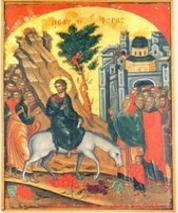


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### THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK, 2026

#### Lazarus Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>:

9:00 AM - Orthros  
10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy  
11-1pm - St. Lazarus Retreat for Children  
1pm - Making of the Crosses  
(everyone is invited, we will teach)  
5:30 PM - Great Vespers  
followed by hearing of Confessions.



#### Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:

##### **Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem.**

8:45 AM - Orthros  
10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy followed  
by **PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON**  
6:00 PM - 1st Bridegroom Service

#### Great and Holy Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:

6:00 PM - 2nd Bridegroom Service.

#### Great and Holy Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:

6:00 PM - 3rd Bridegroom Service.

#### Great and Holy Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>:

10:00AM - Presanctified Liturgy  
6:00 PM - Sacrament of Holy Unction (Confessions)

#### Great and Holy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>:

9:00 AM - Orthros

##### **COMMEMORATION OF THE MYSTICAL SUPPER**

10:00 AM - Vespereal Liturgy - On Holy Thursday morning we celebrate the Institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion by our Lord. All of the baptized children of the Parish should be brought to Church for Communion on this day. (We give a school note)

##### **OFFICE OF THE REDEEMING PASSION OF OUR LORD**

6:00 PM - Matins with the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels, and the setting up of the Holy Cross in church.

#### Great and Holy Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>:

9:00 AM - Holy Royal Hours  
10:00AM - Decorating the Tomb of Our Lord  
with flowers (by the ladies).  
2:00 PM - Vespers with the bringing out of the  
shroud. Taking down of the Cross and  
setting up of the Tomb of Our Lord (by the people)

##### **LAUDATIONS (Lamentations) AT THE TOMB OF OUR LORD**

4:30pm Children's First Confession  
6:00 PM - Matins for Holy Saturday with the singing of  
the laudations (Lamentations) at the Tomb of Our Lord,  
and the procession outdoors with the Bier.

##### **All Night Vigil**

(sign up is on the bulletin board)

#### Great and Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:

9:30 AM - Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil with the Old Testament readings, during which is the hearing of Confessions.

##### **Please Note: Last Chance for Confession!**

Those wishing to receive communion on Saturday night and who still need confession, should go to confession during the Vespers with the Old Testament readings.

8:00 PM - Rush Service of the Resurrection

9:00 PM - Resurrection Divine Liturgy

**Followed by the Easter Breakfast.**

#### GREAT & HOLY PASCHA - Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>:

10:00 AM - Bright Paschal Vespers with the Reading of the Gospel in various languages.

##### **The Bright**

**Resurrection of Christ!**

**Christ is Risen!**

**Truly, He is Risen!**



## **How Will We Be Judged?**

As Orthodox Christians, we must take care not to take the outcome of God's final judgment for granted. Just because we are part of Christ's Body the Church does not guarantee us anything in the age to come. This is why, in every Divine Liturgy, we pray "for a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ." One of the most deceptive aspects of our culture and society is the belief that when we die, we will become nothing. We just cease to exist. However, we as Christians understand the words of Jesus Christ as the truth and the reality of life. We test everything that we hear and see and understand against the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord reshapes and reforms our reality by His teachings, by His words. And through this reshaping of our reality, He then reshapes our lives and reshapes each of us. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us when we die, we will not simply cease to exist. We will not simply vanish. Even among many of the Protestant and evangelical denominations we see the belief that when we die, all will be well if we have believed in Jesus Christ, if we were "saved." That we will avoid judgment and that God will not even judge us. All of these opposing philosophies seek to undermine the truth of the gospels. The truth as spoken by the Lord Jesus is that God is a judge, that there is indeed a judgement and that each of us will be judged and separated. Some will be numbered among the righteous and others will be numbered among the unrighteous.

What are the criteria for this judgment? How will God judge each of us? He will judge us based on our actions! Not only based on what we say or what we believe, but on our actions themselves. Jesus Christ tells us that at the judgment, each and every one of us will stand and have to give an account for our actions. What actions? Specifically these: Did we feed the hungry? Did we give drink to the thirsty? Did we welcome strangers? Did we clothe those who lacked clothing? Did we visit those who were sick? Did we come to those who were in prison? (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Our spiritual life and death are based in part, on our actions and those actions are determined by whether we know and are growing towards God. If we know God, we will know a life of love towards others. It's not enough that we do the things mentioned in the gospels every once in a while. It assumes that we busy ourselves with acts of love and have no time for the works of darkness. We have to avoid living sinfully, judging others, speaking ill of others, acting in uncharitable and unloving ways towards those around us, even those who disagree with us. We are not called to judge our brothers and sisters in Christ, but to humbly try to reconcile and love them. We have to love everyone, the poor, the sick and naked, the prisoners, the strangers and we even have to go further. We have to love those whom we regard as our enemies because God will judge us and we cannot avoid this judgment. St. Silouan once wrote, "Whoever will not love his enemies cannot know the Lord and the sweetness of the Holy Spirit." Let us be His children and reflect this mercy and love in all of our dealings with others. May the Lord judge us worthy to be numbered among His faithful sheep.

In Christ, Fr. Elia