

Palm Sunday – Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

Readings at Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis (49:1-2, 8-12)

Jacob called his sons, and said to them: “Assemble yourselves, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in the last days. Gather yourselves together, and hear me, sons of Jacob; hear Israel, hear your father... “Judah, thy brethren have praised thee, and thy hands shall be on the back of thine enemies; thy father’s sons shall do thee reverence. Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the tender plant, my son, thou art gone up, having couched thou liest as a lion, and as a whelp; who shall stir him up? A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of nations. Binding his foal to the vine, and the foal of his ass to the branch of it, he shall wash his robe in wine, and his garment in the blood of the grape. His eyes shall be more cheering than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.”

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah (3:14-19)

Thus saith the Lord: “Rejoice, O daughter of Zion; cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; rejoice and delight thyself with all thine heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord hath taken away thine iniquities, He hath ransomed thee from the hand of thine enemies: the Lord, the King of Israel, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.” At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “Be of good courage, Zion; let not thine hands be slack. The Lord thy God is in thee; the Mighty One shall save thee: He shall bring joy upon thee, and shall refresh thee with His love; and He shall rejoice over thee with delight as in a day of feasting. And I will gather thine afflicted ones. Alas! who hath taken up a reproach against her? Behold, I will work in thee for thy sake at that time,” saith the Lord: “and I will save her that was oppressed, and receive her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and honoured in all the earth.”

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah (9:9-15)

Thus saith the Lord: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; proclaim it aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King is coming to thee, just, and a Saviour; He is meek and riding on an ass, and a young foal. And He shall destroy the chariots out of Ephraim, and the horse out of Jerusalem, and the bow of war shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall be abundance and peace out of the nations; and He shall rule over the waters as far as the sea, and the rivers to the ends of the earth. And thou by the blood of thy covenant hast sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit that hath no water. Ye shall dwell in strongholds, ye prisoners of the congregation: and for one day of thy captivity I will recompense thee double. For I have bent thee, O Judah, for Myself as a bow, I have filled Ephraim; and I will raise up thy children, O Sion, against the children of the Greeks, and I will handle thee as the sword of a warrior. And the Lord shall be over them, and His arrow shall go forth as lightning; and the Lord God Almighty shall blow with the trumpet; and shall proceed with the tumult of His threatening. The Lord Almighty shall protect them.”