидя на молодом осле. Ученики Его сперва не поняли этого; но когда прославился Иисус, тогда вспомнили, что так было о Нем написано, и это сделали Ему. Народ, бывший с Ним прежде, свидетельствовал, что Он вызвал из гроба Лазаря и воскресил его из мертвых. Потому и встретил Его народ, ибо слышал, что Он сотворил это чудо.

Filipianeve 4:4-9

Gëzohuni përherë në Zotin; përsëri do të them: Gëzohuni. Mos u shqetësoni për asgjë; po në çdo gjë kërkesat tuaja le t'i bëhen të njoitura Perëndisë me falënderime me anë të faljes e të lutjes. Edhe paqja e Perëndisë që kapërcen çdo mendje do të ruajë zemrat tuaja dhe mendimet tuaja me anë të Jisu Krishtit. Prandaj, o vellezër, sa janë të vërteta, sa janë të hijshme, sa janë të drejta, sa janë të pastra, sa janë të dashura, sa janë me emër të mirë, nëse ka ndonjë virtyt, edhe nëse ka ndonjë lëvdim, këto mendoni. Ato që edhe mësuat edhe morët edhe dëgjuat e patë tek unë, këto bëni; edhe Perëndia i paqes do të jetë bashkë me ju.

Joanit 12:1-18

Jisui pra gjashtë ditë përpara pashkës erdhi në Betani, ku ishte Llazari që pati vdekur, të cilin e kishte ngjallur prej së vdekurish. Edhe i bënë darkë atje; edhe Marta shërbente; edhe Llazari ishte një prej atyre që rrinin në tryezë bashkë me të. Atëherë Maria si mori një litër miro prej nardi të papërzier, shumë të shtrenjtë, leu këmbët e Jisuit, edhe me flokët e saj fshiu këmbët e tij; edhe shtëpia u mbush me erën e miros. Një, pra, nga të dymbëdhjetë nxënësit e tij, Juda Iskarioti, i biri i Simonit, ai që kishte për ta tradhtuar, thotë: Përse të mos shitej kjo miro treqind dinarë e t'u jepej të varfërve? Edhe këtë e tha, jo se donte t'ia dinte për të varfrit, po se ishte vjedhës dhe kishte kuletën e asprave, përvetësonët çfarë viheshin në të. Jisui pra tha: Lëre, se e ka ruajtur për ditën e varrimit tim. Sepse të varfrit i keni përherë me vete, po mua nuk më keni përherë. Një turmë e madhe pra prej judenjve morën vesh se është atje; edhe erdhën jo vetëm për Jisuin, po që të shohin edhe Lazarin, të cilin e ngjalli prej së vdekurish. Po kryepriftërinxhë morën vendim, që të vrasin edhe Lazarin. Sepse shumë veta prej judenjve vinin për atë, edhe i besonin Jisuit. Të nesërmendët një turmë e madhe që kishte ardhur në të kremljen, kur dëgjuan se vjen Jisui në Jerusalem, morën degë palmash, edhe i dolën përpara ta presin, edhe thërrisin: Hosanna, i bekuar është ai që vjen në emrin e Zotit, mbreti i Izraelit. Edhe Jisui si gjeti një pulisht, ndenji mbi të, siç është shkruar: "Mos ki frikë, bijë e Sionit, ja mbreti yt tek po vjen duke ndenjur mbi pulisht gomareje". Edhe nxënësit nuk i kuptuan këto në fillim; po kur u lavdërua Jisui, atëherë u ra ndër mend atyre se këto ishin shkruar për të, edhe se këto ia bënë atij. Turma pra që ishte bashkë me të kur thirri Lazarin nga varri, edhe e ngjalli prej së vdekurish, dëshmonte për këtë. Prandaj edhe turma i doli përpara, sepse dëgjoi se ai kishte bërë këtë çudi.