



WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

a parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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REV. ANTHONY PERKINS

On Palm Sunday (from goarch.org)

Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life. We draw our identity from Christ and His kingdom. The kingdom is Christ - His indescribable power, boundless mercy and incomprehensible abundance given freely to man. The kingdom does not lie at some point or place in the distant future. In the words of the Scripture, the kingdom of God is not only at hand (Matthew 3:2; 4:17), it is within us (Luke 17:21). The kingdom is a present reality as well as a future realization (Matthew 6:10). Theophan the Recluse wrote the following words about the inward rule of Christ the King:

"The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master, and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as master 'both to will and to do of his good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established."

The kingdom of God is the life of the Holy Trinity in the world. It is the kingdom of holiness, goodness, truth, beauty, love, peace and joy. These qualities are not works of the human spirit. They proceed from the life of God and reveal God. Christ Himself is the kingdom. He is the God-Man, Who brought God down to earth (John 1:1,14). "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not" (John 1:10-11). He was reviled and hated.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king - the Suffering Servant. We cannot understand Jesus' kingship apart from the Passion. Filled with infinite love for the Father and the Holy Spirit, and for creation, in His inexpressible humility Jesus accepted the infinite abasement of the Cross. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions and made Himself an offering for sin (Isaiah 53). His glorification, which was accomplished by the resurrection and the ascension, was achieved through the Cross.

In the fleeting moments of exuberance that marked Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world received its King, the king who was on His way to death. His Passion, however, was no morbid desire for martyrdom. Jesus' purpose was to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to the newly Chrismated servant of God Damon - many blessed years!

Welcome to our seminarians, Yuri and Tadey. They will be with us for two weeks!

The Ladies' Sodality will meet today after Coffee Hour.

We will be collecting textiles and footwear for a Savers fundraiser throughout June. See Eleanor K. for details.

If you are a member of the parish, we have a box of weekly envelopes for you in the narthex. Our bishops are encouraging us to give weekly, proportional to our income, working up to a tithe. This is a spiritual discipline, not a fundraiser!

We send out e-mail notices about service schedule times. If you would like to be on that list, see Erika N. If you would like to be on a phone list that receives the same messages via telephone, see or call Eleanor K. (501-883-7176).

This year's Paschal Dinner will be on April 25th, at Coachman's, after the Consecration and Ordination. Reservations are required. See Cindy C. for details.

The Great Feast of the Annunciation is Tuesday. We will celebrate with a Vespers Liturgy at 4PM (takes the place of the Presanctified Liturgy in the schedule).

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5 (*Tone Two*)

Palm Sunday

8AM Service of Repentance
8:30AM Chrismation of Damon Henry
9AM Divine Liturgy
2PM URI Outreach Service
6:30PM Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 6th

4PM Presanctified Liturgy
6:30PM Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 7th

4PM Annunciation - Vespers Liturgy
6:30PM Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 8th

10AM Presanctified Liturgy
3PM Holy Unction
5PM Bridegroom Matins
7PM Combined Holy Unction
(St. John's UOC)

Thursday, April 9th

3PM Liturgy of the Last Supper

Friday, April 10th

9AM Royal Hours of Pascha
6:30PM Great Vespers w/Procession
9PM Matins of Holy Saturday
11PM Tomb Vigil

For full schedule see website:

www.StMichaelUOC.org

*While only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through fasting and prayer may come to communion today, **God calls all to Communion with Him through Holy Orthodoxy.** If you would like to become Orthodox, see me!*
