

PALM SUNDAY
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2026

10:00AM



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. We're so glad you have joined us this morning. Just a few notes to help you navigate the service today.

Our entire service is printed in the bulletin to make it easy to follow, but feel free to use the Book of Common Prayer in the pew. You'll notice some directions in italics, *Sit*, *Stand*, *Kneel*. Please feel free to follow these instructions as you are able.

We have busy bags for little hands at both entrances. Ask an usher if you need help finding one.

The closest restrooms are in the Parish Lounge. Go through the hallway behind the organ, through the door, left through the double doors into the lounge, then left down the first hallway.

Please join us after service in the lounge for coffee & conversation.

ALTAR FLOWER: Donations given in memory of Robert & Emily Houk, Dave McClaren Jr. Barb McLaren Pritchard.

PALM BRANCHES: Given in memory of Dr. Ron & Mary Gracilla, Mr. Earl Baker, Billie George Kropp, and Heidi Lazzari

PRELUDE: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing for Clarinet: Rochelle Gracilla and Piano by Duane Funderburk from 10 Pieces. Tune: *NETTLETON*, Traditional American, *Repository of Sacred Music*. Music: from *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing for Oboe and Piano*, and copyright (C)2012 Birnamwood Publications.

(Stand)

Opening Anthem: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthemrang.
To Jesus who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
From Olivet they followed in an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chatting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.
“Hosanna in the highest,” that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,
and in His blissful presence eternally rejoice. Amen!*

Tune: Ellacombe arr Evelyn R. Larter. (C)St. James Music Press, 2010 Lic#10216

The Liturgy of the Palms

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

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.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

¹When [Jesus and his disciples] had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you,

and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.**

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.**

All come forward to receive their palms.

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC: Piper - Ross Williams

The Word of God

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 272)

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have 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.**
¹¹I 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.

¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *

I have said, “You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; *

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me.”

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14—27:66 (See Insert)

(Sit)

THE SERMON

(Stand)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart, mind, soul and strength, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord have mercy.” For the church and all its ministers, and for St. John’s and its mission and ministry, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and all those in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace throughout the world, especially in Gaza, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and an end to all terrorism and violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in our armed forces at home and abroad, especially those from our families and community, and for all first responders, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those infected with or at risk from the COVID virus, and for all health care and other front-line workers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed and the destitute, for refugees, prisoners and captives, for victims of natural disasters, and for all who have asked for our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the right use and proper stewardship of the wonders of creation, and for all creatures of earth, sea, and sky, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. We have promised that with your help we will strive for justice and peace among all people and will respect the dignity of every human being. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot discrimination from our church, our society, our world and ourselves, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

(Sit)

OFFERTORY HYMN *O sacred head, sore wounded (Herzlich tut mich verlangen [Passion Chorale]) (H 168)*

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!

Thy beauty, long-desir'd,
hath vanished from our sight;
thy power is all expir'd,
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.

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 mov'd
to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well-belov'd,
yet thank thee for thy death.

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever!
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
outlive my love for thee.

My days are few, O fail not,
with thine immortal power,
to hold me that I quail not
in death's most fearful hour;
that I may fight befriended,
and see in my last strife
to me thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.

(Stand)

DOXOLOGY (TALLIS H 43)

**“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, son, and holy Ghost. A-men.”**

SURSUM CORDA S 120 Lift up your hearts (BCP p. 361)

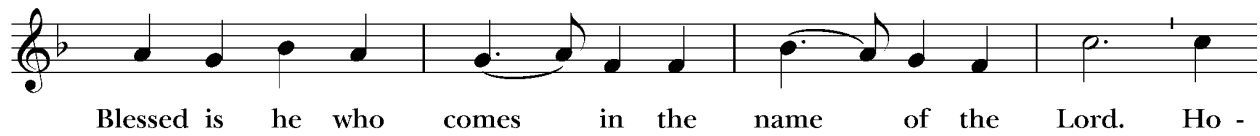
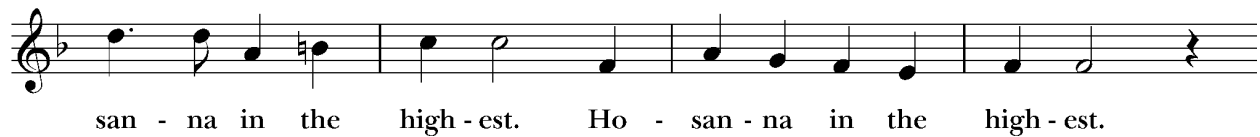
The musical notation is arranged in four systems, each on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system is split between 'Celebrant' and 'People'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second system is also split between 'Celebrant' and 'People'. The lyrics are: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third system is for the 'Celebrant' and the lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth system is for the 'People' and the lyrics are: 'It is right to give him 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

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:

The musical notation is arranged in two systems, each on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -' The first system ends with a fermata over the final note.

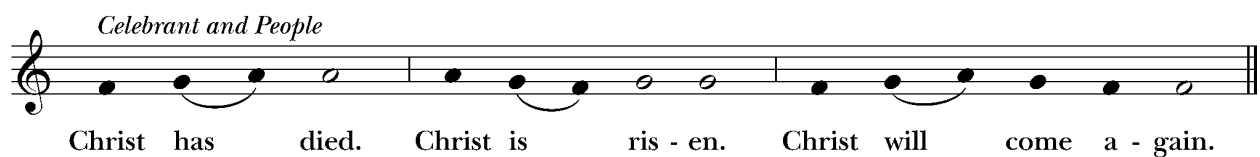
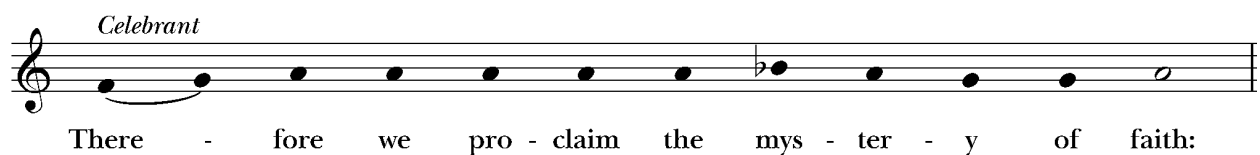


Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and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



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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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 forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM *S 164 Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert/Proulx)* (BCP p. 364)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves. The first system of lyrics is "Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:" and the second system is "give us your peace, give us your peace." The music includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

COMMUNION HYMN *Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended (Herzliebster Jesu)* (H 158)

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

1 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 2 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 3 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 4 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 5 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy pi - ty

1 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 2 I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.
 3 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 4 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 5 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

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 (BCP p. 366)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Lift High the Cross (Crucifer)* (H 473)
See Next Page

Holy Week Services

- Maundy Thursday (April 2): 7:00pm
- Good Friday (April 3)
 - Stations of the Cross: Noon
 - Prayer Book Good Friday Service: 7:00pm
- Easter Vigil (April 4): 8:00pm
- Easter Morning (April 5): 8:00am and 10:00am

From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2026 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Music Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-725816

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore _____ his sa - cred Name.

till all the world _____ a - dore _____ his sa - cred Name.

Led on their way by this tri - umphant sign,
 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

the hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
 bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

POSTLUDE: Piper - Ross Williams