



STSA CHURCH

HOLY WEEK 2020

WWW.STSA.CHURCH/HOLYWEEK

A comprehensive guide to walk you
through exactly what to expect and what
you'll need for holy week at home

01

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“Christ does not rise from the dead, trampling down death by death, because we are in church; He rises from the dead because He is the Son of God, and neither virus nor plague will change that! Christians have celebrated the Resurrection in prisons, concentration camps and gulags. They have prayed in the unlikeliest of “chapels”, under trees and in barracks, and they have scrambled for supplies, turning bedsheets into vestments and tin cups into chalices. Indeed, as they whispered memorized prayers and used their resources to imaginatively re-create the church experiences their hearts remembered, they have sometimes found that these are the most profound Paschas, that God sends the deepest joys when we need them most, and when our praises and worship are not easy but require effort and imagination.”

Taken from [Raising Saints blog](#).

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As Holy Week 2020 approaches, with it comes a world of uncertainty. However, one thing that is certain is that our God has given us life by defeating death. And during this week – whether we’re at church or at home – we will celebrate that fact and rejoice in the life-giving mystery of His death, burial and resurrection.

At STSA, we will accomplish this by a combination of “at-home

02

FIRST THINGS FIRST: BUILD AN ALTAR

If there's one thing you can do to set this week apart from the very start, it's this: BUILD AN ALTAR.

In other words, set aside a specific place that is designated as your sanctuary for just one week.

And if possible, let me encourage you NOT to use your family room or wherever you watch TV. The goal is to recreate a church atmosphere and I don't know of any churches that come with couches or recliners.

I would instead encourage you to clear out another space in your house – a more formal one like the dining room or living room or an office – and fill it with icons and pictures of Jesus and the saints. The room should have chairs to sit in but not couches. You should have a place to put your laptop or iPad but that shouldn't take up the entire room.


Think about it as if you were in church. You'd have a screen in front of you to follow along with the prayers, but that isn't all you'd see. You'd also have an icon of Christ to meditate upon during the long psalms. You'd have pictures of saints all around to help you stay in a spiritual mindset. You wouldn't be on a couch but rather in a pew, one that makes it a lot harder to fall asleep in.

So do yourself a favor and build an altar. Trust me, you won't regret it. And once you do, take a picture and send it to information@stsa.church. We'll compile all the pics we get it and send it out to help inspire one another with ideas.

03**UNCTION FOR LAST FRIDAY OF LENT****April 10, 4-5 pm**

Unction is one of the sacraments of the church. It is a special prayer done for healing – a matter very much relevant today. While the sacrament of Holy Unction cannot be performed without a priest, everyone can join in the prayers as we pray for the healing of the world – not just physically but also spiritually, mentally, and relationally as well.

LAZARUS SATURDAY**Morning of April 11**

Nothing will be streamed, however each one/family can read the gospel of the day from John 11:1-45 and discuss together. *See Attachment 1 for 3 questions to meditate upon and discuss.* 

04

VESPERS FOR PALM SUNDAY

April 11, 7-8 pm

Full Vespers will be prayed and streamed live:
www.stsa.church


PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION OF CROSS

Morning of April 12

Palm Sunday is one of the most beloved days of the year, and also one of the longest. The day is made up of several different components and you're going to get a chance to do some of them on your own and some of them together online.

The day begins with Matins and the procession of the cross around the church. This involves processing around the church and stopping 12 times, in front of various icons, to read a passage from Scripture and then sing a short hymn. Each one will be encouraged to do this on your own.



You'll be challenged to go around your house and find various pictures or icons that you'd normally see in the church. The entire procession takes roughly 30 minutes and you'll be given a detailed list with instructions and links to the readings and hymn. *See Attachment 2.* 

05**PALM SUNDAY LITURGY****April 12, 10-11:30 am**

After Matins we begin the Liturgy of the Word – which includes all the hymns and readings of the day and concludes with the reading of the Palm Sunday account from each of the four gospels. We'll do that together online at 10 am.

After that, because we won't be celebrating the 2nd half of the Liturgy (no communion), we'll go straight to the end and pray the General Funeral together. This marks the official beginning of Holy Week. In this service, the priest prays over a bowl of water and then sprays the congregation with it.

SUNDAY EVENING PASCHA**April 12, 6-8:30 pm**

This will be a full pascha service and you'll attend it online just as you would if you were in church.



Nothing needed except an electronic version of the lectionary, a spiritual book to read during the long psalms, and a notebook and pen to write your thoughts.

06**MORNINGS OF MON/TUES/WED****April 13-15, 7-9 am**

This will be a full pascha service and you'll attend it online at www.stsa.church just as you would if you were in church.



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07

HOLY THURSDAY

April 16, 8-11 am

We'll pray the entire service, with the exception of the Divine Liturgy and the parts related to it. That means we'll pray four morning Pascha hours and then the Liturgy of the Water – all streamed live. This is the service where the priest prays over a basin of water and then washes the feet of the people in attendance.

The command we are given is *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."* (John 13:14-15).



Afterwards, we will do as Jesus commanded: we will wash one another's feet. This can be done literally with the members of your household and can be done figuratively by doing a good deed for someone in your community.

THURSDAY EVENING PASCHA

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08

GOOD FRIDAY

April 17, 8-2 pm

We're going to do the whole day in full and stream it live. Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial are not somehow lessened because we aren't in church. God forbid the thought! Given all that's happening this year, it's more important than ever for us to consecrate this day to focus on His passion and sufferings for our sake.



The Good Friday service concludes with the priest taking an icon of Christ and "burying" it in a white linen shroud. You are encouraged to do the same in your homes. Find a small icon of Christ and at the end of the service, you'll be instructed to place it inside a white linen or towel and leave it there till Easter night.

BRIGHT SATURDAY

April 17/18, 10pm-2am

This service usually begins at midnight but to encourage more people to attend, we are moving it up to 10 pm. The point of this night is to spend a night in vigil with Christ in the tomb. It is a night full of praises and hymns of victory!

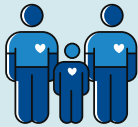


It is called "bright" Saturday because the night features many processions with candles. So be sure to get a few candles ready – one for each member of your household.

SUPPLY LIST

- Holy Oil (Last Friday of Lent)
- Pitcher/bowl of Water (Palm Sunday + Holy Thursday)
- Icons of various saints (Palm Sunday)
- Icon of Christ + white linen (Good Friday)
- Candles (Bright Saturday)
- Spiritual book to read + journal
- Downloaded copy of Holy Week Lectionary

OTHER THOUGHTS



- **If you have kids** that go to bed early, consider getting the prayers/readings and doing 1 or 2 hours with them before bed. The same applies if they get up late and miss the morning hours. For more Holy Week resources and **activities for children, teens, and people of all ages**, go to stsa.church/holyweek.

- **If you live alone**, consider getting together virtually with 1-2 friends and going through the prayers together. This especially applies to the “at home” services like Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday Matins.

- **Sight & Sound Theatre** – the famous theater that creates live productions of Biblical stories – is making one of their shows available for FREE this weekend. The Jesus Show. This would be a great way to enter into the spirit of Holy Week by watching it either Friday night or Saturday during the day. [Click here](#) for more info.

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ATTACHMENT #1: LAZARUS SATURDAY

READ THE GOSPEL FOR THE DAY FROM JOHN 11:1-45. MEDITATE UPON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND THEN DISCUSS WITH OTHERS.

1. Why do you think Jesus delayed two days before going to see Lazarus?
2. Why did Jesus tell His disciples that Lazarus was only sleeping, when in fact He knew that he was dead?
3. Why did Jesus tell them to “take away the stone” and to loose him from the graveclothes? What eternal truth is He communicating by this action?

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ATTACHMENT #2: PALM SUNDAY MATINS

Palm Sunday begins with a joy-filled procession around the church. As the multitudes all shouted “Hosanna” to the Lord on the original Palm Sunday, we do the same. We go around the entire church and cry out with all the saints and all creation as we say “Hosanna in highest!”

There are 12 “stations” along the path of this procession. At each station, simply read the corresponding gospel passage and then sing the short hymn afterwards. The hymn is made up of a verse that is specific to each station (so there are 12 of them) and then a refrain that is the same throughout.

Do your best to locate icons or pictures in your house that match each station, but if you don’t have some of them, don’t worry. You can either pull up a picture online or find another icon that’s close (i.e., you don’t have an icon of St. George the martyr, but you have an icon of another martyr, that’s fine). Be creative.

Station #1: In front of your home altar

- Reading: John 1:43-51
- Verse: “The four bodiless living creatures: carrying the chariot of God: A face of a lion, a face of an ox: a face of a man, and a face of an eagle.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #2: Icon of St. Mary

- Reading: Luke 1:39-56
- Verse: “We exalt you worthily: with Elizabeth your cousin: saying, “Blessed are you among women: Blessed is the fruit of your womb.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

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Station #3: Icon of The Annunciation or Archangel Gabriel

- Reading: Luke 1:26-38
- Verse: “Gabriel the angel: was seen by Daniel: standing on his feet: on the shore of the river.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #4: Icon of Archangel Michael

- Reading: Matthew 13:44-52
- Verse: “Michael, the head of the heavenly ones: is the first: among the angelic orders: serving before the Lord.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #5: Icon of St. Mark

- Reading: Luke 10:1-12
- Verse: “Mark the Apostle: and the evangelist: the witness to the passion: of the Only Begotten God.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #6: Icon of 12 Apostles

- Reading: Matthew 10:1-8
- Verse: “Jesus Christ sent you: O twelve apostles: to preach to the nations: and make them Christians.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #7: Icon of St. George (or any martyr)

- Reading: Luke 21:12-19
- Verse: “Seven years were completed: by Saint George: as seventy impious kings: were judging him everyday.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

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Station #8: Icon of St. Anthony (or any saint)

- Reading: Matthew 16:24-28
- Verse: “Remove from your hearts: evil thoughts: and deceiving memories: that darken the mind.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #9: Front door to your home

- Reading: Luke 13:22-30
- Verse: “When You come again: in Your second fearful advent: may we not fearfully hear You say: ‘I do not know you.’”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #10: Baptismal font (pitcher of water)

- Reading: Matthew 3:13-17
- Verse: “John has witnessed: in the four gospels, saying: “I baptized my Savior: in the waters of the Jordan.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #11: Back door to your home (or window)

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Verse: “He Who sits upon the Cherubim: upon the throne of His glory: entered into Jerusalem: what is this great humility.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.

Station #12: Icon of John the Baptist

- Reading: Luke 7:28-35
- Verse: “There is no one born: of women who is like you: you are great among all saints: O John the Baptist.”
- Refrain: “Hosanna in the highest: this is the King of Israel: Blessed is He Who comes in the name: of the Lord of Hosts.