

*Great and Holy Friday
The Crucifixion, Death and Burial of Our Lord*

O God, when You stood before Caiaphas and let yourself, O Judge, be delivered to Pilate, the heavenly powers trembled in fear. O sinless Lord, You were crucified between two thieves and numbered among the lawless ones. You did all this just to save humankind. O most kind Lord, glory to You.

You have redeemed us from the curse of the Law with your precious blood; nailed to the Cross and pierced with the lance, You have gushed forth immortality to all. O our Savior, glory to You.



*Great and Holy Saturday
The Great and Holy Sabbath rest in the tomb
and the conquering of Hades*

Joseph went to Pilate and begged for your body; he wrapped it in a pure linen cloth, anointed it with precious spices and placed it in a new tomb. Early in the morning, the holy myrrh-bearers cried out: O Christ, as You foretold, show us your Resurrection.

The soldiers guarding your tomb, O Savior, became as dead men at the lightening flash of the angel who appeared to announce your Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, for You have cleansed us from corruption. We fall down before You, for You rose from the tomb, our only God.

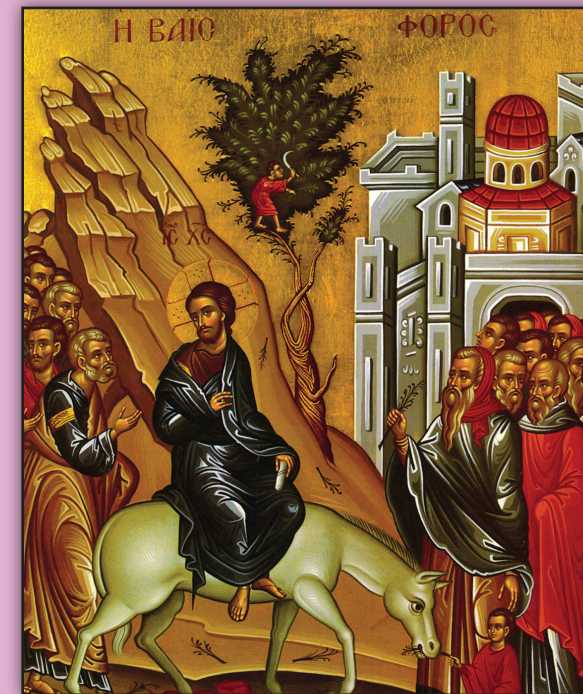
All text from Vesper Stichera of Holy Week, The Lenten Triodion, Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA

**THE GREAT WEEK
THE HOLY DAYS OF OUR LORD'S PASSION**

Lazarus Saturday

Taking pity on the tears of Martha and Mary, O Christ our God, you ordered the stone to be rolled away from the tomb; by your call, You raised the dead man and broke the bolts of Hades to establish our faith in the life-giving resurrection of all. Glory to your power, O Savior; glory to your sovereign majesty; glory to You, for by your word, You uphold the whole world.

O Fountain of wisdom and eternal knowledge, arriving at Bethany, You asked those who were with Martha: Where have you placed Lazarus, my friend? You wept tears of compassion over the one who had been dead four days; and, by your voice, You raised him, O Giver of life and compassionate Lord.



*Palm Sunday
The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem*

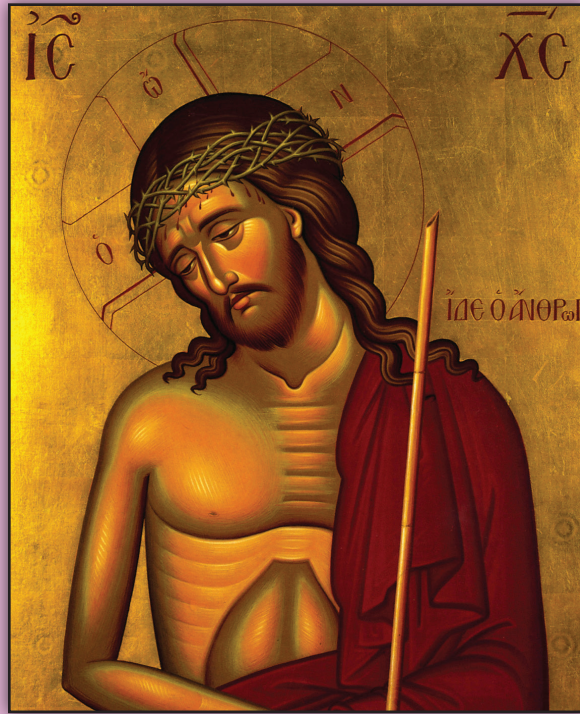
Carrying palms in spirit and with our souls purified, as the children of old, let us praise Christ in faith; and let us sing to Him with a full voice: Blessed are You, O Savior, who comes into this world to save Adam from the ancient curse, and who have willed to become the new spiritual Adam. O Word, You have fulfilled all things for our salvation, glory to You.

O peoples and nations, sing with one voice: The King of the angels comes, seated upon the colt of a donkey, to conquer the Enemy by the power of the Cross. The children carry palms and cry out to Him: Glory, victory and welcome; glory to You, O Christ our Savior; glory and praise to our only God!

Great and Holy Monday

Commemoration of the unproductive fig tree the Lord Jesus curses as He walks outside Jerusalem (Mt 21:18)

The coming day shines with the beginning of the Passion of the Lord. Come, let us celebrate this mystery; let us go meet Him with our hymns. For the Creator draws near to endure the Cross; led before Pilate, He submits to the questions, the whipping and the judgment; struck by a servant, He endures all to save the human race. Therefore, we cry out to Him: O Christ our God, the Lover of Humankind, grant the forgiveness of their sins to those who venerate your holy Passion with faith.

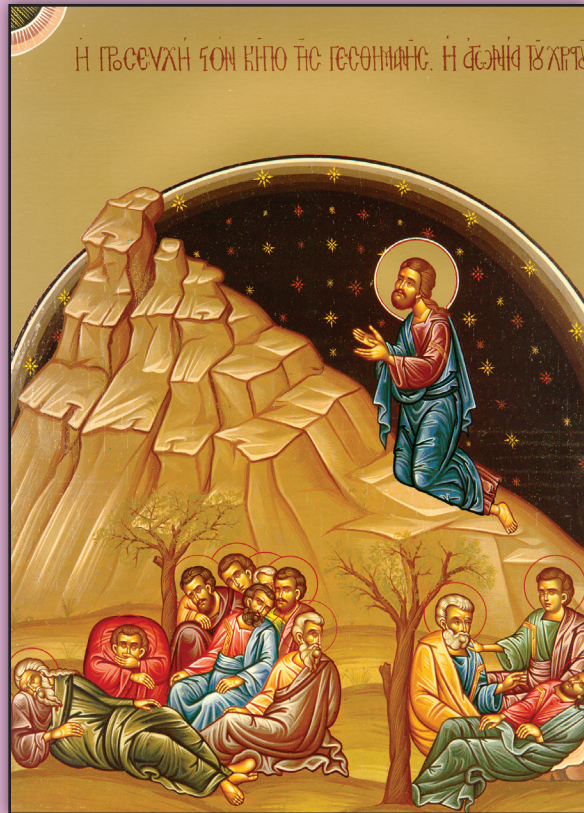


Great and Holy Tuesday

Commemoration of the Lord's parable of the Ten Wise Virgins (Mt 25:14)

The priests, scribes and the council of the impious have gathered against You, O God our Savior; through jealousy they persuaded Judas to betray You: he was not ashamed to go out and speak against You, saying to the lawless ones: What will you give me if I hand Him over to you? O Lord, spare our souls from such a condemnation.

Impelled by his burning love of money, the impious Judas ponders and plots the betrayal of his Master. He falls from light into darkness; he sells the One who is beyond all price; and for the price of his betrayal, the miserable one meets death through hanging. Spare us this same destiny, O Christ our God, and grant the forgiveness of sins to those who with love praise your holy Passion.



Great and Holy Wednesday

Commemoration of the betrayal of our Lord by Judas, and the anointing of our Lord by Mary at Bethany

The harlot drew near to You, O God of goodness, to pour upon your feet the precious ointment along with her tears; at your command, she was delivered from the scourge of evil; but the ungrateful disciple who was filled with your grace, turned away from You and sunk into the mire by betraying You through his greed. Glory to your infinite mercy, O Christ.

With her sighs, the sinful woman cried out to You, O God of goodness, and as she fervently dried your most pure feet with her hair, she said from the depths of her heart: Do not scorn me, my God, nor cast me far from You; but accept my repentance, and in your goodness, save me.



Great and Holy Thursday

Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, and the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus

He who made the lakes, the springs and the seas, shows us the greatest humility: He girds himself with a linen cloth and washes the feet of his disciples; in his infinite mercy, He lowers himself, and He draws us up from the abyss of evil, for He alone is the Lover of Humankind.

In your mercy, You humbled yourself and washed the feet of your disciples, thus preparing them to walk in the divine footsteps. Peter at first refused to be washed, but then obeyed your divine command; and while you were washing him, O Lord, he earnestly begged You to grant us your great mercy.

