

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners' families each week. Please pray for these parishioners: Michael Hancher, Nancy Hencken, Robert Hencken, Ian-Cadoc Herbert, Natalie and Daniel Hill & family, Kevin and Holly Hogan & family, Melody Homa, and from the Mission, Andrew Haba.

Public Liturgies. The Commonwealth of Virginia began Phase Three July 1st. In his episcopal letter of May 13th, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. Governor Northam's amended Executive Order #72 March 23, 2021, makes no changes for churches. This means that the Parish Strategic Plan and the Eparchial Checklist are still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all the Faithful to make a good Confession when the pandemic is over. The Divine Liturgy of Palm Sunday today will be live streamed.

Praying at Home Together. If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the

Divine Liturgy in your homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

Messages from the Pastor. Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish office.

Great Week Fast. Great Wednesday and Great Saturday are days of abstinence, no meat is consumed. Great Friday is a day of strict fast, that is, no meat or meat products and no milk or dairy products are consumed. Expectant and nursing mothers are exempt from the strict fast. Those whose medical conditions require it can mitigate the fast.

Intentions to be Rescheduled. If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies. There is no pre-scheduled Divine Liturgy for March 28th.

Distribution of Palms and Willows. Palms and willows will be distributed in church at the completion of the Divine Liturgy. For those who are staying safer at home, the ushers will distribute palms and willows in your trunk. Please

drive by the chapel entrance beginning 12:00 Noon.

Guarding the Tomb. The tomb will be guarded from Great Friday night to Great Saturday afternoon. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Anti-viral solution and sanitizing wipes will be available from the sacristans so that each person who keeps vigil would wipe their space before leaving and wipe the handles on the doors.

Blessing of Easter Baskets. Easter Baskets will be blessed Great Saturday after the Easter Vigil Liturgy in the parish center because it will be twilight. Easter Sunday Easter Baskets will be blessed in the Square (or Green) following the old Epiphany custom. Governor Northam's amended Executive Order #72 beginning April 1 will allow gatherings for 100 people outside. After the blessing on the Square or Green Easter Baskets will be blessed by drive by in front of the chapel (like the blessing of vehicles for St. Elias). Those participating are asked to remotely open your trunk, Father will bless your food and an usher wearing gloves will close your trunk.

Sacrament of Penance. Confessions will be heard tomorrow, Great Monday, and Great Tuesday at 7:30PM at the narthex. Please wear a mask and upon entering, use the hand sanitizer.

All Souls Saturdays. The Fifth All Souls Saturday will be May 22.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On-line Giving Now Set Up. Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with www.tithe.ly.com by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web site. On the home page is a link that says [Epiphany of our Lord online donation](#). Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows

the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

Amortization Schedule. The current balance on the \$1.8 million dollar loan from the eparchy for the new church is \$911, 282.67. We have just made the 2021 first quarter interest payment of \$6,834.82. At the 2021 year end we will have paid out \$101,775.98 bringing our loan balance to \$836,282.67.

EMC Bingo. Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

ELG Sales. ELG is selling Paska, Nut roll, and ELG chocolate today from 9:30AM – 12:30PM in the parish center. The sale is for **parishioners only**. Please be prepared to wear a mask. All covid19 procedures will be in effect. ELG baked a smaller number so please, only one or two paska per family to ensure that all who wish have a paska for Easter. Prices: Large-\$12; Small-\$9.

Spring 2021 Awards Club. The winner of the third drawing is Valerie Nelson, #106. The next drawing will take place today, March 21st.

Resurrection Candles. If you would like to offer Easter candles in remembrance of departed loved ones, please call the parish office this week, no later than tomorrow Monday, March 29th before 2:00 PM. The candles will be lit for every liturgy during the Easter season.

Parish Bulletin. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.colbcc.org. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of

the bulletin can be taken. The bulletin announcements deadline for this Sunday's bulletin will be Monday, March 30th, tomorrow before 2:00 PM. The publication of the bulletin for Easter Sunday will be completed early in observance of Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols. In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office. If you have business at the office, please follow these protocols: 1. use the **RING doorbell**; Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. 2. wear **a mask** 3. **sanitizer station** when you come and leave; 4. observe **social distancing**. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office at one time, including two staff members observing safe distancing.

Mission Update. Since the final site development plan, the Soil and Erosion Plan, has been approved, we must post the Bond. We also have to pay a fee of \$750 because, according to Montgomery County Tree Canopy Law, we are not planting any trees. At the recommendation of Jack McLaurin and with the agreement of our finance officer Joel Susco, Deacon Robert Shahloub has approved payment of the bond from the mission account instead of a bond surety company. We have to post bond for the Right-of-Way permit. The Building Permits Zoning has approved. We are waiting for the responses from other agencies.

Palms and Willows at the Mission. Michon Kretschmaier will be picking up blessed palms and willows today from Epiphany church Annandale and transporting them to the Mission Estate for distribution from 1:30 -2:00PM today. The mission estate address is 9301 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, a ¼ mile from the Mother of God Community School where we meet. Please

drive up the driveway and travel counter-clockwise in the circle in front of the house.

Book Store. The Bookstore has limited supplies of pysanky kits and dyes, and egg-wrap. Also, Lamb molds for butter are available. The Bookstore is open this Sunday and by appointment. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

Restroom Availability FYI. There are no **campus restrooms open to the public, including** our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The parish center hall rest rooms are cleaned for workers for Lenten Dinners. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$16,950. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$4,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

Journey to the Cross. ByzanTeens are encouraged to join Subdeacon Tim Fariss every Sunday in March at 6:00 PM for a live stream of vespers.

Palm Sunday

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- All Souls Saturdays
- On Line Contributions
- Easter Basket Blessing
- Resurrection Candles
- Guarding the Tomb
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Amortization Schedule
- ByzanTEEN Vespers
- Mission Development
- Bishop's Appeal

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

March 28, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Adults | \$7,370.00 |
| Building Fund | \$2,590.00 |
| Holy Days | \$275.00 |
| Candles | \$426.25 |
| Easter Flowers | \$215.00 |
| SOR | \$22.00 |
| Easter | \$425.00 |
| Water Bottles | \$24.00 |
| ECL | \$36.00 |
| Mission Church | \$160.00 |
| St. Nicholas Fund | \$162.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$11,686.25 |

Tithing & Giving. This report is the income of weeks 3/14/21 and 3/21/21. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)

LITURGY AND LIFE

Prayer Intentions. Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, and Rand Bass. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church
3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003
Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344
Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

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| Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! | March 28, 2021 | Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki! |
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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Sun. Mar. 28 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK GREAT WEDNESDAY

Wed. Mar. 31 7:30PM Office of Holy Anointing

HOLY THURSDAY

Thurs. Apr. 01 7:30 PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Fri. Apr. 02 10:00AM Passion Matins and the Twelve Gospels
7:30 PM Vespers of the Lord's Burial

HOLY SATURDAY – THE VIGIL OF EASTER

Sat. Apr. 03 5:00 PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sun. Apr. 04 9:00 AM Resurrection Matins
10:30AM Easter Divine Liturgy

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – April 4, 2021

Sun. Apr. 04 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

USHER SCHEDULE – April 4, 2021

Sun. Apr. 04 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.

All public services in church in Phase Three in Virginia can have 50% of capacity. People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church

The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) at other scheduled times. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

Anointing of the Sick – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

Funeral Services – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

Parish Administration

"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."

Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor
Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant
Lucie Cantsilieris, Financial Assistant

Parish Council of Administration

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

Parish Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

School of Religion - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Registration - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

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| <p>Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA http://www.eolbcc.org Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.</p> |
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PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy
Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
RED p. 235 Palm Sunday

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A

EXCEPT:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
 2. Antiphons 1 and 2 of Palm Sunday p. 235-236 RED
Antiphon 3 refrain is Tone 1 Troparion p. 236 RED
 3. Entrance Hymn of Palm Sunday Tone 1 p. 237 RED
 4. At the Troparia:
Troparion of Lazarus Tone 1 p. 237 RED
Troparion of Palm Sunday Tone 4 p. 237-238 RED
Kontakion of Palm Sunday Tone 6 p. 238 RED
- Scripture readings:
- Prokeimenon of Palm Sunday Tone 4 p. 239 RED
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9
Alleluia of Palm Sunday Tone 1 p. 239 RED
Gospel: John 12:1-18
6. Instead of “It is truly proper...”, the Exaltation and Irmos of Palm Sunday p. 239-240 RED

JEDINORODNYJ SYNE – ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravj, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)
Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.
Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.
Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjassčej Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.

SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadj vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

DOSTOJNO JEST' – IT IS TRULY PROPER

Dostojno jest' jako voistinnu blažiti t'a bohorodicu, prisbnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česňišuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez ist'inja Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

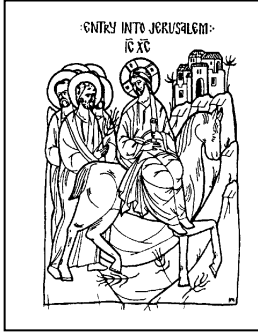
VID'ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni

Meditation on Today's Readings



Flowery Sunday/Palm Sunday

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel.”
John 12:1-17

Each of the four gospels contains a narrative of the festive entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem before His crucifixion and being acclaimed as Messiah by the people. For the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday the holy fathers have appointed the account according to the evangelist John. While the account recorded in the gospel according to John is sparse in detail it does give the eyewitness testimony of the dinner in the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus on the Saturday evening before the entrance and thereby reveals the motive for the plot against Jesus, namely, the raising of His friend, Lazarus, from the dead.

Although Jesus has been predicting His voluntary death during the forty days Jesus, the Twelve and the disciples have journeyed from Mount Tabor, it seems that it is only Mary of Bethany who understands the words Jesus has spoken. She recognizes that for her brother to live Jesus will die. Therefore, she anoints His feet with spikenard valued at almost a year's wage. The comment that the house was filled with the odor is surely the testimony of one present, John himself. Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus feet—she does not anoint His head like the prophets of the Old Testament did when they made someone a king because she knows His identity and she cannot make Him what He already is. By anointing His feet, she declares what He already is—King and Messiah—and at the same time, Jesus explains what He knows is Mary's other motive, she is preparing His body for burial following the death that is sure to come because Jesus has raised her brother from the dead.

From His birth in Bethlehem there have been those committed to and directly opposed to Jesus. The dinner highlights it with the complaint of Judas. This is followed by the detail about the plot to put Jesus to death contrasted with the triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The people take branches and welcome Jesus as the conqueror over death with the Biblical prayer “Hosanna” that is, Save us, we pray, and the words from the psalm “Blessed is He”.

We disciples of Jesus have asked Him to raise us from death and give us immortal life with Him. We accept that He must die to give us what we ask. Those who oppose Jesus may want to hurt the friends of Jesus, also. We must always try to invite them to a change of mind. We must be on guard against temptations to deny or betray our Lord. Greater people than we were tested in these events and so shall we. Let us pray for grace to remain firm in our profession of faith, in hope, and in love until our final breath.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near. Philippians 4:4-9

Saint Paul is writing to the church at Philippi, the first European church he established, a city in Greece that had many retired military living in it. This epistle is filled with exhortations to remain faithful despite the difficulties that they were experiencing. Saint Paul also is writing for them to put their faith into action, for them to follow the teachings of Christ and to imitate him.

The Holy Spirit, who is the true author of the epistle, encourages the Christians of Philippi to be filled with joy because despite the difficulties surrounding them, the Lord Jesus is even closer than the difficulties. The peace of God will guard them and support them. How does a Christian deal with the pressures of daily life? By the peace that comes from faith that the Lord is near, by refusing to worry, by persevering in prayer and by living truthfully, justly, with purity, with graciousness, that is, like Christ, is the way to deal with these pressures.

The holy fathers who appointed this epistle reading for Palm Sunday must have done so because the exhortation to “Rejoice” echoes the same word written by the prophet Zechariah, “Rejoice, heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter, Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek and riding on an ass.” This is quoted in the Gospels as being fulfilled by the Lord Jesus on Palm Sunday. The other passage that refers to Palm Sunday is “the Lord is near.” The Lord is lord over everything. As the Bible says in Exodus, “The Lord Himself will fight for you; you have only to keep still.” The Lord will offer His life in sacrifice for us.

From Ignatius Study Bible: Mark, The Navarre Bible: Mark, and Fr. John S. Custer The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective.

Children's Corner

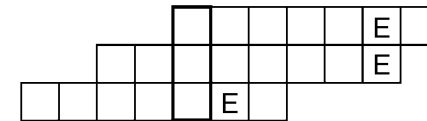
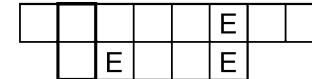
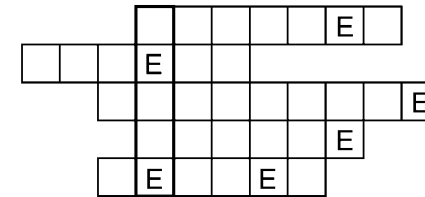
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When we pray, our minds and hearts are guarded by God's presence.

Fit the names of protective things into the boxes.
Use the words in the vertical boxes to complete the verse.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| BARRICADE | FORTRESS | BLOCKADE | SHIELD |
| GOGGLES | CASTLE | HELMET | CITADEL |
| | PARAPET | FENCE | |



“And the _____,
which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.”