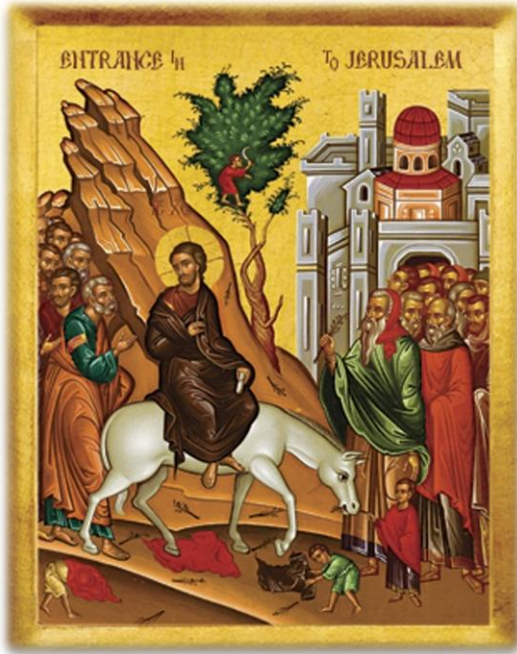


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



+ Palm Sunday +

*Our Lord's Entrance into  
Jerusalem*

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9*

*Gospel: St. John 12:1-18*

*Welcome to everyone! Please join us for some fellowship in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy!*

## **+ Holy Week at Holy Cross +**

*Bridegroom Matins* – Sunday, Monday and Tuesday - 5:30pm

*Holy Unction* – Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> - 5:30pm

### **+ Holy Thursday – April 9<sup>th</sup> +**

*Vesperal Divine Liturgy* - 9am

*Matins w/12 Passion Gospels* - 5:30pm

### **+ Holy Friday – April 10<sup>th</sup> +**

*Burial Vespers* - 3pm

*Matins w/Lamentations* - 6pm

### **+ Holy Saturday – April 11<sup>th</sup> +**

*Vesperal Divine Liturgy* - 9am

*Reading of the Book of Acts / Nocturnes* - 10pm

## **+ Holy PASCHA – The Feast of Feasts +**

**April 12: Sunday Midnight 12am**

*Procession, Paschal Matins, Hours, Festal Divine Liturgy,*

*Basket Blessing & Agape Meal*

**PASCHA Afternoon - Agape Vespers at 3pm**

**\*\* April Benevolence – Ladder of Divine Ascent Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC**

**Our Giving – March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Tithes/Offerings - \$681.25 / Online Giving - \$525.45

Candle Offerings – \$68.00 / Benevolence - \$205.00

Pascha Flowers - \$50.00

*God loves a cheerful giver (1 Cor 9:7)*

***Regarding Holy Communion:*** Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer [i.e., Prayers Before Communion], recent confession, and who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. We should all be at peace with everyone too. If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim 😊

**+ Palm Sunday – Our Lord’s Entry into Jerusalem +**

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus, the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus, the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

([www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org))

### **Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!**

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Hieroschemamonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Archpriest George, Fr Dcn John Wesner, Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Amelia Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Michael Lazorchak, Brian Gunter, Joanna Bohlander, John Dykes, Mary Fish, John Sam, Innocent Sam, Chris Gehret, Bridget Youmans, Jennifer Updegrove, Stephanie Raptis, & those suffering from the wars and unrest in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East. ***Our Catechumens:*** Melissa Czock, Jiselle Macari, Spencer Leoutsakos, Benjamin Zachariah (Military), Garette, Morgan, Charlotte & Nathaniel Fallon, Rick Lucas, Dean Johnson, Jennifer Benick, Joseph Fazio, Dallas Compton, Jonathan, Madison (& child to be born), Felicity & Edmund Race, Mason Hall, Andrew Gehret

### **Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal**

His Holiness, Patriarch Illia II, +3/17, Archpriest John Ealy +3/5, Archpriest George Johnson +3/9, Monk Kyril (Yefimov) +3/1, Joan Lengel +3/3, Catherine Mann +4/1, Milagos Medallon Kaahanui +3/24 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world.