

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

March 23, 2024 11:00 AM



WELCOME!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today. You bless us with your presence. We hope you will join us again. We invite all of our visitors to fill out a visitor card located in the pew and place it in the offering plate.

The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be a community of God's people who heal brokenness, build bridges, and exemplify borderless kindness.

This service is broadcast online and recorded on YouTube.

Today starts Holy Week, during which the church dramatizes the events leading up to the suffering and death of Jesus. Today is called Sunday of the Passion, or Palm Sunday, which focuses on Jesus' joyous triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The euphoria and triumph of Jesus' entry is short-lived and the tone of the day changes dramatically, as Palm Sunday also includes a portion of the Passion Narrative in place of the Gospel. We, who moments earlier shouted "Hosanna" now cry "Crucify him! Crucify him!" The stage is set for the remainder of Holy Week.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II With the Liturgy of the Palms

*You may follow the service in this booklet or beginning on page 270 of the **Book of Common Prayer**.*

The service starts in front of the Annex.

The Liturgy of the Palms

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
All ***Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Gospel Reading: Mark 11:1-11

When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, saying to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.'"

They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some people standing around said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!" Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
All ***Hosanna in the highest.***

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.
All ***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 154:
"ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR"**

The people follow the Cross into the Church Narthex while singing Verses 1-3 and the refrain of "All Glory Laud and Honor," repeating the refrain as needed until all have entered the Narthex.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest,
The King and Blessed One.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

2. The company of angels
Is praising thee on high;
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

3. The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before thee we present.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

After all have entered the Narthex, the procession will halt while the Celebrant says:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The procession enters the church singing Verses 4-5 of "All Glory Laud and Honor," beginning with the refrain, After verse five the refrain will be repeated until all have entered the church.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

4. To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

5. Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People ***His mercy endures forever.***
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah:

The LORD God gave me an educated tongue
to know how to respond to the weary
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,
as educated people do.
The LORD God opened my ear;
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.
Instead, I gave my body to attackers,
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.
I didn't hide my face
from insults and spitting.
The LORD God will help me;
therefore, I haven't been insulted.
Therefore, I set my face like flint,
and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.
The one who will declare me innocent is near.
Who will argue with me?
Let's stand up together.
Who will bring judgment against me?
Let him approach me.
Look! The LORD God will help me.

Who will condemn me?
Look, they will wear out like clothing;
the moth will eat them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

The Cantor will sing the psalm and the Congregation will sing the Refrain:

O Lord, you are my God, I trust in you.

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians:

Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God highly honored him and gave him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Hymn 171: "Go to dark Gethsemane"

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away,
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn of him to bear the cross.

- 3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

The Gospel: Mark 15:1-47

Clergy The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” The chief priests were accusing him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? What about all these accusations?” But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled.

During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?” They shouted back,

Congregation: “Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?” They shouted even louder,

Congregation: “Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor’s headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. They saluted him, “Hey! King of the Jews!” Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place.

The People Stand.

They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn't take it. They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the formal charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews." They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left.

People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself and come down from that cross!" In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal experts. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we'll see and believe." Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him.

From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?" After hearing him, some standing there said, "Look! He's calling Elijah!" Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down." But Jesus let out a loud cry and died.

Reader pauses for a moment of silence.

The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly God's Son." Some women were watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses, and Salome. When Jesus was in Galilee, these women had followed and supported him, along with many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him.

Since it was late in the afternoon on Preparation Day, just before the Sabbath, Joseph from Arimathea dared to approach Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. (Joseph was a prominent council member who also eagerly anticipated the coming of God's kingdom.) Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him whether Jesus had already died.

When he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, Pilate gave the dead body to Joseph.

He bought a linen cloth, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was buried.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon - The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith

The Prayers of the People

Our Lord comes to us humbly, riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of Peace. Let us pray, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christians may hear and share the word of God as true disciples, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That the leaders of all nations and of the Church may prefer humble service to empty power, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That when we see the cross starkly revealed in our lives, we may draw strength from the name above every name, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be God's loving heart in the world, reaching out in the midst of trouble, turning darkness into light, and hatred into love, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be good stewards of the earth that God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may remember that your mercy was given to the prisoner beside you, and that prisoners and all who care for them may know your loving compassion, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who suffer in any way; may they find strength, peace, and healing through the knowledge of your redemptive love, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

The clergy offers special intercessions for those listed on the prayer list. A brief period of silence is provided for the congregation to offer their own petitions.

For Strength and Confidence (BCP page 459)

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

Concluding Collect

God, our Creator, you show your beloved disciples the way to freedom through the gentle obedience of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant our petitions as we seek to follow him. We pray in his name, Christ the Lord. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

At the Offertory



At the Offertory, Anthem: “ I Cried Unto the Lord” - Lisa Shirah-Hiers

THE HOLY COMMUNION
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B (BCP 367)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*** *Words of consecration . . .*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S 124: "Sanctus" -Hurd

The people stand or kneel

*** *Words of consecration . . .*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Then the Celebrant continues

*** *Words of consecration . . .*

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

S 146 “Great Amen” *-Robinson*

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem: “Agnus Dei” S 161 *-Hurd*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

During Communion Hymn 172: “Were you there?”

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Post-Communion Prayer (BCP 365)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Priest may bless the people.

Dismissal

The Clergy dismisses the people

People **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 168 Verses 1-3

- 1 O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
what sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
the hosts of heaven adore!

- 2 Thy beauty, long-desirèd,
hath vanished from our sight;
thy power is all expirèd,
and quenched the light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest,
hide not so far thy grace:
show me, O Love most highest,
the brightness of thy face.

- 3 In thy most bitter passion
my heart to share doth cry,
with thee for my salvation
upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well-belovèd,
yet thank thee for thy death.

*After the service, you are invited to enjoy
coffee and fellowship in the Narthex or via Zoom.*

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith, *Rector*

The Reverend Victoria Mason, *Deacon*

Mr. Cruz Torres, *Seminarian*

Ms. Maria Angie Hernandez, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Philip Riley, *Choirmaster and Organist*

Mr. Alfonso Hernandez, *Spanish Music Leader*

Ms. Noreen McMahon, *Treasurer*

VESTRY

Mr. Brian McGiverin, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Kevin Flegal, *Junior Warden*

Ms. Mary Cree, *Clerk*

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Kevin Flegal

Patricia Mata

Class of 2026

Carlos Lugo

Henry Welles

Class of 2027

Brian McGiverin

Mary Cree

Sarahi Giron

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite I

11:00 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II (in person and Zoom)

1:00 PM

Santa Eucaristía Rito Dos

THE PARISH OFFICE IS IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

HOURS: Tuesday– Friday 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM



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