



RITES OF HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: Procession of the Cross

- ❖ Procession of the Cross during Vespers and Matins
- ❖ The Cross is the sign of Christ's Kingdom
- ❖ We are invited to accept Him as a King in our life
- ❖ Jesus entered Jerusalem as a King
 - ❖ There was a misconception between what He intended as King, and what the Jews expected; when He clarified, they cried, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" (John 19:15)
- ❖ The processions are done while we are holding palms
- ❖ Palms signify: Peace, Royalty, Strength, Giving, and Purity
- ❖ During the procession and throughout Palm Sunday, we sing, "Hosanna" / "Hoshana" / **ΩCΑΝΝΑ** / "Please save"



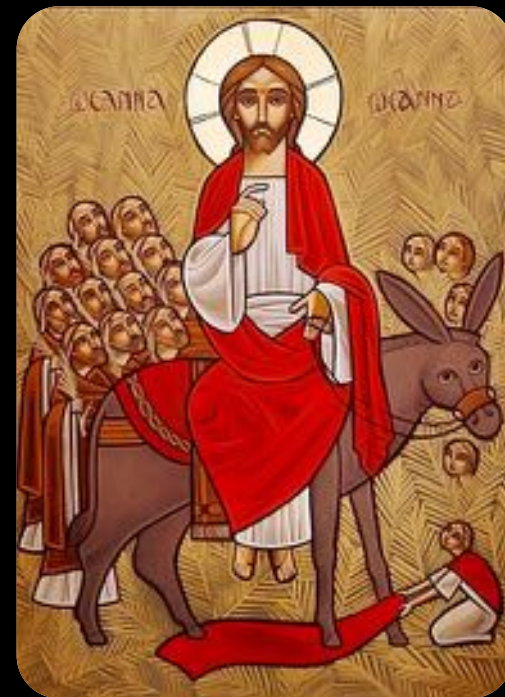
Palm Sunday: Vespers

Vespers Praise:

- ❖ After the 9th, 11th, 12th hours of the Agpeya are prayed: the 116th Psalm is sung, followed by 4th Hos then Psali of Palm Sunday in joyful tune

Vespers:

1. Incense is offered as usual with Litany of Departed; Doxology in joyful tune
2. Priest prays `Φ† ΝΑΙ ΝΑΝ while holding cross decorated with palm leaves
3. **Κ̅ϱ̅ι̅ε̅ ε̅λ̅ε̅ι̅ς̅ον** is sung in the long tune
4. Procession is around altar 3 times, then around the Church 3 times, and finally around altar 1 time
5. **Ε̅ϱ̅λ̅ο̅ς̅ι̅μ̅ε̅ν̅ο̅ς**
6. Exposition
7. Concluding Hymn (Ρ̅α̅ω̅ι̅ ο̅ϱ̅νο̅ϱ̅ **Σ̅ι̅ω̅ν** †Β̅α̅κι) then **Δ̅ο̅ζ̅α** Πα̅τρι



Palm Sunday: Matins / 12 Stations of Procession

❖ During Matins: 12 Stations of Procession with 12 Gospel Readings

1. Sanctuary
2. St. Mary
3. Annunciation/Archangel Gabriel
4. Archangel Michael
5. 12 Apostles
6. St. Mark
7. Martyr (St. George)
8. Saint (St. Antony)
9. North Gate
10. Baptismal Font
11. South Gate
12. John the Baptist



❖ We see the Kingdom of God in the 12 Stations of the Procession

- ❖ **The Kingdom:** Sanctuary, Gates
- ❖ **Heavenly members:** Angels
- ❖ **Earthly members:** Saints and Martyrs
- ❖ **Entrance:** Baptism



Holy Pascha Week Tradition & Preparation

- ❖ During Holy Week, the Church **reenacts the entire passion of Christ**
- ❖ The early Christians used to celebrate Holy Week by **visiting and praying at each site** where the events had originally taken place
- ❖ The early Church had understood the great importance of Holy Week and took **several steps to devote this week to the Lord:**
 - ❖ They ate **only bread and salt**, abstaining from any cooked food or dessert
 - ❖ They considered it **inappropriate to taste anything sweet** while commemorating the suffering of the Lord and also tried to avoid the distractions of cooking
 - ❖ Most Christians also **abstained from food from Good Friday until Easter service**, spending the whole week in the church



Holy Pascha Week History

- ❖ **Emperor Theodosius**, a Christian king, ordered a **universal holiday** during this time so that all those working within the government or private business sector could **assemble in prayer and devotion as one family**
- ❖ Masters **alleviated their slaves** from working during this week, allowing them to worship in the Church
- ❖ Prisoners were even **set free** to go to church and join in the ceremonial prayers
- ❖ The early Church **used to celebrate Pascha once every 33 years**
- ❖ Because many died before celebrating this feast, celebration became once a year
- ❖ The **Council of Nicea** set the **date for Easter** as the **Sunday after Passover**



Holy Pascha Week Overview

- ❖ **Holy Pascha or “Passover”**: the **Passing-over of the Angel of Death**
 - ❖ **“Now the blood shall be a sign for you** on the houses where you are. **And when I see the blood, I will pass over you...**” (Exodus 12:13)
 - ❖ **“Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”** (1 Corinthians 5:7)
 - ❖ Through His Blood, we are saved from Satan, punishment of sin, and death
- ❖ **Arrangement of the Hours**: new day starts with the night before or “eve”
- ❖ **Arrangement of Prayers**
 1. Prophecies and Homilies
 2. Pascha Week praise: **ΘΩΚ ΤΕ †ΧΘΩ** – **Chanted 12 times antiphonically to replace 12 psalms in each hour of Agpeya**
 3. Psalm and Gospel
 4. Exposition



Holy Pascha Week Overview – continued

- ❖ The Church uses this week to focus on the Passion of the Lord
- ❖ The Church sets us in the mood of passion week, by accepting the Death of Christ in our life
- ❖ **“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him”** (Romans 6:8)
- ❖ **Monday through Wednesday Focus:** “Christ the Bridegroom: be prepared to receive Him.” “
- ❖ **Wednesday and Thursday Eve Focus:** The betrayal of Judas
- ❖ **Thursday Focus:** Eucharist; Christ’s establishment of a *new* covenant between God and man
- ❖ **Friday Focus:** The crucifixion
- ❖ **Weekly Commemoration:** Wednesdays (Betrayal of Judas); Friday (Crucifixion); Sunday (Eucharist)



Prayers during Holy Pascha Week

❖ **No Liturgies from Monday to Wednesday:**

- ❖ Passover Lamb was kept for four days: (Exodus 12:3-7)
- ❖ “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: **‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb,** according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household... **Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month.** Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.”

❖ **Prayers are in the second chorus of Church, “outside the camp”:**

- ❖ We were cast outside of the Paradise and remained outside, until Crucifixion
- ❖ Christ tore the “middle wall” (the veil of the temple)
- ❖ Priest opens the curtain of the Sanctuary on the 12th Hour of Good Friday
- ❖ Christ suffered outside of Jerusalem: **“Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.”** (Hebrews 13:13)



Covenant Thursday: Matins



- ❖ Matins is prayed during the 1st Hour
- ❖ Φαι ἑταρενη is sung after `Φ† ΝΑΙ ΝΑΝ
 - ❖ Its **beginning is very long** – to signify that **God waited a very long time**, when He found someone pure enough to bear His Son
 - ❖ It hits **very high notes** at the mention of the word πικταρροϋ “(the Cross)” – to signify the **raising of the Son of God** on the Cross on top of Golgotha
 - ❖ Notes of the last part of the hymn “Αρωλευ εροϋ...” (“His good Father smelled Him at the evening watch on Golgotha”) are **quick** – to signify that the **process of salvation was accomplished in a very short period of time: three hours**
- ❖ **Praxis** (Acts 1:15-20) is then sung in Paschal tune; it speaks of Judas’ greed and death
- ❖ **Procession of Judas** takes place – singing Ιουδαϋ οπαρανομοϋ and going “backwards” (clockwise) around an empty chair (some say chair is to be upside down)
- ❖ Αϋιοϋ is then sung in Paschal tune, followed by Psalm, Exposition, Litanies, and Conclusion



Covenant Thursday: Liturgy of the Waters

- ❖ **After the 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th Hours of Pascha are prayed, the Liturgy of the Waters begins**
- ❖ Prophecies are read during the Liturgy of the Waters, including:
 - ❖ Genesis 18:1-23: The visit of God and His Angels to Abraham: Abraham's washing of God's feet
 - ❖ Proverbs 9:1-11: Wisdom has built her house
 - ❖ Exodus 14&15: Crossing the Red Sea
 - ❖ Joshua 1&3: Crossing the Jordan River
- ❖ **The eldest priest washes the feet of his fellow priests, deacons, and the congregation**
- ❖ After the Liturgy of the Waters, the **Agpeya prayers are not said** before the Offering of the Lamb



Covenant Thursday: Liturgy of the Faithful

- ❖ **Lamb is chosen without the 41** *Κῆριε ἐλέησον* sung; they are said silently to symbolize that Christ was examined while He was silent
- ❖ **“Alleluia this is the day the Lord has made...” and “Saved Amen...” are not chanted**, because Salvation and Resurrection have not been completed yet
- ❖ Priest censens around the church (during the Pauline) **without kissing**, because of the kiss of Judas
- ❖ **No Catholic or Praxis** is read
- ❖ **No Prayer of Reconciliation** as the reconciliation with heaven occurred on the Cross
- ❖ **No Commemoration of the Saints** as there was an enmity between heaven and earth
- ❖ **11th Hour is prayed during the Distribution**



Good Friday



- ❖ Good Friday is unique in that Daytime Litanies are prayed at the end of each hour instead of only at very end of service; **other hymns and distinctions for each hour are noted below**

| Hour | Additional Hymns & Distinctions |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 st | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homily of St. John Chrysostom |
| 3 rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None |
| 6 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest and deacons wear vestments • Ψαλμοσϋρρ • Φαι εταϋενϋ • Ψμτ ϋνοτ • Τοσ μακαριω • Ψεπιστολη • Pauline Epistle • Ω φηετ ζεν πιεζοοτ (6th Hour Litanies) • Οωονοσενηϋ • Δσιοϋ (Paschal tune) • Candles/lights turned off during Gospel at “Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land” (Matt 27:45) • Δριπαμει (after Daytime Litanies) |

| Hour | Additional Hymns & Distinctions |
|------------------|---|
| 9 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candles/lights turned on at beginning of hour • Ψωορρ • Φαι εταϋενϋ • Ψμτ ϋνοτ • Τοσ μακαριω • Εθεε ταναστασιϋ • Pauline Epistle • Ω φηετ ζεν πιεζοοτ (9th Hour Litanies) • Δσιοϋ (Paschal tune) |
| 11 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homily of St. Athanasius |
| 12 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamentations of Jeremiah • Four Hundred Κυριε ελεησον (100/direction) • Procession around altar 3 times, then around the Church 3 times, and finally around altar 1 time • Σολσοθα • Burial |



Bright Saturday



| | Major Hymns & Prayers |
|------------------------|--|
| Midnight Praise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 151 • Psalm Adam for Second Hos • First Hos • Readings including Deuteronomy, Prophecies, Lamentations, 1 Chronicles, 1 Kings • Third Hos • Արիψալին • ԴԵՆԵՆ • Reading from Prophet Daniel • Three readings from Luke • Second reading from Prophet Daniel • ԴԵՆՕՐԵՆ |

| | Major Hymns & Prayers |
|---------------|---|
| Matins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 50 • Litany of the Sick • Morning Doxology • ՌԵԿՆԱԻ Օ ՍԱՆՕՐԴ • Litany of the Departed • Graciously Accord • First & Second Shiraat (ՃԵՐԵ ՅԻԵԹՄԵՆ) • Litany of the Oblations • Doxologies • Conclusion of Watos Theotokia • ՓԴ ՆԱԻ ՆԱՆ • Reading from Isaiah • Homily of St. Athanasius • ԴՄԻԴ ՇՆՕՐԴ • ԴՕՐ ԱԿԱՐԻՎ • Pauline Epistle (and ԵԹՅԵ ԴԱՆԱՇՏԱՑԻՑ) • Paralex (ՍԱԾՕԻՑ) • Gospel • Exposition |

- ❖ **After Matins, the Third and Sixth Hours** of Agpeya are prayed
- ❖ **Then, the Book of Revelation is read**
- ❖ Prayers of the **Ninth Hour** of Agpeya follow

