

TODAY IS THE PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON, SUPPORTING THE MONASTERY:
Enjoy a delicious fish luncheon and support St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale. Get tickets or donate here:



HOLY FRIDAY TEEN YOUTH RETREAT ... will take place on Friday, April 10, 11:45 am to 3:00 pm. All 6th-12th graders are welcome! We will begin at the current church property—with a meal and some volunteer time—then on to the Forerunner Property for the rest of the retreat. (We’re looking for volunteers to help with driving between. Contact Fr. Basil.) We will return to the church in time for the Vespers of the Taking Down from the Cross at 3:00 pm. To offer help, or to RSVP (*by April 7!*), please text or email Fr. Basil: 503-686-0117, frbasil@stjohngoc.org.

CARPOOLING AND/OR PARKING OFF-SITE ... is a blessed way to help those who need to park at the church and those who are visiting for the first time.

PASCHA PICNIC POTLUCK DISHES: Lamb, beer and wine are provided, but the remainder is a potluck. Please *sign-up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall* to bring something to share. Consider using disposable containers to simplify clean-up. If you would like to help with roasting the lamb, please contact Anna (Alanis) L.

DYE RED EGGS FOR THE PARISH ON PASCHA!
On Holy Friday or Saturday, *hard-boil* a dozen eggs, then dye them and put them in the church refrigerators. See bookstore for red dye & directions.

PASCHA PICNIC BENEFITS BENEVOLENCE FUND: Come celebrate our Lord’s resurrection! Bring your friends and neighbors! Please give \$10 per adult or \$35 per family (or more!), because proceeds benefit the Benevolence Fund, helping those in need. Tickets here:



OFFER YOUR FLOWERS TO CHRIST’S TOMB: We need fresh cut *bright* flowers for the kouvouklion (the tomb of Christ)—to be brought on Holy Friday, April 18, by 9:00 am. (Label your container.) Don’t have any flowers? Consider giving a donation. Contact Mary (Diana) G.

HELP BEAUTIFY GOD’S HOUSE: Help is needed for all the Holy Week and Pascha flowers. An hour or two of your time, greatly helps—especially on Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, and Holy Saturday. No experience needed! Everything can be explained/demonstrated. Sign up here:



 **ALL NIGHT VIGIL AT OUR LORD’S TOMB:** Signup to read the psalms on Holy Thursday night to Holy Friday, April 9-10.

P.N.W. HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT—DEADLINE TODAY! Connect with fellow Orthodox high schoolers from around the Pacific Northwest at a 2-night retreat hosted by the PNW Youth Council! The retreat will take place April 24-26 at All Saints Camp on Raft Island, WA. The cost is \$100 (sibling discount offered) and financial aid is available. See insert for QR code to register today and secure your spot! See Catherine (Maggie) R. for details. Hope to see you there!



THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is to reach out and welcome all people to live an Orthodox Christian life, grow spiritually, and become disciples of Jesus Christ through serving others.

Parish Council: Daniels (open) and Anderson (close) Greeter: Athena and Elizabeth (Lisa)
ALL PARISH CLEANUP



St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Fr. Matthew Swehla • Rev. Fr. Basil McAfee
Rev. Dn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

(503) 644-7444 • www.stjohngoc.org
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April 5, 2026

Palm Sunday

After Jesus resurrected Lazarus from the dead, the Jewish people were enthusiastic and convinced that He must be the Messiah. They wanted to make Him a king, so that He could lead them in overthrowing their Roman oppressors. Although Jesus came to be a different kind of king, the enthusiasm of the people served to fulfill the prophesy: “Behold your King comes to you, He is just and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Zech 9:9) Many of the people who carried palm branches during His entry into Jerusalem did not understand Him to be a spiritual king and were disappointed later when they found out that He would not deliver them from the Romans. Some of those present who cried: “Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” later changed their cries to: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ’s victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." Jesus sat on the foal of a donkey, an animal that was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law. This signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the

holy Law of the Gospel. By entering Jerusalem in this manner, Jesus indeed proved Himself to be the King of kings. His Kingship far transcended any authority and kingly behavior that they had ever seen or heard of before. He was the King of self-sacrifice, of humility, of love, of peace. He would lead them in battle by allowing Himself to be crucified on the Cross. There He would give them victory, not over the Romans, but over sin, death, and the evil one. Holy Week is our opportunity, through remembrance, to see His Kingship manifested before our very eyes, through all the events of His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Cross is Christ’s trophy as King, by which He destroyed all of His and our enemies. This is why we see what was once an instrument of death transfigured into a trophy of victory. This week we have the opportunity to remain with Christ the King from the moment of His entry into Jerusalem, crying “Hosanna” to the time of the betrayal, the institution of the Mystical Supper, His trial before Pilate and His crucifixion, His burial and finally His third day resurrection. May God grant us all strength in this most grace-filled and holy week of the year!

WELCOME VISITORS to the original Christian Church. At St. John the Baptist you will experience the sacred worship of God as it has taken place for thousands of years. Our community is a dynamic witness of authentic Christianity, and we welcome all people.

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved only for canonically baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared—through prayer, fasting and regular Confession—to receive the Sacrament.

If you want to learn more about Orthodox Christianity: come to our Saturday evening catechism class (at the time posted on our online calendar); purchase the newcomer book bundle at Logos Bookstore; and meet with our clergy.

HYMNS OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Second Antiphon for Palm Sunday

Save us, O Son of God, Who sat on a donkey’s colt.
We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn for Palm Sunday (First Mode)

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, You raised up Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion. Therefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to You, the Vanquisher of death, "Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord."

Tin kinín Anástasin pro tu su Páthus pistúmenos, ek nekrón íyiras ton Lázarou, Christé o Theós. Óthen ke imís os i Pédthes, ta tis níkis símvola fêrondes, si to Nikítí tu Thanátu vo-ómen. Osanná en tis ipsístis, evlogiménos o erhómenos, en onómati Kyríu.

Repeat the Hymn for Palm Sunday.

Another Hymn for Palm Sunday (Fourth Mode)

As by baptism we were buried with You, O Christ our God, so by Your Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising You, we cry, "Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord."

Kontakion for Palm Sunday (Plagal Second Mode)

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, You accepted the praise of the Angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to You: Blessed are You Who come to recall Adam.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4: 4-9 (Palm Sunday)

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, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL READING

John 12: 1-18 (Palm Sunday)

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros 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, one of His disciples (he who was to betray Him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that 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 Lazaros, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros 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 comes in the name of the Lord, even 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 Him when He called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign.

Instead of “It Is Truly Right” (Fourth Mode)

He is God, He is Lord, and He appeared to us. O Christians, ordain a feast, and with exultant joy come and let us magnify the Christ, waving our palm-leaves and branches, crying aloud in hymns, "Blessed is the One Who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior."

Communion Hymn of Palm Sunday

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia.

Instead of "We have seen the true light," repeat the Hymn for Palm Sunday.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Palm Sunday Luncheon	12:00 pm
Bridegroom Orthros	7:00 pm
HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 6	
Presanctified Liturgy with Ninth Hour	8:00 am
Bridegroom Orthros	7:00 pm
HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 7	
Presanctified Liturgy with Ninth Hour	8:00 am
Bridegroom Orthros	7:00 pm
HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8	
Presanctified Liturgy with Ninth Hour	8:00 am
Bridegroom Orthros	3:30 pm
Holy Unction	7:00 pm
HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9	
Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 am
Twelve Gospels Orthros	7:00 pm
All Night Vigil	11:00 pm
HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 10	
Royal Hours	9:00 am
Holy Friday Youth Retreat	11:45 am
Vespers of the Taking Down from the Cross	3:00 pm
Lamentations	7:00 pm
HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11	
Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil & Baptisms	9:00 am
Resurrectional Service	11:30 pm
PASCHA SUNDAY, APRIL 12	
Orthros	12:00 am
Divine Liturgy	1:00 am
Finger Food Potluck	3:00 am
Agape Vespers	1:00 pm
Pascha Picnic	2:00 pm