

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

April 8, 2017
Saturday morning

Divine Liturgy 10 am
Preparation of Palms
Great Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm

PALM SUNDAY

April 9, 2017
Sunday morning

Matins & Palm Blessing 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Procession 10 am

BRIDEGROOM MATINS

April 9, 2017
Sunday evening

Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

HOLY MONDAY

April 10, 2017
Monday
morning and evening

Presanctified Liturgy 10 am
Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

HOLY TUESDAY

April 11, 2017
Tuesday
morning and evening

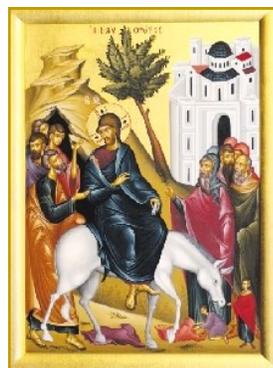
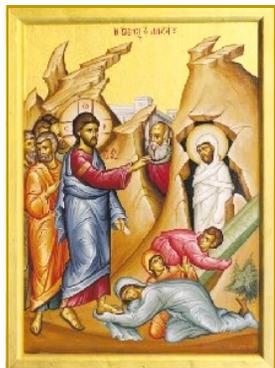
Presanctified Liturgy 10 am
Bridegroom Matins 7 pm

The solemnities of Great Week are preceded by a two-day festival commemorating the resurrection of Lazarus and the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem.



It is significant that Holy Week begins with Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, personifies each one of us, for we are all friends of Jesus. With Lazarus' resurrection, "death begins to tremble." Thus begins Holy Week - the decisive duel between Life and Death - a duel that will end with the final victory of Life over Death at Pascha.

Jesus is acknowledged and acclaimed as the Messiah, the King and Redeemer of Israel. With palm branches in our hands, we identify ourselves with the people of Jerusalem. Together with them we greet Christ and confess Him to be our King.



The first part of Great Week presents us with an array of themes based chiefly on the last days of Jesus' earthly life. The name "Bridegroom Service" comes from the central figure in the well-known parable of the ten virgins (Mt. 25:1-13). The troparion "Behold the Bridegroom cometh at midnight..." sung at each service, relates us to that existential expectation: watching and waiting for the Lord, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.



Commemorations:

Joseph the Patriarch, the beloved son of Jacob (Genesis ch. 37-50), a prototype of Christ.

The cursing of the fig tree (Mt. 21:18-20).

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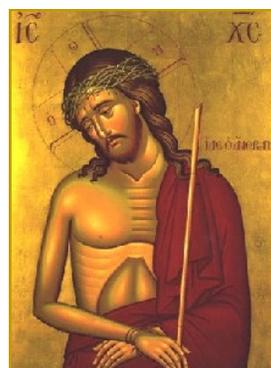
The parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt. 25:1-3).

The parable of the Talents (Mt. 25:14-30).

Commemorations:

The sinful woman who anointed the head of Jesus shortly before the Passion (Mt. 26:6-13).

Judas, the disciple who betrayed Christ.



Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight; and blessed is the servant whom He shall find awake, but he whom He shall find neglectful is verily unworthy. Behold therefore, my soul; beware, lest thou fall into deep slumber, and the door of the kingdom be closed against thee, and thou be delivered unto death. But be thou wakeful, crying, Holy! Holy! Holy! Art thou, O God; through the intercessions of the Theotokos have mercy on us.

- Troparion of the Bridegroom Matins

