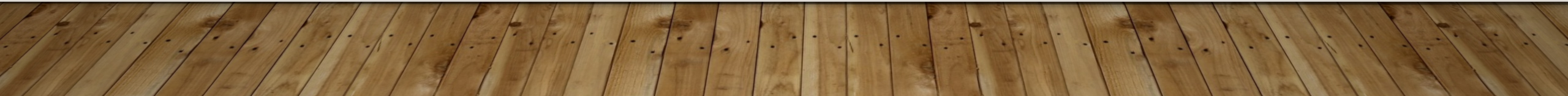


THE HOLY WEEK

THE PASSION WEEK



I. LAZARUS SATURDAY

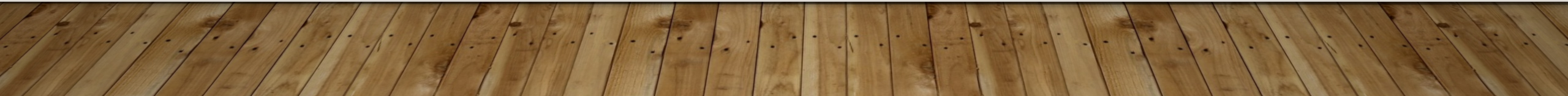
On that day, we commemorate the bringing of Lazarus back to life. In the house of Lazarus in Bethany they prepared a dinner for Jesus. Many people came to Bethany to see the man whom Jesus raised from death.

II. PALM SUNDAY

The next day, crowds of people came out to meet Jesus when He entered Jerusalem. The crowds took the branches of Palm trees and went out to meet Him, shouting: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

III. PUBLIC PRAYER FOR THE REPOSE OF THE DEAD

Prayers for the repose of the dead are forbidden in the Passion Week, so after the liturgy on Palm Sunday, the church performs a public requiem. The sanctuary doors are to be closed, the sanctuary veils are drawn, and prayers for the repose of the dead are raised.



IV. PRAYERS OF THE HOLY PASCHA

- The word “Pascha” means “Passover” and it refers to the destroyer when he passed over the houses of the Hebrews which were sprinkled with the blood of the Passover lamb which in turns stands for the sacrifice of the Cross (“Pascha” in Coptic and “Fissh” in Hebrew).

A. MONDAY

- Jesus left Bethany in the morning and on His way to Jerusalem, He was hungry and He cursed the fig tree, which did not bear fruit. Then He went to the temple and drove out those who were buying and selling and He spent the whole day teaching the people in the temple. He left the envious chief priests and went to Bethany to spend the night there.

B.TUESDAY

- Jesus left Bethany in the morning. As He walked along the road, He saw that the fig tree dried up and died. A conversation took place between Jesus and the high priests. He warned the Pharisees and gave many parables about the kingdom of God.

C.WEDNESDAY

- The Lord of Glory retired in Bethany, as He wanted to be alone for sometime. The Council of the seventy high priests (the Sanhedrin) held and Judas made a plot and betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. Judas started looking for good chance to hand Jesus over to them. This day is called Job Wednesday because of the severe pains that Job suffered. Prophet Job was patient and in his patience, he became a symbol of Christ.

D.THURSDAY

- ☐ Jesus at the Passover meal in the upper room.
- ☐ He washed His disciples' feet.
- ☐ He gave them the mystery of Eucharist.
- ☐ That is why in the arrangement of the prayers that are raised on Maundy Thursday, the prayer of the blessing of water and washing of the feet are performed then the Holy liturgy is celebrated.

E. THE GOOD FRIDAY

- Caiaphas questioned Jesus and accused him of blasphemy because He said that He was the Son of the Living God. Pilate questioned Jesus for the charge of being King but He said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” The Lord of Glory was crucified. He accepted death on behalf of humanity, and He himself became our Pascha and He was offered as a sacrifice for us and His blood became eternal Salvation to us.

READINGS

- Monday: Mark 11: 11-24 Luke 9:18-27
- Tuesday: John 8:12-20 Luke 9:28-36
- Wednesday: Matthew 26:1-16 Luke 13:22-35
- Thursday: Luke 7:7-23 John 16:12-24
- Friday: Matthew 27:1-66 John 11: 45
- Saturday: Mark 16:1-20 John 12:1-19
- Sunday: Luke 19:28-48