

Misplaced Expectations

A young boy returned from his first major league baseball game very disappointed. Even though his favorite team won the game, the young boy said to his grandfather, "I'll never go to another game again!" "Why not," his grandfather asked, "your team won the game -why are you disappointed?" The boy answered, "I wanted my favorite player to hit a home run to where I was sitting and I wanted to catch the ball and I wanted to get it autographed after the game!" "I've been hoping for that all my life, too," said his grandfather with a smile.

Quite often, the disappointment that we feel towards a person or about a situation or circumstance is due to the fact that our expectations of that person or about that situation are misplaced, misguided, or misunderstood. We see an example of this in today's Gospel reading about our

Lord's entrance into Jerusalem.

Many of the same people who enthusiastically greeted Jesus when He entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday would just as passionately demand His crucifixion only a few days later. Why? It is because their expectations of Him were misplaced. That is, many people presumed that the long-awaited Messiah would be a great military leader or a political revolutionary who would lead them out of Roman subjugation and into independence. They did not consider the possibility of a Messiah who would conquer not armies, but death itself.

What do we expect from God? Like the little boy at the baseball game, are we disappointed when we don't get what we want? Let us recall that the Lord knows what we need even before we ask or are aware of it!

THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM PALM SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима і Анни
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!

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Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am
Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

MARCH 29, 2026 – PALM SUNDAY:
THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

GIVING REPORT – The in-pew collection for Sunday, March 22 was \$1,415.56. *Thank you to all who came on Saturday morning, March 21, for the parish's spring cleaning!*

The **Weekly Catholic Moms Meetup** will not meet this week.

Guarding the Tomb – Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/mtjh5657> to pray at the Tomb of the Lord. Sign up for an hour or more as we stand watch from after Vespers on Great and Holy Friday until the Paschal Vigil.

Post Easter Vigil Celebration – We will have a light finger-food reception after the Vespersal Divine Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday. This is the First Eucharist of Pascha. Join us as we break our Lenten fast and begin our celebration. Check your email for the link to the sign up.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Arthur Dhanagom, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Fr Mark Fesniak, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Fr Robert Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahon, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Ivanna Richardson & Family, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, Fr George Worschak, and Éamonn Yockey.
Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com

From *Christ Our Pascha Catechism*, 222 & 509:

In the liturgical hymns of Palm Sunday, also known as Flowery Sunday, we sing of the children of Jerusalem, who greeted Christ as King even though the Pharisees and scribes refused to accept Him: “O, evil and adulterous generation, why have you treated your Lord so faithlessly?...Why have you rejected the prophet’s words which proclaim him? Your own children sang to your shame today: ‘Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Just as the people greeted Christ with branches from trees, so Christians also greet Christ with “palms of virtue” as he enters upon his voluntary Passion. Those who have not acquired virtues and have rejected Christ are compared to the barren fig tree: “The rod of Aaron, though dried up and withered, was changed into a green branch that put forth leaves; but the lawless assembly was changed into an unfruitful fig tree.” ... On Palm Sunday [the Church] blesses branches to remind us to adorn ourselves with “the branches of virtues.”

Liturgical Schedule for the Great and Holy Week & Pascha 2026

Sunday, March 29 <i>Palm (Flowery) Sunday</i>	10:30am - Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom & Blessing of Pussy Willows
Wednesday, April 1 <i>Great & Holy Wednesday</i> <i>Fast from meat (voluntary)</i>	6:00pm - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Mystery of Holy Unction
Thursday, April 2 <i>Great & Holy Thursday</i> <i>Fast from meat (voluntary)</i>	6:00pm - Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great
Friday, April 3 <i>Great & Holy Friday</i> <i>Fast from meat and dairy</i>	3:00pm - Vespers with the Procession and Placing of the Plaschanytsya. Guarding at the Tomb begins and continues until the Paschal Vigil
Saturday, April 4 <i>Great & Holy Saturday</i> <i>Fast from meat until after the Vigil</i>	2:30pm – Easter Confessions 4:00pm - Paschal Vigil: Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (<i>First Eucharist of Pascha</i>). Light finger-food reception to follow.
Sunday, April 5 <i>PASCHA Sunday of the Resurrection</i>	8:00am – Procession and Resurrection Matins 9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom
Monday, April 6 <i>Monday of Bright Week</i>	6:00pm - Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom
Sunday, April 12 <i>Thomas Sunday</i>	10:30am - Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. Parish Paschal Sviachene and Children’s Egg Hunt.

Palm Sunday: The Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Propers, pp. 643-650.

First Antiphon

I am filled with love* for the Lord will hear the voice of my plea. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

For He has inclined His ear to me,* and I will call to Him all the days of my life. *Through the prayers...*

The pangs of death encircled me,* the trials of Hades befell me. *Through the prayers...*

I met with anguish and pain,* and called upon the name of the Lord. *Through the prayers...*

Third Antiphon

v. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,* for His mercy endures forever. *Troparion, Tone 1:* Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

v. Therefore, let the house of Israel say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever. *Troparion, Tone 1:* Assuring us...

v. Therefore, let the house of Aaron say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever. *Troparion, Tone 1:* Assuring us...

v. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever. *Troparion, Tone 1:* Assuring us...

Entrance: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, we bless you from the house of the Lord,* the Lord is God and has appeared to us. *Troparion, Tone 1:* Assuring us...

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 4: Buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God,* we have been granted immortal life by Your resurrection,* and we sing Your praises, crying out:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: Mounted on the throne in heaven, O Christ God,* and on a colt here on earth,* You accepted the praise of the angels,* and the hymn of the children who cried to You:* Blessed are You who have come to call Adam back.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;* God the Lord has appeared to us. *verse:* Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 117:26-27)

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9: Brothers and Sisters, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry 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 surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia, Tone 1 (p. 332)

verse: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has worked wonders.

verse: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Psalm 97:1)

Gospel: John 12:1-18: Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor 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 because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

Hymn to the Mother of God. O my soul, magnify Christ who seated on a foal. **Irmos, Tone 4:** The Lord is God and has appeared to us:* together let us celebrate.* Come with great rejoicing; let us magnify Christ* with palms and olive branches, and with songs let us cry aloud to Him:* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Communion Verse. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;* God the Lord has appeared to us.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (Psalm 117:26-27)

Alternate ambo prayers, p. 649