

# The Glorious and Brilliant Feast of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 21, 2019

Apolytikion of Lazarus (Tone 1) – see music on opposite page

Apolytikion of Palm Sunday (Tone 4)

O Christ God, when we were buried with Thee in Baptism, we became deserving of Thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore we praise Thee crying, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Kontakion of Palm Sunday (Tone 4)

Upborne upon the heavenly throne, and seated upon the earthly foal, O Christ our God, receive the praises of angels and the hymns of men, exclaiming before Thee, Blessed is He that cometh to restore Adam.

## Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Palm Sunday)

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL (for Palm Sunday)

## The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His Disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

## The Synaxarion

Today in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate Palm Sunday, the glorious and brilliant entrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Jesus came to Bethany on the Sunday falling before the six days of the Mosaic Passover. On the following day He sent two of His Disciples, who brought Him a donkey on which He sat to enter the city. And when the great multitude heard that Jesus was coming to

Jerusalem, they immediately took palm branches in their hands and went out to meet Him. All cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, King of Israel!" The branches of palm trees were a symbol of Christ's victory over Satan and death. And the meaning of "Hosanna" is, "We pray Thee, save." The donkey's colt, which was still an untamed animal, and impure according to the law, as well as Christ's sitting thereon, symbolize the former savagery and impurity of the Gentiles; and their subsequent taming and obedience to the holy law of the Gospel. To our Lord Jesus Christ, the vanquisher of sin and death, be glory, honor and worship, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### **A Note Regarding Holy Communion**

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

#### **Attention Parents:**

**Please do not allow your children to hold lighted candles unattended in the church, and help us by preventing wax drippings on our chairs and carpet. Thank you for your cooperation.**

## OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Mary Ann, Michael and Andrew Mitchell for Hannah and Olivia, celebrating their fourteenth birthday today. May God grant them many years!

Holy Bread is also being offered by Laila Abughazaleh in loving memory of her mother, Caroline (+21 April, 1991). Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God,  
Noah Farha (+14 April, 2018),  
beloved cousin of Anna Farha Rowe. Memory eternal.

for Babe Mittry celebrating his 89th birthday (April 20th).  
May God grant him many years!

The Post Communion bread (Antidoron) was offered and Lenten meal hosted last Wednesday night by Mary Ann Coury, Kathy & Ron Zraick, Gloria & Babe Mittry, Pat & Michael Malouf, Diana & Riad Nasser, Father Minas, Presbytera Nicole and Mary with prayers for continued health of their families. [The proceeds of the Lenten meal collection are being used to assist with Antiochian Women projects.]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Palm Sunday Coffee Hour and Bake Sale

The Coffee Hour and Palm Sunday Bake Sale are being hosted this morning by the Antiochian Women. Your support is appreciated.

### Holy Week Children's Services and Activities

This year children are encouraged to attend the midnight Paschal service (Saturday, April 27th) at 11:30 p.m. with their parents. Please feel free to bring a blanket and pillow for the children to sleep (with supervision) in the classrooms for any part of the night. If your children are unable to attend the midnight service, the second-best Easter service for them to attend is the Paschal Vespers service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 28th. The "Search for the Empty Egg" will take place following the service.

### Paschal Breakfast

The Feast of the Resurrection (Holy Pascha/Easter) is next Sunday, April 28. Like last year, we will be celebrating the Feast with a "pot luck" Paschal "Agape" Breakfast following the midnight Liturgy in the early morning, Sunday, April 28th. Last year's breakfast was a tremendous success and we are again depending upon your generous offerings as we celebrate the Feast. All dishes and desserts should be brought to the church kitchen prior to the start of the late evening service that begins at 11:30 p.m. Please choose from the following items: a) main dish (meat, poultry, fish), b) kid friendly meal, c) side dish (salad, veggies, relish dish, fruit, etc.), d) desserts or pastries, e) beverages (coffee, tea, juice, etc.), f) paper plates, cups, etc. Some of you may also consider assisting us with the buffet set-up and kitchen clean up.

All Holy Week offerings for flowers should be turned in today together with your prayer list for our services.

### Food for the Hungry Collection Boxes May be Turned In

When you turn in your collection, please write your name on your box or write a check made out to "St. Michael Church" for the total amount of your collection earmarked "FFHP" so that you will receive credit on your Parish Contribution Statement. Thank you for your support.

### Holy Friday Teen Vigil - April 26

Our teens will again be participating in our Annual Vigil that will take place on Holy Friday, April 26, following the Holy Friday Lamentations service. It will include a light dinner, preparing the church for Pascha, cutting bay leaves and a group discussion with Father Timothy. Please speak with Cooper Rowe, Youth Director for more information.

### Holy Friday Arabic Choir

We encourage your participation in the Arabic Choir on Holy Friday (April 6) and to attend two rehearsals scheduled for Wednesday April 24th and Friday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. in classroom 3 and 4 with our Choir Director, Art Danks.

### 67th Annual Diocesan Parish Life Conference

Host: St. Anthony Church; San Diego, California, July 3-7, 2019

Go to: [antiochianevents.com/la.html](http://antiochianevents.com/la.html) to register for your hotel room (\$169/night) at the Sheraton Harbor Island and Marina.

### Antiochian Archdiocese Convention - July 21-28, 2019

Host: St. Nicholas Church; Grand Rapids, Michigan

Go to: [AC2019gr.org](http://AC2019gr.org) to register for your hotel room, view the Convention schedule and download forms for the ad book and registration. There are two (2) Convention hotels: 1) the Amway Grand Plaza (\$149/night) with free self-parking and WiFi; 2) the JW Marriott (\$184/night), adjacent to the Convention hotel.

## Holy Bread Offerings

Holy Bread offerings are available for the upcoming Liturgies. Please speak with Father Timothy should you have a special request by providing him with your prayer list.

**Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.**

### **Holy Bread Offering List**

Apr 28 - Holy Pascha

May 05 - open

May 12 - open

May 19 - open

### **Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Apr 28 - Paschal Breakfast

May 05 - The Castillo family

Mother's Day      May 12 - open

May 19 - open

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; [famtam5@socal.rr.com](mailto:famtam5@socal.rr.com)) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

## St. Michael 50th Anniversary Golf Classic - May 13

The St. Michael Golf Classic is our largest annual fundraiser and we need your help for its success. This year the Golf Classic is celebrating our parish's 50th Anniversary and will again take place at the Woodland Hills Country Club. The evening will be filled with fun and fellowship with friends. A barbecue dinner will be followed with raffles, auctions and awards for our golfers. How can you help?

1) consider a donation toward our Golf Ball Raffle. Each golf ball recipient will receive a prize equivalent to its purchase price of \$50. One of the golf balls will reward the winner a free trip Grand Prize! Donations of gift cards and cash are being received for the Golf Ball Raffle. Consider giving your unused or newly purchased Gift Cards or your donation to DeAnne Abraham at: [<dmarieabe@aol.com>](mailto:dmarieabe@aol.com) or 818-389-0065; 2) consider a donation toward our Chinese Auction Baskets. In years past, these baskets have consisted of a Money Tree, Disney gift items, including tickets to Disneyland, a wine basket, picnic basket, golf basket, sports basket, cooking basket, restaurant basket, religious basket, Starbucks basket, Trader Joe basket, and many others. Each basket must be at least \$75 in value with an itemized list of its contents. Please let Sean O'Dea know if you are able to make a donation by contacting him at: [<guinnessodea@gmail.com>](mailto:guinnessodea@gmail.com) or 818-642-7278.

## **Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form**

### **What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?**

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of taxes on all investment (income) property (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. Moreover, it is not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family is not enrolled with the parish and completed an annual pledge form. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish.

### **Is there a minimum requirement for an annual pledge?**

No. A member may simply check "other" and write in a pledge amount according to one's means. Pledges may also be paid: weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or in a one-time payment. Credit cards may also be used for payments by completing information on the pledge form.

### **What is an annual "Fair Share Commitment?"**

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan Departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. Our Annual Payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church this year is \$22,000.00, or 10% of our parish income (excluding contributions received for the Building Fund, charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts). These funds are collected from the first contribution to the parish from our member parishioners: \$50 for each adult and \$35 for each child (17 years of age or under) in a household. All additional funds received pledges by our parishioners assist with the month-to-month expenses of the parish and your participation is very important to our church providing all of its services to you and your family.

### **Who is a Pledging Member of St. Michael Church?**

Any person or family who is willing to share in the responsibility of Christian stewardship can be a pledging member. To join us, please complete the attached form and mail it to: St. Michael Orthodox Church; Attention: Comptroller; 16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

**St. Michael Orthodox Church**  
**Project Manager's Report**  
**March 31, 2019**

Parish Council Members, Committee Members, and Parishioners:

A year ago, on April 9, 2018, we began physical construction building our new church. During the past twelve months site clearing of our old church concrete pad, walkways and curbs were removed. Excavating six feet, re-compaction, and final grading was completed and approved by our engineers and city inspectors. Structural steel columns and beams were set, bolted, and welded in place with approval by our deputy and city inspectors. Underground utilities were connected from our existing hall to the new church site pad and approved by the city. A large infiltration underground pool was constructed and city approved for collection of rain water that recycles water back into the soil.

During the past three months, we have been working around our year-end holidays, heavy rains in January and February, and sub-contractor business and personnel issues that has slowed our building progress. Our focus this past couple of months was to grade, install several concrete curbs, and asphalt pave the parking areas for all parking. We completed over a thousand linear feet of concrete curbs and asphalt patching and paving of over twenty thousand square feet. At the end of our building project we will be slurry sealing all of the asphalt parking lot and marking stall and handicap places. Please be careful when parking and driving between the existing assembly hall and the new church site. All driving on our church property should not exceed 5 mph.

Although there is not visual construction activity, we have been working on completing our detail framing and fire proofing of structural steel requirements with the City Building Department and sub-contractors. The next major visual construction activity is the placement of an interior concrete slab, followed by fire proofing (spraying) the structural steel, after which we will begin the lightweight framing.

In summary of our building construction dollars spent, it appears from my records (without any verification from the church treasury reports) that we have spent approximately \$800,000 since our commencement of physical construction from April 9, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Michael Malouf  
Project Manager

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*NOTE: Confessions will be heard before and/or after the services, or by appointment during the week. It would be most appropriate for confessions to be completed by Holy Wednesday (April 24<sup>th</sup>) just prior to the Sacrament of Holy Unction and the Holy Thursday morning Liturgy.*

## THE SERVICES OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening – April 21<sup>st</sup>

Bridegroom Orthros and Procession, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Monday – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 24<sup>th</sup>

Confessions

The Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Thursday – April 25<sup>th</sup>

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 a.m.

Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Friday – April 26<sup>th</sup>

Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3 p.m.

Orthros of the Lamentations and Procession, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Saturday – April 27<sup>th</sup>

Service of the Preparing of the Holy Gifts (Proskomedija), 8:30 a.m.

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9 a.m.

## SERVICES OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION – HOLY PASCHA

The “Rush Procession” Orthros, 11:30 p.m.

The Divine Liturgy and “Agape Breakfast”

Holy Pascha – April 28<sup>th</sup>

The Paschal Vespers of Love (Agape), 11 a.m.

**Pastoral Message**  
**V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor**  
**Palm Sunday - April 21, 2019**

Beloved in Christ,

Our celebration on Palm Sunday actually begins with the miracle of Christ raising of Lazarus from the dead. "Lazarus Saturday" prepares us for the glorious entry of Christ into the City of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Similarly, our celebration of Easter begins with Great and Holy Friday. However, it should never end for us with a service we attend on Holy Friday. Just as the joy of Palm Sunday begins with the raising of Lazarus from the dead, so it is with Christ's Resurrection. We begin on Great and Holy Friday with the sadness of what seems a great tragedy, but ends with the triumphant victory of Christ's glorious Resurrection. There is no joy without suffering. And there is no resurrection without death.

The Divine Grace of God and His merciful forgiveness is showered upon us on Holy Wednesday with the Sacrament of Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body. And at the start of the twelve Gospel lessons of Holy Week on Thursday, the Lord demonstrates for us what being a servant means by washing the feet of His disciples. This occurs just before he offers Himself to us as the bread and wine, saying, "His Body ... and this is my Blood..., for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)

All who gathered between the little town of Bethany, the home of Lazarus, and began crowding the streets as Jesus made His way to the City of Jerusalem; all who brought boughs of palms and branches of olives were shouted while waving them, "Hosanna!" It is a word that means; "Save us, I pray, save now!" There was a desperation in the cry from their hearts on that day; perhaps as some today cry out in desperation. They were in great need for a deliverer. This exclamation is like the petition we often hear within our Liturgy over and over again: *Help us! Save us! Have mercy on us! And keep us, O God, by Thy grace!*

The shouts of "Hosanna" from the people in Jesus' day continued with the phrase: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" They were anticipating the coming of the Messiah (The "Anointed One"). They had a great expectation in finding Him. However, the full context of the prophesies of the Covenant (Old Testament) were not yet fully realized: *This all took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet [Zechariah 9:9]: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'*" And who would

think of a King arriving on a donkey? Who ever thought that this King would've been born in a cave amidst animals?

"Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" It is your and my exclamation today. It begins with "Hosanna" (a cry for help, to be saved - you and me today!), but it continues with the acknowledgment that He has come, that He is present, and that He is to come! We can be certain of His love. It is a steadfast and unconditional love - unlike any other. So for you and I who have been baptized and illumined, we shout for joy: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:1-9).

For many of us, our parents, grandparents, and even our godparents have paved the way with great sacrifices. We are who we are because of who they were. Their prayers for us continue! Your and my salvation are important to them. It is also important to God! Be sure that it is also important to you and your children. There is no better time to be connected than during Holy Week when we together revisit: the full and complete message of the Gospel. The week is only beginning... it's not too late!

God wants us to be connected. He desired being connected to us that He was born of human flesh! He desired to be so connected to us that He not only became one of us, He accepted becoming a mockery in order to save us. He accepted becoming a curse; was even spat upon. Why? Because no one else could turn the tables on evil. It is only He, Who Is The Author of life: He who is Truth; He who is also the Way. It was only He that could bring the peace we yearn to have; to bring the joy we long to feel; to heal the pain we cannot bear.

You and I must find our connection with God! You and I must also remain connected to Him! If the life of your family is important; if the survival of your relationships are valuable; if they are needing to be meaningful, then being in church is being in the right place, especially this week. And I don't believe that you being here today is an accident. You are here because of someone who prayed for you, and who may still be praying for you!

May the journey we make together to the Cross that ends at the empty tomb bring us unspeakable joy in the full knowledge of all that God has done for us through Christ Jesus, our Lord and King! May His Light so shine on us by the end of this week, not only as a symbol, but with the full reality that He has granted us the forgiveness of sins and has reconciled us with Himself and with each other.

## ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)

دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح المجيد إلى اورشليم (أحد الشعانين)

طروبارية لعازر على اللحن الأول

أيها المسيح الإله، لما أقيمت لعازر من بين الأموات قبل أيامك حققت القيامة العامة، لذلك ونحن كالأطفال نحمل علامات الغلبة والظفر، صارخين إليك يا غالب الموت، أوصنا في الأعالى، مبارك الآتي باسم الرب

طروبارية الشعانين على اللحن الرابع

أيها المسيح إلهنا، لقد دُفنا معك في المعمودية، فاستحققتنا بقيامتك الحياة الخالدة. أوصنا في الأعالى، مبارك الآتي باسم الرب

قنداق أحد الشعانين على اللحن السادس

أيها المسيح الإله، المستوي على عرش في السماء، والراكب عفواً على الأرض، لقد قبلت تسبيح الملائكة ونشيد الفتیان الهاتفين إليك: مبارك أنت الآتي لتحي آدم

## الرسالة

مبارك الآتي باسم الرب. احمدا الرب فإنه صالح، وإن إلى الأبد رحمته

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل فيليبي

يا إخوة، إفرحوا دائماً في الرب، وأقول أيضاً: أفرحوا. وليظهر لطفكم لجميع البشر. فإن الرب قريب. لا تقلقوا أبداً، بل ارفعوا طلبتكم إلى الله بالصلاة والتضرع والحمد. وسلام الله الذي يفوق كل إدراك يحفظ قلوبكم وعقولكم في المسيح يسوع. وبعد، أيها الإخوة، فافتكروا فيما هو حق، وشريف، وعادل، وطاهر، ومُسْتَحَبُّ وحسن السمعة وما كان فضيلةً وأهلاً للمديح، واطبوا على عمل ما تعلمتموه وتسلمتموه وسمعتتموه ورأيتموه في، وإله السلام يكون معكم

## الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا

وقبلَ الفِصحِ بِسِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ جاءَ يسوعُ إلى بَيْتِ عَنِيَا، حَيْثُ كَانَ لِعَازِرُ الَّذِي أَقَامَهُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْوَاتِ. فَأَقِيمَ لَهُ عِشَاءً هُنَاكَ، وَكَانَتْ مَرَّتَا تَخْدُمُ، وَكَانَ لِعَازِرُ فِي جُمْلَةِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ عَلَى الطَّعَامِ. فَتَنَاوَلَتْ مَرِيَمُ حَقَّةَ طَيْبٍ مِنَ النَّارِديينِ الخَالِصِ الغَالِي الثَّمَنِ، وَدَهَنَتْ قَدَمِي يسوعِ ثُمَّ مَسَحَتْهُمَا بِشَعْرِهَا. فَعَبِقَ البَيْتُ بِالطَّيْبِ. فَقَالَ يَهُودَا الإِسْخَرِيوطِيُّ أَحَدُ تَلَامِيذِهِ، وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَوْشَكَ أَنْ يُسَلِمَهُ: ” لِمَاذَا لَمْ يُبْعَ هَذَا الطَّيْبُ بِثَلَاثِمِائَةِ دِينَارٍ، فَتُعْطَى لِلْفُقَرَاءِ؟ ” وَلَمْ يَقُلْ هَذَا لِاهْتِمَامِهِ بِالْفُقَرَاءِ، بَلْ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ سَارِقًا وَكَانَ صُنْدُوقَ الدَّرَاهِمِ عِنْدَهُ، فَيَخْتَلِسُ مَا يُلْقَى فِيهِ. فَقَالَ يسوعُ: ” دَعُهَا، فَإِنَّهَا حَفَظْتُ هَذَا الطَّيْبَ لِيَوْمِ دَفْنِي. إِنَّ الْفُقَرَاءَ هُمْ عِنْدَكُمْ دَائِمًا أَبَدًا، وَأَمَّا أَنَا فَلَسْتُ عِنْدَكُمْ دَائِمًا أَبَدًا ”. وَعَلِمَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ أَنَّ يسوعَ هُنَاكَ فَجَازُوا، لَا مِنْ أَجْلِ يسوعِ فَقَطْ، بَلْ لِيَرَوْا أَيْضًا لِعَازِرَ الَّذِي أَقَامَهُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْوَاتِ. فَعَزَمَ عُظَمَاءُ الكَهَنَةِ عَلَى أَنْ يَقْتُلُوا لِعَازِرَ أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّ كَثِيرًا مِنَ الْيَهُودِ كَانُوا يَنْصَرِفُونَ عَنْهُمْ بِسَبَبِهِ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بيسوعِ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ العَدِ سَمِعَ الجَمْعَ الكَثِيرَ الَّذِينَ أَتَوْا لِلْعِيدِ أَنَّ يسوعَ قَادِمٌ إِلَى أورشَلِيمَ. فَحَمَلُوا سَعْفَ النُّخْلِ وَخَرَجُوا لِاسْتِقْبَالِهِ وَهُمْ يَهْتِفُونَ: ” هُوَ شَعْنَا ! تَبَارَكَ الأَتِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلِ ! ” فَوَجَدَ يسوعُ جَحْشًا فَرَكِبَهُ، كَمَا وَرَدَ فِي الكِتَابِ: ” لَا تَخَافِي يَا بِنْتَ صِهْيُونِ هُوَذَا مَلِكُكَ أَتَى رَاكِبًا عَلَى جَحْشِ ابْنِ أَتَانَ ”. هَذِهِ الأَشْيَاءُ لَمْ يَفْهَمُهَا تَلَامِيذُهُ أَوَّلَ الأَمْرِ، وَلَكِنَّهُمْ تَذَكَّرُوا، بَعْدَمَا مُجِّدَ يسوعَ، أَنَّهَا فِيهِ كُتِبَتْ، وَأَنَّهَا هِيَ نَفْسُهَا لَهُ صُنِعَتْ. وَكَانَ الجَمْعُ الَّذِي صَحِبَهُ، حِينَ دَعَا لِعَازِرَ مِنَ القَبْرِ وَأَقَامَهُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْوَاتِ، يَشْهَدُ لَهُ بِذَلِكَ. وَمَا خَرَجَ الجَمْعُ لِاسْتِقْبَالِهِ إِلَّا وَقَدْ سَمِعَ أَنَّهُ أَتَى بِتِلْكَ الآيَةِ.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريية (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة فى الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية