



St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

181 Preston road

Denison, TX, 75020

Priest Silouan Cohen

Office: priest@stpauldenison.org - email

(903) 462-0650 – phone

Week of April 13, 2025

Sunday, April 13

Sixth Sunday of Great Lent: The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

8:30am – Sunday Matins

9:30am – Divine Liturgy with procession outside

11:30am – Agape meal (coffee hour)

6:00pm – Matins of the Bridegroom

This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Tone 6 Kontakion

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Epistle Philippians 4:4-9

Tone 1 Alleluias

*O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Gospel John 12:1-18

This Week's Schedule (No Office Hours or Confessions)

Monday, April 14. Great and Holy Monday

- ****No Services at St Paul's****
- Fr Silouan will be serving at St Thomas Mission

Tuesday, April 15. Great and Holy Tuesday

- **9:30am - 9th hour, Typika, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**
- **6:00pm - Matins of the Bridegroom**

Wednesday, April 16. Great and Holy Wednesday

- **9:30pm - 9th hour, Typica, & Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**
- **6:00pm - Matins of the Bridegroom w/ Lesser Unction**

Thursday, April 17. Great and Holy Thursday

- **9:30am - Vespereal Liturgy of St Basil**
- **6:00pm - Matins w/ 12 Passion Gospels**

Friday, April 18. Great and Holy Friday

- **8:00am - Royal Hours**
- **2:00pm - Vespers with Procession of the Shroud**
- **7:00pm - Matins with the Lamentations**

Saturday, April 12. The Raising of Lazarus (Lazarus Saturday)

- **9:00am - Vespereal Liturgy of St Basil w/Baptisms & Chrismations**
- **11:30pm - Midnight Office, Resurrection Matins, and Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. Blessing of Pascha Baskets to follow and a short fellowship.**

Announcements

Holy Week

This Sunday evening, April 13, we will begin the first service of Holy Week at 6:00pm; however, **Monday, April 14, Fr Silouan will be serving in Paris, TX at the St Thomas Mission.**

Decorating for Holy Week & Pascha

If you would like to volunteer to decorate or donate to help purchase flowers and other items, please contact Matushka Katie at groups@stpauldenison.org. Most of the decorating will take place after Saturday morning liturgy for Pascha. Some decorating will also take place after Friday Vespers. See the schedule on this bulletin for service times.

Sign up Sheets for Readings

Two sign-ups will go out this weekend via email. The first one will be for people to read over the Shroud on Holy Friday evening, beginning just after the service until 8:30am the next morning. The second sign-up will be for volunteers to read at Saturday morning liturgy. There are 15 OT readings. If you can read loudly, clearly, and intelligibly, please sign up (men, women, and children).

Holy Unction

Following Matins of the Bridegroom Wednesday night, we will serve the service of the Lesser Unction. The holy oil administered is for the healing of the soul and body and for the forgiveness of sins and is for Orthodox Christians who are regular participants in the sacraments.

Holy Week services

Most of the services of Holy Week are deeply prayerful, solemn, and long in duration. Please attend as you are able. Often, people get tired, children become sleepy and may become irritable, etc. It is not a problem. There will be some extra seating in the narthex for those who need to sit with their children, breastfeed, or might be tired or feeling unwell, etc.

The activity center will also be open if you need to step aside. Our hope for everyone is that they can pray as they are able and attend as they are able. If there is any kind of accommodation you need, please see Fr Silouan.

A Word from the Fathers

“But God is not a thing alongside us. He is our Creator and the transcendent source of our being and freedom. Divine grace does not compete with creaturely agency. As Met Kallistos Ware observes, ‘the inter-relationship between divine grace and human freedom remains always a mystery beyond our comprehension.’ ([*How Are We Saved?*](#), p. 36). Faith is a gift and therefore always a surprise. In the midst of spiritual death we miraculously discover within ourselves the ability to call upon the Savior: “Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner!” As St John Cassian writes, “He puts into us the very beginnings of salvation” (*Conf* 13.18). We understandably think of divine absolution as occurring *after* we have confessed our sins and done our works of penance, yet the reverse is the literal truth. God takes the initiative in everything. The faith and repentance that restores us to our Father *just is* his forgiveness of our sins. ‘At every point,’ Ware explains, ‘our human cooperation is itself the work of the Holy Spirit’ (p. 43).

The God of the gospel is not the Jekyll and Hyde of our nightmares. He is not a God we need to appease. He is not a God we need to persuade to forgive. He is not a God who puts conditions on his mercy and care. He is, rather, the Father who hurries to us in love, only in love, relentlessly and passionately in love. We search for the God who is Love, yet in truth he has already found us and prepared the banquet of salvation.”

- Fr Aidan Kimel