

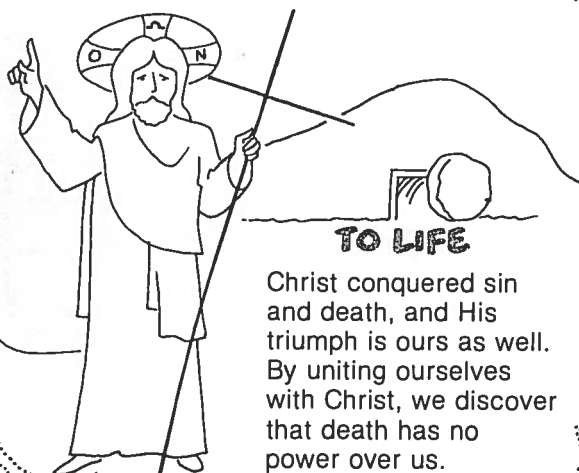
What is
**HOLY
WEEK**
?

It's the week
before Easter when
we relive Christ's
suffering and death.

During Holy Week, we follow the
footsteps of Christ, who passed from:

DEATH...

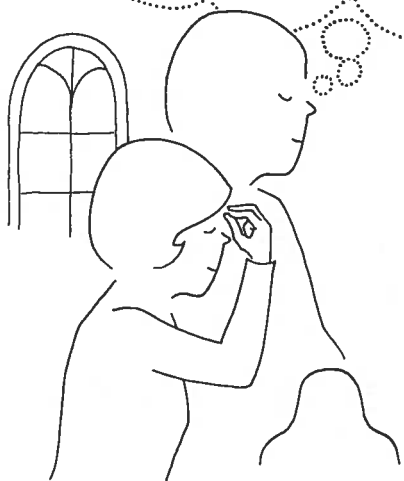
We, too, experience
Christ's journey to the
Cross. This journey
takes us to the reality
of sin and death.



TO LIFE
Christ conquered sin
and death, and His
triumph is ours as well.
By uniting ourselves
with Christ, we discover
that death has no
power over us.

OPEN YOUR HEART TO CHRIST!

The events of Holy Week are
the most moving of the year.
To get the most out of them,
participate in each day's
services. Make prayer,
fasting, confession and Holy
Communion essential parts
of your Holy Week.



LAZARUS SATURDAY

and Palm Sunday introduce us to Holy Week
and Christ's journey to the Cross. On Lazarus
Saturday, we find that death is the enemy that
Christ came to conquer, and that Christ is truly
the giver of life!

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS IS CELEBRATED ON THIS DAY.

- Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, had been dead four days when Jesus went to the tomb where he was buried.
- Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life," and brought Lazarus back to life.
- This miracle led many to faith, but also to the chief priests' decision to kill Jesus.



WE, TOO, RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE.

- We celebrate the divine love that brought Lazarus back to life – the same love that Christ offers to each one of us today.

The service for Lazarus Saturday includes Vespers,
Matins and the Divine Liturgy. The Scripture readings are
Hebrews 12:28-13:8 and John 11:1-45.

PALM SUNDAY

celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

JESUS ENTERED THE CITY

on a donkey. The people met Him with palm branches and cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

HE CAME AS KING

of Israel. Jesus showed He was the triumphant but humble Messiah prophesied by Zechariah.



WE RECEIVE PALM BRANCHES

on this day to show that we too accept Jesus as King, and that we are willing to follow Him to the Cross.

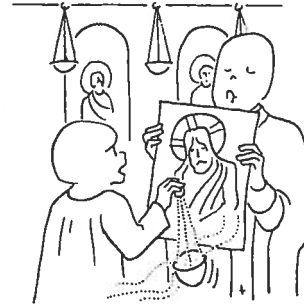
The Epistle reading is Philippians 4:4-9. The Gospel reading is John 12:1-18. For the Palm Sunday evening service, see Holy Monday.

HOLY MONDAY

services help us understand Christ's passage from death to life -- and how each of us can also become free from sin and death. So we commemorate:

CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

by singing "The Hymn of the Bridegroom," warning us to be prepared for Christ's coming. The priest carries the Icon of Christ the Bridegroom in procession. We behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of suffering, yet preparing a marriage Feast for us in God's Kingdom.



THE BLESSED JOSEPH

(son of Jacob in the Old Testament) who was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery by his brothers, and who later became a powerful ruler.

In the same way, Christ was rejected, betrayed and crowned with glory in God's kingdom.



THE BARREN FIG TREE

which Christ cursed and withered because it bore no fruit. The tree is like those who have heard God's word but fail to bear fruit by not obeying it.



The service of Holy Monday is Matins, chanted on the evening of Palm Sunday. The Gospel reading is Matthew 21:18-43.

HOLY TUESDAY

services urge us to be spiritually prepared to receive Christ. We should take this time to reflect on:

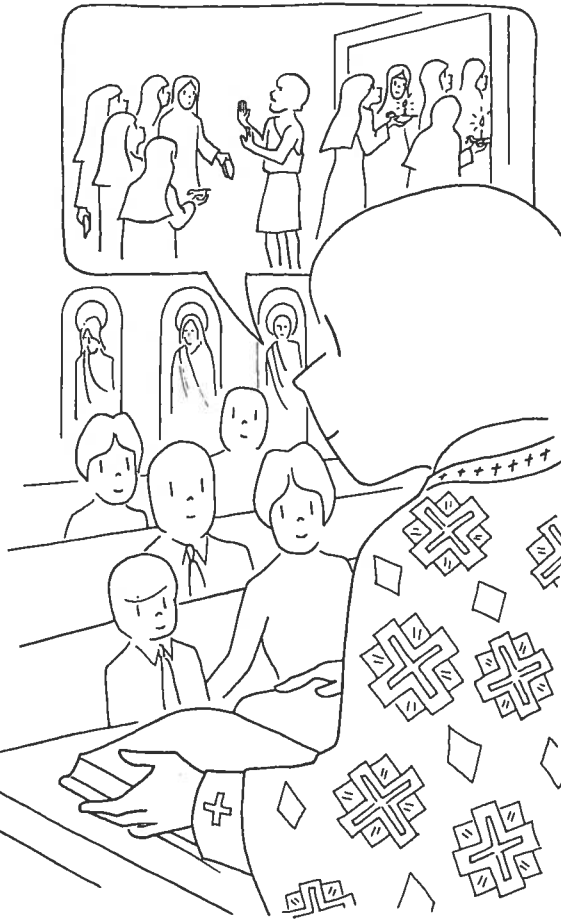
THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

The maidens who filled their lamps with oil were prepared to receive the bridegroom. Those with empty lamps were shut out of the marriage feast.

So each of us should light our lives with faith and good works and be ready to receive Christ.

OUR READINESS TO MEET CHRIST

This is the message of the hymn proclaiming: "Thy Bridal Chamber I see adorned, O my Savior, but I have no wedding garment that I may enter. O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul, and save me."



The service of Holy Tuesday is Matins, chanted on Monday evening. The Gospel reading is Matthew 22:15-46; 23:1-39.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

services ask us to repent our sins and to forgive others. Today's services are:

THE BRIDEGROOM SERVICE

sung on Tuesday evening. We remember the sinful woman who anointed Christ in anticipation of His death. Her repentance and love of Christ is the theme of the Hymn of Cassiane chanted tonight. We, too, may be forgiven if we confess our sins and obey God's will. The Gospel reading is John 12:17-50.

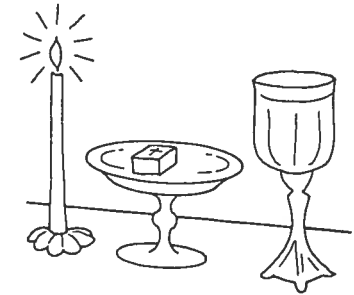


THE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

takes place on this day (some churches celebrate it on Monday and Tuesday morning as well).

In this ancient and inspired rite, we receive Holy Communion which was consecrated at the Divine Liturgy on the previous Sunday.

The Gospel reading is Matthew 26:6-16.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY OIL

is celebrated (in many Orthodox churches) on Wednesday evening when we confess our sins and seek to be reconciled with God. The priest anoints us with holy oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.



HOLY THURSDAY

celebrates the Last Supper Jesus ate with His disciples. The services on this day recall:

THE WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet set an example of humility and love for the earliest members of the church. In today's cathedral churches, this action is repeated as the Bishop washes the feet of Christians after the Liturgy.



THE BETRAYAL

Jesus announced that a traitor (Judas Iscariot) was among the Twelve. He pointed out the betrayer by handing him part of the meal.



THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus offered Himself as the true food for all of us at the Last Supper. The bread and wine of this meal became the Body and Blood that give us eternal life.



CHRIST'S VIGIL IN THE GARDEN

Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured the agony of His impending death. (Luke 22:43-44).



Matins on this day are sung Wednesday evening or Thursday morning before the Vespers and Divine Liturgy.



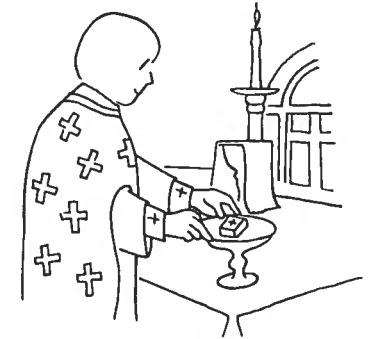
THE LITURGY OF HOLY THURSDAY

consists of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy. On this day, we celebrate:

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

At this solemn service, we celebrate the meaning of what Christ said and did at the Last Supper. Before the great entrance, this special hymn is chanted:

"Of Thy mystical supper, O Son of God, accept me today a communicant, for I will not speak of Thy mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss, but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom."



HOLY COMMUNION

from the Lamb (The "Amnos") is consecrated at this liturgy. It is used throughout the rest of the year as the reserve sacrament for Holy Communion for the sick and for those who cannot come to church.



- The Readings are:
- I Corinthians 11:23-32,
 - Matthew 26:2-20,
 - John 13:3-17,
 - Matthew 26:21-39,
 - Luke 22:43-45,
 - Matthew 26:40-75,
 - Matthew 27:1-2.

HOLY FRIDAY

is a day of mourning, fasting and prayer.
We commemorate:

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

On this day, Our Lord went to the Cross and died to take away our sins. The power of death and the reality of evil rule the world on this dreadful day. Yet, Jesus Christ's death marks the beginning of His -- and our -- victory over death's power.

This solemn service is Matins of Friday sung on Thursday evening. It consists of:

THE TWELVE GOSPEL READINGS

These narratives from the four Gospels relate the events of Jesus' Holy Passion, and His last instructions to the disciples.

THE PROCESSION

In some churches, after the fifth Gospel, the crucifix is adorned with a flower wreath, and carried in procession. This symbolizes Christ's coming to Golgotha to offer Himself as sacrifice for the world's sins.



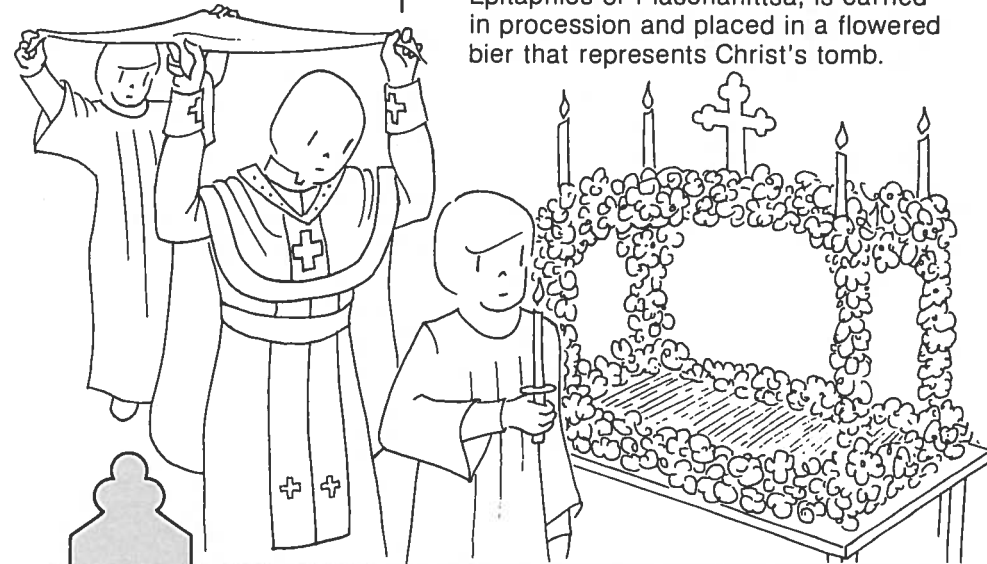
FRIDAY MORNING SERVICES

retell the story of Christ's passion with the addition of prophecies, psalms and hymns. These services, or "Royal Hours," help us keep vigil at the side of the crucified Christ, and relate Jesus' suffering to our own redemption.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

is a vesper (The Apokathilosis) marking the beginning of Holy Saturday:

- In many churches, the priest takes Christ's body from the Cross, wraps it in a white cloth and places it on the altar, as a sign of His burial by Joseph of Arimathea.
- A cloth icon or shroud depicting Christ's sacred body, called the Epitaphios or Plaschanittsa, is carried in procession and placed in a flowered bier that represents Christ's tomb.



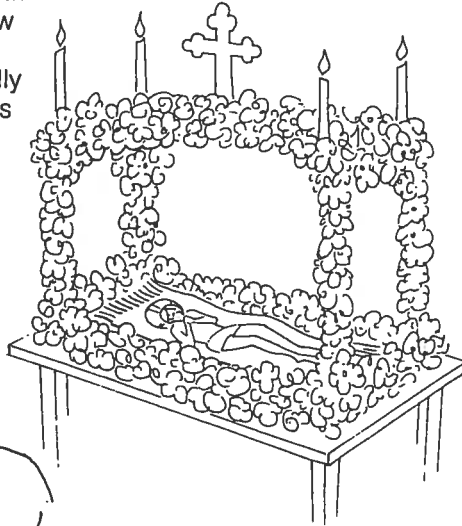
The Gospel readings during the Friday afternoon service are: Matthew 27:1-38, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 27:39-54, John 19:31-37, Matthew 27:55-61.

HOLY SATURDAY

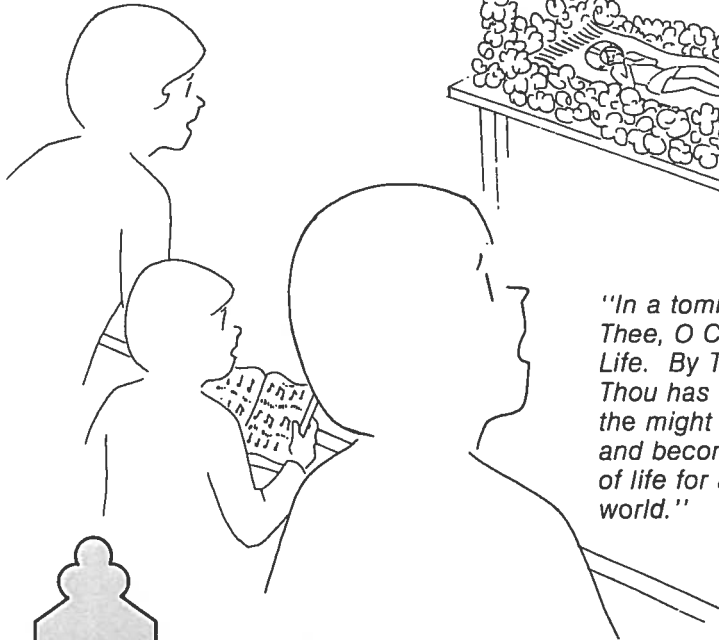
On Holy Friday evening, the Matins of Holy Saturday are sung. At this service, we sing:

THE HYMNS OF THE LAMENTATIONS

We lament Jesus' undeserved death for our salvation. With both sorrow and joy we sing the Lamentations (Praises) to Him who is symbolically buried, yet who we already know is the risen Lord and Giver of Life. At this service, the Epitaphios is taken in a candlelight procession around the church.



"In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. By Thy Death Thou has cast down the might of death and become the font of life for all the world."



The Gospel reading during the Lamentation service is Matthew 27:62-66.

HOLY SATURDAY MORNING

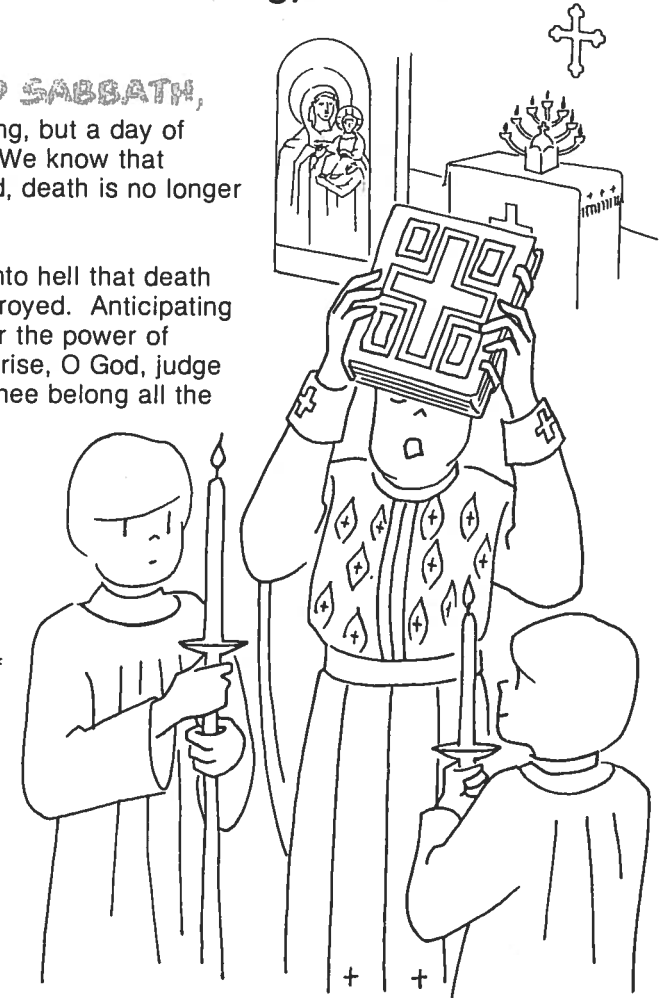
On Saturday, we celebrate a vespers service with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

This is **THE BLESSED SABBATH**, a day of strict fasting, but a day of hope and waiting. We know that because Christ died, death is no longer the end of life.

Christ descended into hell that death itself might be destroyed. Anticipating Christ's victory over the power of death, we sing: "Arise, O God, judge the earth. For to Thee belong all the nations!"

TODAY'S LITURGY

anticipates the resurrection. It includes readings from the Old Testament, the vesting of the celebrants and acolytes in bright robes, and special hymns.



The Scripture readings are from Romans 6:3-11 and Matthew 28:1-20.

HOLY PASCHA - EASTER SUNDAY

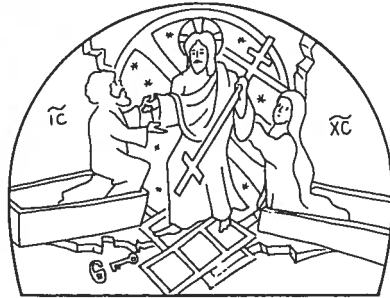
On Saturday at midnight, Easter Matins
and the Divine Liturgy are sung.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S GLORIOUS RESURRECTION.

Services include:

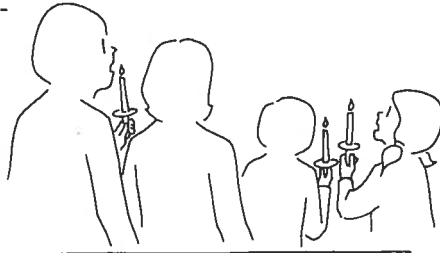
THE RESURRECTION SERVICE

At midnight in a darkened church,
the faithful receive the resurrection
light from the priest and form a
procession out of the church. The
congregation hears the good news
of Christ's triumph from the Gospel.
The joyous hymn of Christ's resur-
rection is triumphantly chanted –
"Christ is Risen!"



THE PASCHAL LITURGY AND SERMON OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

invite us to take part
in the feast of the
resurrection and to
receive Holy Com-
munion.



EASTER SUNDAY AFTERNOON

In the afternoon, we gather
to celebrate the "Agape,"
a paschal vesper when we
embrace and forgive our
fellow Christians, sharing
with others Christ's gift
of new life.

*"Christ is risen from the
dead, trampling down
death by death, and
upon those in the tombs
bestowing life."*

The Readings are Mark
16:1-8, Acts 1:1-8 and
John 1:1-17.

Holy week is a magnificent celebration of CHRIST'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION!

- ✓ **PARTICIPATE**
in the services
of Holy Week.
- ✓ **REFLECT** on
Christ's supreme
sacrifice and His
victory over death.
- ✓ **PREPARE**
yourself to receive
the sacraments of
Holy Confession,
Holy Oil and Holy
Communion.



**Christ is Risen!
Christos Anesti!
Christos Voskrese!**

Let Christ's glory
enter your life during
Holy Week and Easter!