

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the
British Isles and Ireland
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East**

Charity number: 1192469

Sunday 5 April 2026. Issue 23.

Tone 2

**Palm Sunday. Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into
Jerusalem.**

**Epistle Reading
Philippians (4:4-9)**

Prokeimenon in Tone V

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us from this generation forth and for ever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, 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 any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing for ever; from generation to generation shall I proclaim Thy truth with my mouth.

Verse 2: For Thou hast said, “Mercy shall be built up forever.” Thy truth shall be established in the heavens.

Gospel Reading **John (12:1-18)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus (who had been dead and whom Jesus had raised from the dead) lived. Therefore, they gave a supper for him there. Martha served while Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him. Then Mary took a pound of fragrance of pure nard, very precious; she anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. Then Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, one of his disciples and the one who would betray him, said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” Now Judas said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having the money box, he used to steal what was put into it. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone! She has kept this for the day of my burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” Meanwhile, a large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there. They came, not only for Jesus’ sake, but also in order to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. The chief priests even conspired to put Lazarus to death as well, because on his account many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believed in him. On the next day, a great multitude had come to the feast. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!” Having found a young donkey, Jesus sat on it. As it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion! Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt.” His disciples did not understand these things at first, but after Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about him, and that they had done these things to him. Now the multitude that had been with Jesus when he had called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify about it. For this reason also, the crowd had come out to meet him, because they had heard that he had done this sign.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

Troparion

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.

Palm Sunday

Troparion

Seated upon thy throne in heaven and upon a foal on earth, O Christ God, thou didst receive the praise of the angels and hymns of the children: Blessed is he that cometh to recall Adam.

Palm Sunday

Kontakion

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 to recall Adam.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, also called the Triumphal Entry, is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on the Sunday before Pascha. On this day the Church celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before the Jewish Passover. A mere few days before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ was received by adoring throngs at his entry into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey. The believers meet him, and spread out before him his clothes and olive branches. When He and His students approached the city Jerusalem, He ordered them to go to the near-by village, and bring him the donkey and his little who were tied-up in the beginning of the village. If they were asked, they should say that this was God's will. When the people knew that the donkey was for Jesus, they did not prevent his students. They gave Him the donkey, and He solemnly entered Jerusalem. The news of

the resurrection of Lazarus already got ahead and thousands of people went to Bethany to meet him.

The Orthodox celebrate this day with joy, but with the realisation that very sad events are soon to come. Some churches give small crosses made of palms at the end of the service and are then kept in the home icon corner. Fasting is modified because of the triumphant nature of Palm Sunday, and fish is permitted.

Source: Orthodox Wiki

Services for Great and Holy Week, and Holy Pascha

All Services in St Martin's Church

Great and Holy Monday 6 April: Bridegroom Matins (sung in anticipation of Holy Tuesday) 6pm.

Great and Holy Tuesday 7 April: Bridegroom Matins (sung in anticipation of Holy Wednesday) 6pm.

Great and Holy Wednesday 8 April: Service of Holy Anointing, 6pm.

**Great and Holy Thursday 9 April: Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil 9:30am;
The Twelve Passion Gospels 6pm.**

**Great and Holy Friday 10 April: Women and girls to decorate bier/epitaphios with flowers 9:00am
Vespers & Deposition 12pm
Matins (Lamentations) & Procession 6pm.**

**Great and Holy Saturday 11 April: Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil 9:30am
Acts of the Apostles & Midnight Office from 10pm.**

**Holy Pascha - The Resurrection of Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ: Holy Liturgy 1am
Agape Vespers 4.30pm**