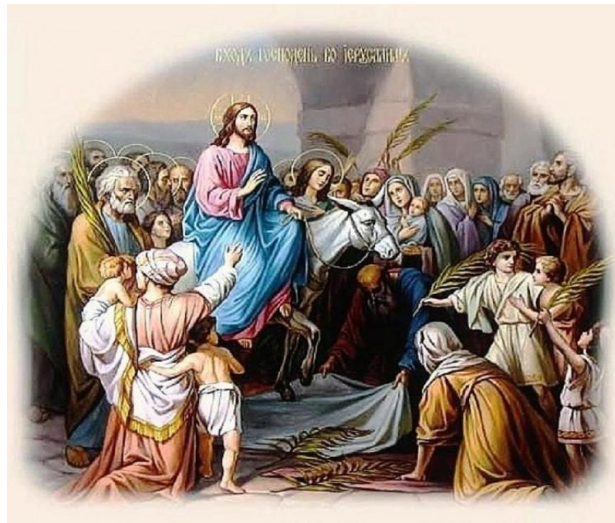


THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2025 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

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: Luke 19:28-40

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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.

Celebrant: 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 distress; *
Tears have wasted by eyes, by throat, and my heart.
- 10 For my life is spent in sorrow and my years with sighs; *
affliction has broken down my strength and my bones waste away.
- 11 In the face of all my foes I am a reproach, an object of scorn to my
neighbors and of fear to my friends.
Those who see me in the street run far away from me.
- 12 I am like the dead, forgotten by all; *
like a thing thrown away.
- 13 I have heard the slander of the crowd; fear is all around; *
as they plot together against me, as they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I say, "You are my God.
- 15 My life is in your hands; *
deliver me from the hands of those who hate me.
- 16 Let your face shine upon your servant, *
save me in your love.

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: Luke 23:1-49

Clergy The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE WHOLE assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse him. They said, “We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king.” Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no legal basis for action against this man.” But they objected strenuously, saying, “He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here.”

Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was from Herod’s district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign.

Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn't respond to him. The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus. Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies.

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man's conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death. Therefore, I'll have him whipped, then let him go."

But with one voice they shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us." (Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.) Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus. They kept shouting out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

For the third time, Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I've found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go."

But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. The time will come when they will say, 'Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.' Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one."

The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I entrust my life." After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, "It's really true: this man was righteous." All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

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.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

At the Offertory: “ Est Ist Vollbracht (It is Finished)”

-Mary Speight, Bassoon

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

Hymn S-124 "Sanctus"

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. **AMEN.**

S 146 “Great Amen”

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

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 Parish Hall*

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith, *Rector*

The Reverend Mary Lenn Dixon, *Deacon*

The Reverend Paul Skeith, *Assistant Priest*

Mr. Cruz Torres, *Seminarian*

Ms. Paige Trivett, *Seminarian*

Ms. Anaflor Bernal, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Philip Riley, *Choirmaster and Organist*

Mr. Alfonso Hernandez, *Spanish Music Leader*

Ms. Noreen McMahon, *Treasurer*

VESTRY

Ms. Mary Cree, *Senior Warden*

Ms. Beatriz Antonio, *Junior Warden*

Mr. Henry Welles, *Clerk*

Class of 2026

Kay Harry

Henry Welles

Class of 2027

Brian McGiverin

Mary Cree

Sarahi Giron

Class of 2028

Scott Hiers

Beatriz Antonio

Loly Andrade

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

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM– 12:00 PM



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