

ORTHODOX HOLY WEEK

SPRING 2019

ST. JONAH SCHOOL ~ ALBANY, NY



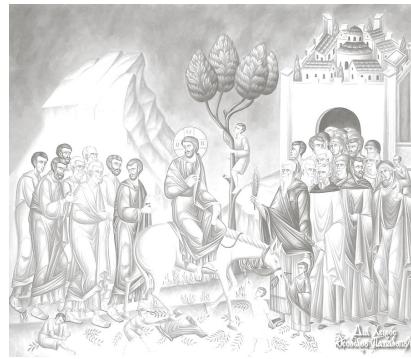
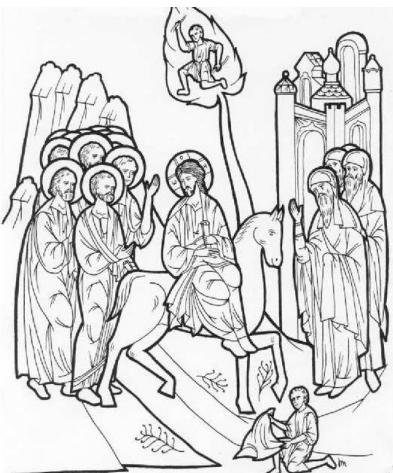
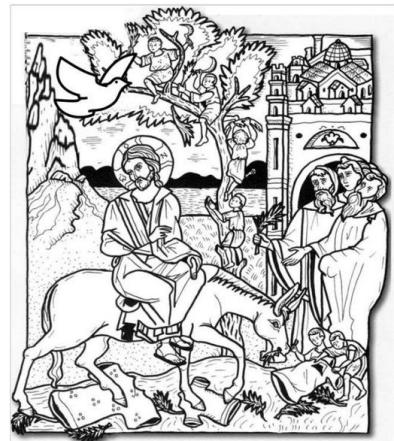


Lazurus Saturday— This day begins Holy Week. It celebrates the rising of Jesus's friend, Lazarus. Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus had gone to Jesus begging Him to come quickly to heal their brother. By the time Jesus did come, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus had delayed so that He would be able to show the people that He was God. He said "I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he may die, he shall come to life" He called to Lazarus to come out. Lazarus came out of his grave and was still wrapped in cloth for the dead. Many people began to be amazed and finally saw Jesus as God.

Palm Sunday The day after the raising of Lazarus, Jesus entered Jerusalem quietly and simply, riding on a donkey,. He looked like any

poor village person. When the people heard that He was coming they ran to the streets, as He went the people began to take palm branches to fan Him as they would a king. People rushed to put their coats on the ground so His donkey would not have to step on the plain dirt. The children sang out in gladness and honor, **"Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel!"**

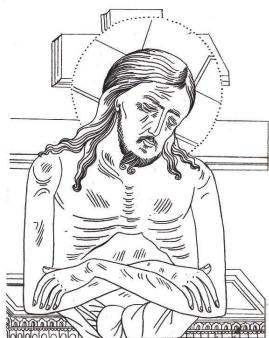
When the Jewish chief priests and the leaders of the church heard them call Jesus, Son of David, this showed He really was Jewish and that the people called Him King, they were very jealous. They decided they were going to have to find a way to kill him. When we hold our branches in church we are remembering the people who greeted Him with honor, these same people will later turn against Him. Let us remember to love and honor Him at all times.



BRIDEGROOM SERVICES—

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

These services remind us that Christ is the Bridegroom waiting for us to join Him. He shows the marks of his suffering

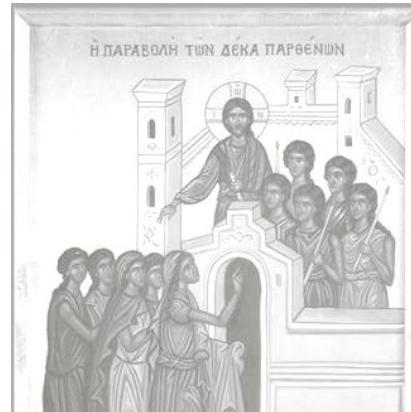


Holy Monday—On this day we remember the story of the Fig tree. When Jesus was walking with His disciples and He saw a fig tree and cursed it because it had no fruit on it. This reminds us that the Jews were supposed to hear the words of Jesus and to want to live by them instead they were like the tree, they listened but they “bore no fruit” nothing changed for them. They did not see Jesus as God. On this day we also remember Joseph who was betrayed by his brothers and they tried to kill him. Jesus will be betrayed by His own people, the Jews, and He will be sent to die.

Holy Tuesday

We remember the story of the Ten Virgins and their lamps.

This story tells about 10 women who wanted a Bridegroom. They were told to have their gas lamps ready, for at any time the Bridegroom would come. Five of them listened and were ready, the other five let their lamps go out. When the Bridegroom (Jesus) came only the five whose lamps were still lit were allowed in the door. This reminds us that we never know when we need to be ready to answer to God for all our sins that we have done. We must always prepare ourselves by not sinning, saying our prayers and going to Confession and Communion.

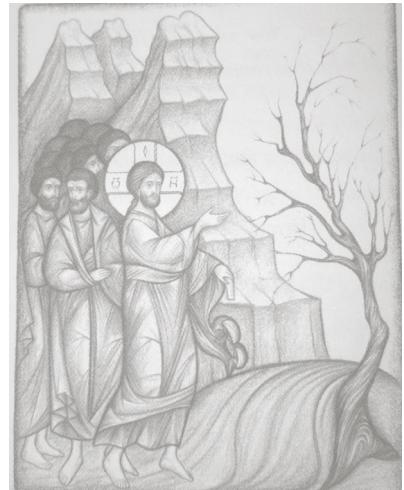
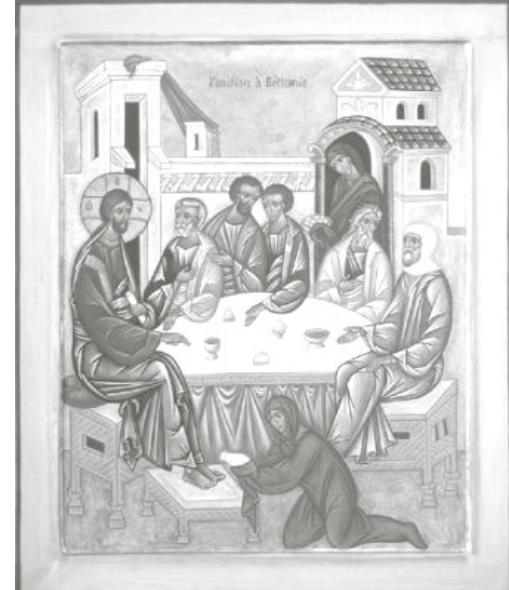


Holy Wednesday

On this day we remember the sinful woman who felt she was such a sinner that she could not even sit at the table with Jesus. She wanted Him to know how much she loved Him and how sorry she was for what she had done in the past. She began to wash Jesus's feet and used her hair as a towel. She put precious oil on Him. When Judas asked why she should waste the oil on Jesus, Jesus said she is anointing me and putting oil on me, in preparation for my death. Just as Jesus saw her repentance and how sorry she was for what she had done,

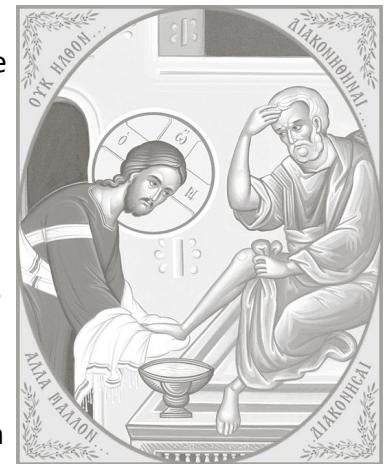


we too can repent and Jesus will still love us as His own.

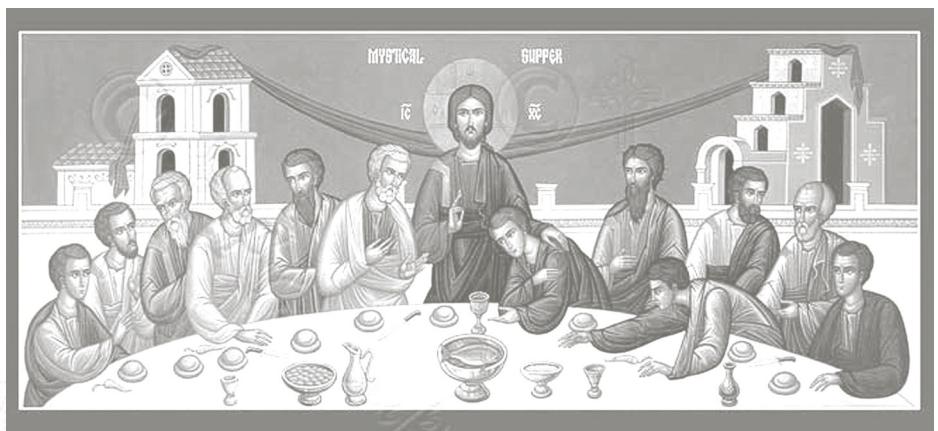


Holy Thursday-

At this time, Judas had already gone to the Jewish leaders and told them that he would show the leaders who Jesus was so they could capture Him. Jesus and the disciples including Judas went into a room to begin to eat the Passover Meal, a special meal for Jews. Before they were ready to eat they needed to wash, the roads were dry and dusty and people would not sit down without a servant helping them to wash. Jesus took off his coat and prepared to wash the feet of His disciples. Peter said, "Lord are you going to wash my feet" and Jesus said, "You do not realize now what I am doing but later you will understand" "If I don't wash you, you will not be clean" Peter replied, "No, you shall never wash my feet" Jesus said , "Unless I wash you, you will have no part of me". Peter replied, "Then wash my hands and head " Jesus said, "Those who have a bath, need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean, though not every one of you is clean" He meant that with baptism we can all be washed clean, and He knew that Judas had already talked to the Jewish leaders, so he said, 'not all of you are clean.' Later He told the disciples to learn from His example if He can wash their feet, they should wash each other's. He said, "no master is greater than his servant.' In other words, we should not think we are more important than anyone else. We should be humble.



After the foot washing, the disciples and Jesus sat down to eat the meal. This is called the Last Supper, because it was the last meal with Jesus, it is also called the Mystical Supper because it is when bread and wine were turned into the body and blood of Christ as the first Holy Communion. He shares with the disciples because this was His whole purpose for coming to Earth, we should be always together with God, who made us in His image. He gives instructions and hopefulness to the disciples. He tells them their will be a place for all of them in Heaven if they follow Him and believe in Him. He tells them to love each other as He has loved them, no greater teaching then to love one another. He tells them He will go away and come back. He says, if they hate you remember they hated me first, you must love one another. Then he breaks the bread and shares the wine, in honor of his body and blood. Before he could receive this, Judas left the room to go to the Jews.



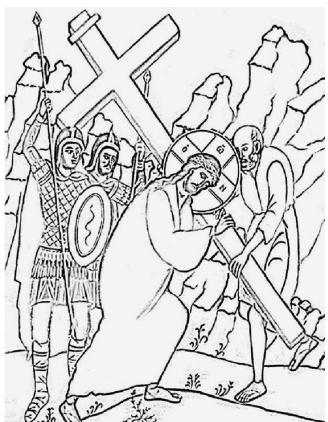
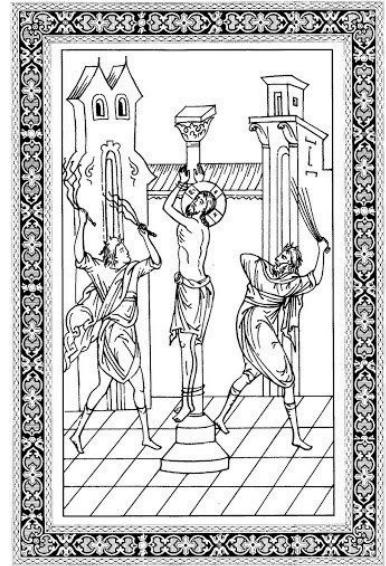
In church on Holy Thursday evening, the Twelve Passion Gospels are read. These explain what happened and how Jesus died. The large cross is brought to the center of the church

Holy Friday-

This is the most holy day of the whole year. On this day, Jesus Christ suffered and died for us on the cross. He did not have to allow this to happen, at any time He could have stopped it. He did this so we all could live and have eternal life.

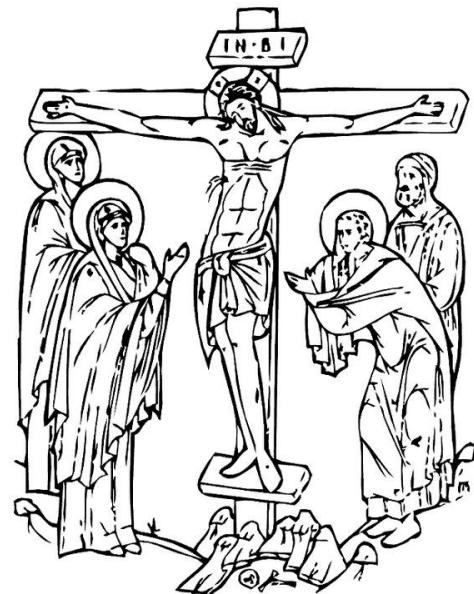


After the Last Supper, Jesus went into a garden and asked His disciples to stay with him and to watch and pray. They were all so tired they fell asleep, Jesus prayed all by Himself in the garden. He knew what was going to happen to Him and He knew that He would feel the physical pain. He prayed "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Soon Judas and the soldiers came to arrest Him, He did not fight, instead He walked up and said, "I am He who you want". They took Him and beat Him, mocked Him and called Him names. Then they took Him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked a mob of people if Jesus should be released and they all asked instead to release a robber. These were the same people who had greeted Him with joy on Palm Sunday. Then Pontius Pilate instead of defending Jesus, took a bowl and publicly washed his hands of the problem and allowed the chief priest to have Jesus crucified and killed on the cross. The Jews accused Him because others called Him Jesus, King of the Jews. They wanted to be more important than any other leader or person, they did not believe in Him and so He should be killed.



After torturing Him, they made Him carry His cross, He was so beaten that He could not even carry the cross. Then they put up the cross and nailed His hands and feet to the cross. When a person is hung like this the weight of the body is so much they actually pull their body down and they cannot breathe. It is very painful. He hung on the cross for 3 hours. When He died the sky went black and there was an earthquake that destroyed the Jewish temple. He was taken off the cross and brought to a tomb or cave to be taken care of the next day, as that day was a holy day. A stone was used to cover the entrance to the cave.

When we come to church on Friday in the afternoon, after having fasted and not eaten, the church is prepared for the shroud or the icon of Jesus taken down from the cross. This icon is flat and lays on top of the tomb where He will be put. At the end of the service we venerate the shroud. Later there is a burial service as we remember when Jesus was brought to the tomb. There is a procession around the church.



Great Saturday—

This is a day of hope and waiting. In the morning we celebrate the Liturgy when we remember Jesus's victory over death. In anticipation of Christ's Holy Resurrection the vestments and cloths in church which were black for the sadness of Friday are changed to white to show the gladness of the Resurrection.

Bread and wine are offered at the end of the service to all. This is to help us and give us strength to either not eat or eat very little before the midnight service.

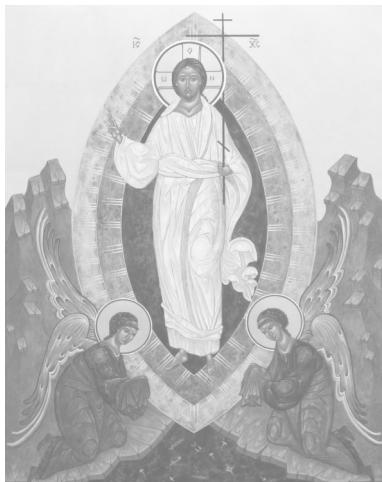


On Sunday (late Saturday)

The women went to the tomb where Jesus had been placed and they were told by the angel that He had Risen and He was not with the dead.

In the evening:

The shroud that was in the church is brought into the altar, the lights and candles are turned off. At midnight, now Sunday, the priest comes out of the altar with a single lit candle and says "*Come and receive light from the unwaning Light; and glorify Christ, who has risen from the dead.*" The procession around the church soon begins. Outside they begin to sing "*Christ is Risen from the Dead..*" When the procession is over, the priest knocks on the doors as Christ does when He goes into hades and the doors are broken open. This allows all the righteous and holy people who were hades from the beginning of the world, to go to Heaven. This was the purpose of Jesus, to be our Saviour. When the priest and people come back inside, the tomb is removed and the icon of the Holy Resurrection is brought out. This shows Jesus as the Resurrected Christ, or as Christ descending into hades and breaking the doors open allowing all a chance for Heaven.



Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

