Apolytikion of Palm Sunday (1st Plagios Tone)

O Christ our God, before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry the symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Τὴν κοινὴν Ἀνάστασιν πρὸ τοῦ σοῦ Πάθους πιστούμενος, ἐκ νεκρῶν ἤγειρας τὸν Λάζαρον, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός· οὗτοι καὶ ήμεῖς ὡς οἱ Παῖδες, τὰ τῆς νίκης σύμβολα φέροντες, σοι τῷ Νικητῇ τοῦ θανάτου βοῶμεν· Ὡσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς υψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

Apolytikion of St. Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Plagios Tone)

The all-blessed bride of Christ let us extol in song, Katherine the divine and protectress of Sinai, the assistance and helper of all of us; for she muzzled brilliantly, the ungodly clever men, by the power of the Spirit. And now crowned as Martyr, she pleads great mercy for all of us.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ήμών και αντίληψιν, ὃτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, τον Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ὡς μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι, τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (2nd Plagios Tone)

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

Τῷ θρόνῳ εἰς οὐρανὸν, τῷ πῶλῳ εἰς τής γῆς, εὐλογημένος, Χριστὲ ο Θεός, τῶν Ἀγγέλων τὴν αἶνεσιν, καὶ τῶν παιδῶν ανύμνησιν, προσεδέξω βοῶντοι σοι: Εὐλογημένος εἰς ὁ ἐρχόμενος, τὸν Ἀδάμ ἀνακαλέσασθαι.
Epistle Reading

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His mercy endures forever.

St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9 - 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.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

But observe the wisdom of the Evangelist, how he is not ashamed to parade their former ignorance. That it was written they knew, that it was written of Him they knew not. For it would have offended them if He being a King were about to suffer such things, and be so betrayed.

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Besides, they could not at once have taken in the knowledge of the Kingdom of which He spake; for another Evangelist saith, that they thought the words were spoken of a kingdom of this world. (Matt. xx. 21.)

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 66 on John 12, 2. B#58, p.245.
4th Century
Palm Sunday Family Luncheon – will be held immediately after both Liturgies today. Psari plaki, rice and Greek salad, beverages. Donation: $14.00 per person. Pasta dish available for children: $6:00. Carry out orders will also be available after both Liturgies.

Ministry Spotlight - Today the Missions and Outreach Ministry further participates in the life of the Church by serving as ushers during the 2nd Liturgy. This dynamic ministry is among our community's largest and most active. They lead efforts to feed and clothe the homeless, they provide shoes to the shoeless and diapers to needy mothers. They assist missionaries with equipment and funding and organize missions for parishioners to destinations all over the world. Contact Dr. John Demakis for more information at demakis9931@gmail.com, (703) 319-1610.

Holy Communion – Parishioners are reminded that routing procedures have been designed to avoid confusion and improve the traffic flow during Holy Communion. Please follow the direction of ushers, who will direct parishioners ONE PEW AT A TIME from the outer aisles to receive Communion. Parishioners will return to their seats down the center aisle.

Prosphoro – If you can make prosphoro for Divine Liturgy, please call Mrs. Niki Papasavva at (703) 764-9746.

The St. Katherine 2012 Vacation Bible Camp will take place this year from June 25-June 29. Registration begins Sunday, February 19. Please contact Daphne Papamichael at cyprusd@aol.com or Christina Vazquez at czvmail@aol.com. Applications are available in the Narthex and they can be emailed to you electronically.

St. Katherine Summer Camp for 3-5 year-olds—July 9-August 17, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for wild adventure, fun activities, lively music and dance. Space is Limited, register by April 30. Contact M. Papathanassiou at director@gopaideia.org or (703) 671-7715.

The Daughters of Penelope will hold their 4th Annual Tea on Sunday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Meletis Charuhas Center. If you are interested in attending, please contact Elvira Garnett (703) 425-3675, Kathy Cavallo (703) 978-1539 or Jane Moore (540) 371-8108. $35 payable to DOP Helle Chapter #283. Reservations taken until Sunday, April 15th. No tickets sold at the door. Raffle tickets will be sold after all Liturgies on Sunday, April 8th and Sunday, April 22nd.

OCMC Benefit Banquet on Saturday, April 28 in Founder’s Hall; Fr. Martin Ritsi, OCMC Executive Director is the featured speaker. Tickets before April 10, $50 each, $60 thereafter; under 18: $30 and under 6 free. Contact Gregory McKinney at dintym@hotmail.com or Skip Mersereau at (301) 229-0878 jwmster@gmail.com for additional information.

St. John Chrysostom District Oratorical Festival – Please join us in congratulating Sophia Gull and Katerina Silis for representing our community at the District Oratorical Festival this past weekend. Ms. Gull placed 3rd among 14 other parishes and is the alternate representative at the Metropolis Festival. Special thanks to their parents for their support and to Christina Vazquez for coaching them.

Catechetical (Sunday) School – Children who have attended Catechetical School music are invited to sit in the front right center pews near the chanter during the Easter Sunday Agape Service as we sing the Resurrection hymn. There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Please bring back your mission donation boxes when we reconvene on April 22nd.

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation – Hellenic Birthright – This unique program is being launched in collaboration with Anatolia American College of Thessaloniki and will take place June 18-July 20, 2012. It is open to Greek American students, 18-25 yrs. old, with limited financial means, who have never been to Greece. Deadline for applying is April 14, 2012. If you are interested to participate, please call the Church office at (703) 671-1515.
Offertory Prayer – O God, as you welcomed the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah and Abraham, the incense of Aaron and Zachariah, do welcome also, from the hands of us sinners, these offerings, so that in clear conscience we may always offer to you gifts and the resources of our labor, for your glorification, for the alleviation of sufferings and hunger, for the ministry to your people, by the grace, mercy and philanthropy of your only begotten Son with whom You are blessed from ages to ages. Amen.

Προσευχή Προσφοράς – Ω Θεέ, όπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθεις από τα αμαρτώλα μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δόρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιά την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, προς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξιλασμό του λαού σου, με την χάρη, το ἐλέος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενοῦς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.