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St. Stephen's Armenian
Apostolic Church

Sunday Bulletin

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Holy Week

Palm Sunday (Ծաղկազարդ)

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the Highest!” (John 12:13).



In the Armenian Church, today is called “Dzaghgazart” (“Flower-decorated”), because newly-sprouted branches are blessed and distributed in memory of those who greeted Christ with flowering branches in Jerusalem. In the evening, the “Door-opening” ceremony takes place, recognizing that, **“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture”** (John 10:9).

The Son of God came to Jerusalem carry out the divine plan for the salvation of mankind foretold by the prophets. The people who joyfully greeted Christ that day did not realize that the price of the world’s salvation would be the betrayal and crucifixion of the Son of God. The Savior of the Whole World entered Jerusalem in order to be persecuted and crucified, in order to die and to rise from the dead. Christ’s entry into Old Jerusalem opened the path for all mankind to enter New Jerusalem. ☩

«Օրհնեալ եկեալ ի բարձունս: Օվսաննա ի բարձունս» (ՅՆ.ԺԲ.ԺԳ):

The Breath of God (ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՇՈՒՆԶ)

A Reading from the Song of Solomon 1:2-2:3 (NKJV)

12 While the king is at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance. ☞

A Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah 9:9-15 (NKJV)

9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’

11 “As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

12 Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you.

13 For I have bent Judah, My bow, Fitted the bow with Ephraim, And raised up your sons, O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece, And made you like the sword of a mighty man.”

14 Then the LORD will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south.

15 The LORD of hosts will defend them; They shall devour and subdue with slingstones. They shall drink and roar as if with wine; They shall be filled with blood like basins, Like the corners of the altar. ☞

A Reading from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7 (NKJV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ☞

Alleluia! Alleluia!

God is the Lord, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar! (Ps 117:27)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:29-21:17 (NKJV)

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.

3 "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut

down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant

16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?'"

17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. ☪



Holy Week

May the blessings of Holy Week be with us all. Every day from April 7 through April 18 there are multiple daily services.

Divine Liturgies are shown here in red.

09 Sat. **U2.** Raising of Lazarus

10 Sun. **U4.** Palm Sunday

11 Mon. **Ɔ2.** Judgment and Mercy

12 Tue. **Ɔ4.** Preparation and Calling

13 Wed. **Գ2.** Love and Betrayal

14 Thu. **Գ4.** Last Supper

15 Fri. **Դ2.** Crucifixion

16 Sat. **Դ4.** Resurrection Vigil

17 Sun. **U2.** Holy Resurrection

18 Mon. **U4.** Memorial Day

Details: <https://armenianprayer.com>

Armenian Scholarship

The New York Community Trust offers Tuition Awards for College Students of Armenian descent living in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. These awards are made possible by the Hagop, Arousiag, and Arpy Kashmanian and Hazaros Tabakoglu Funds.

Details: <https://licf.org/about/armenian>

ARS Hot Meal Program

The ARS Hot Meal Program serves 1,150 meals each week to the Armenian communities of Lebanon and Syria.

Please tap (<https://arseastusa.org/hotmeals>) to support.

Prelacy Lebanon Relief

Tap (<https://armenianprelacy.org/donate/lebanon-relief>) to sponsor a family or student in Lebanon.

Prelacy Artsakh Relief

Tap (<https://armenianprelacy.org/programs/orphans-fund>) to sponsor an orphan in Artsakh.

Altar Flowers

Ed and Gail Varjabedian have donated altar flowers in memory of the Varjabedian and Mazzamaro families.

Genocide Commemoration

The Connecticut Armenian Genocide Commemoration will take place at 10:30 AM, April 23, 2022 at Holy Resurrection Church in person.

Details: <https://armenianprayer.com>