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## PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS, HOLY EUCHARIST,  
AND PASSION NARRATIVE

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*Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.*

*All who seek God are welcome at God's table.*

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**CHORAL PRELUDE:** *Ride on, King Jesus*

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Sung by a quartet from the St. John's Choir

Ride on, King Jesus;  
No man can a-hinder me.  
Ride on, King Jesus;  
No man can a-hinder me.

He is king of Kings,  
He is Lord of Lords,  
Jesus Christ, the First and Last;  
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse;  
No man a-works like him.  
The river of Jordan he did cross;  
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides in the middle of the air;  
No man a-works like him.  
He calls the saints from everywhere;  
No man a-works like him.

*Hosanna filio David*

Tomás Luis de Victoria  
(1548–1611)

Hosanna filio David:  
benedíctus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Rex Israel: Hosanna in excelsis.

*Hosanna to the son of David:  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

*Please stand.*

**Priest:** Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord:

**People:** **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

**Priest:** Let us pray.

**Priest and People:**

**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.**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Priest:** 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.

*Please raise palms for blessing.*

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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Priest:** Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** **Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE PROCESSION

**Priest:** Let us go forth in peace.

**People:** **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN 154**

*Sung by the Parish Choir.*

*All glory, laud, and honor*

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!  
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.  
 Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)  
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**THE FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*Please be seated.*

**9:00 a.m.**

*Read by Michelle Mangrum.*

**11:00 a.m.**

*Read by Paul Barkett.*

The 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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I 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. The 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 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**

**9:00 a.m.** *Read by Holly Sukenik.*

**11:00 a.m.** *Read by Anthony Pegues.*

- 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."

*Please stand.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Mark 11:1-11**

**Gospeller:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Gospeller:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

*Please be seated.*

**The Rev. Robert W. Fisher**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM IV

**9:00 a.m.** Led by Jeff Agnew.

**9:00 a.m.** Led by Carolyn Crouch.

**Leader:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

**People:** (silence)

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Strengthen the Church remembering especially our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa\** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem* and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the *Calvary Church, Washington*. Strengthen also *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*, and for all bishops and other ministers.

**People:** (silence)

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Bless especially *Joseph*, our President, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country; for this community, the nation, and the world.

**People:** (silence)

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

**People:** (silence)

\* In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We remember today especially those celebrating a birthday this week, *Christina Berlin, James Coppinger, Jill Dowell, Clark Ervin, Denis Faherty, Keil Green, Carter Harrell, Stewart Jeffries, John Kirchenbauer, Mary Kroese, Mendel Lay, Patricia Leslie, Mack Lyons, Judson McIntire, Michelle Morris, Avo Reid, and Jennifer Lehmann Weng*; and those celebrating an anniversary this week, *Lydia and Ralph Olson and Jennifer Egsgaard and Nicholas Robischon.*

*People:* (silence)

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; remembering especially those who are sick and who are shut-ins. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*People:* (silence)

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially *those killed in Boulder, Colorado and in Atlanta, Georgia.* that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*People:* (silence)

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Priest:* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

*People:* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

**Priest:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**People:** **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Please stand.*

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*There is a green hill far away*

Philip W.J. Stopford  
(b. 1977)

Sung by a quartet from the St. John's Choir

There is a green hill far away,  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand.*

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Priest:** 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:

**SANCTUS** (from *Missa de Sancte Maria Magdalena*)

Healey Willan  
(1880–1986)

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.

**Priest:** Holy and gracious God: 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 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:



*Priest and People:*

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

*Priest:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, 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 God, now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Priest:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Priest and People:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Priest:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Priest:* 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.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. During this time, our practice will be to offer the bread and the wine following health guidelines. An usher will provide communicants with hand sanitizer before the priest (who has washed his or her hands immediately prior) places a blessed wafer into your hands. Take a few steps, remove your mask, and consume the wafer. Blessed wine in small paper cups on a tray will be offered by a lay server.

After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Receiving the bread only is a valid way to share in Holy Communion. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

## MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

**Anthem:** *Wondrous Love*

Southern folk hymn, arr. Paul Christiansen  
(1914–1997)

Sung by a quartet from the St. John's Choir

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
That caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
That Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Priest:** Let us pray.

**Priest and People:**

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

**Priest:** Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK.

*Please be seated.*

**Narrator:** It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

**Chief Priests:** "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

**Narrator:** While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

**Disciples:** "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."

**Narrator:** And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

**Jesus:** "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

**Narrator:** Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

**Disciples:** "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

**Narrator:** So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

**Jesus:** "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

**Narrator:** So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

**Jesus:** "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

**Narrator:** They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

**Disciples:** "Surely, not I?"

**Narrator:** He said to them,

**Jesus:** "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

**Narrator:** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

**Jesus:** "Take; this is my body."

**Narrator:** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

**Jesus:** "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

**Narrator:** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

**Narrator:** Peter said to him,

**Peter:** "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

**Narrator:** Jesus said to him,

**Jesus:** "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

**Narrator:** But he said vehemently,

**Peter:** "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

**Narrator:** And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

**Jesus:** "Sit here while I pray."

**Narrator:** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

**Jesus:** "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

**Narrator:** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

**Jesus:** "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

**Narrator:** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

**Jesus:** "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**Narrator:** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

**Jesus:** "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

**Narrator:** Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**Judas:** "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

**Narrator:** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

**Judas:** "Rabbi!"

**Narrator:** and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

**Narrator:** All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

**Accusers:** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

**Narrator:** But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

**High Priest:** "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

**Narrator:** But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

**High Priest:** "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

**Narrator:** Jesus said,

**Jesus:** "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

**Narrator:** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

**High Priest:** "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

**Narrator:** All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

**Accusers:** "Prophesy!"

**Narrator:** The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

**Servant Girl:** "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

**Narrator:** But he denied it, saying,

**Peter:** "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

**Narrator:** And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

**Servant Girl:** "This man is one of them."

**Narrator:** But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

**Bystanders:** "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

**Narrator:** But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

**Peter:** "I do not know this man you are talking about."

**Narrator:** At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

**Jesus:** "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

**Narrator:** And he broke down and wept.]

**Narrator:** As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

**Pilate:** "Are you the King of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** He answered him,

**Jesus:** "You say so."

**Narrator:** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

**Pilate:** "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

**Narrator:** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

**Pilate:** "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

**Pilate:** "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** They shouted back,

**Crowd:** "Crucify him!"

**Narrator:** Pilate asked them,

**Pilate:** "Why, what evil has he done?"

**Narrator:** But they shouted all the more,

**Crowd:** "Crucify him!"

**Narrator:** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

**Soldiers:** "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**Narrator:** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*(At the mention of Golgotha, all stand as able.)*

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

**Bystanders:** "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

**Narrator:** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

**Chief Priests:** "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

**Narrator:** Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

**Jesus:** "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

**Narrator:** which means,

**Jesus:** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Narrator:** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**Bystanders:** "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

**Narrator:** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

**Bystanders:** "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

**Narrator:** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

**Centurion:** "Truly this man was God's Son!"

**Narrator:** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

*The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*

***The clergy, choir, and congregation will depart in silence.***

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**ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY:** Kenny Kraft, *Crucifer*; Debby Hailey, *Chalice Bearer*; Anne Harrington and Joanne Hutton, *Flower Guild*; Robert Carroll, Will Duthe, Alfred Thesmar, and Rick Young, *Ushers*.

**ASSISTING AT THE 11:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY:** Carl Ward, *Crucifer*; Thom Sinclair, *Chalice Bearer*; Anne Harrington and Joanne Hutton, *Flower Guild*; Robert Carroll, Jill Dowell, Michele Mullins, and Anthony Pegues, *Ushers*.

**THE PASSION NARRATIVE READERS:**

<b>Narrator:</b>	Nkem Onwuamaegbu
<b>Jesus:</b>	Brian Schoeneman
<b>Chief Priests:</b>	Paul Barkett Scott Raab Holly Sukenik
<b>Disciples:</b>	Tony Anikeeff Justin Dean Lauren Edwards
<b>Peter:</b>	Dax Tejera
<b>Judas:</b>	David Gallalee
<b>Pilate:</b>	Andrew Clarke
<b>Accusers:</b>	Barbara and Craig Burkhardt Julia Koster and Richard Doege Heather Hopkins
<b>High Priest:</b>	Michelle Mangrum
<b>Servant Girl:</b>	Thea Crouch
<b>Crowd &amp; Bystanders:</b>	Anthony Pegues Jessica Sanchez Carl Ward Hilary West
<b>Soldiers:</b>	Joanne and Powell Hutton Sarah and Jeff Agnew
<b>Centurion:</b>	Riley Temple

**THE PALMS AND GREENS IN THE CHURCH** are given to the glory of God.

## LITURGICAL CHANGES DURING LENT

### Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we combine two themes (traditionally recognized in two separate services) in one service: Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and Christ's Passion. This is to give those who are not able to attend Good Friday services a sense of the suffering that precedes the resurrection. Of course, in every Sunday service we recognize resurrection and suffering in celebrating the communion, but on Palm/Passion Sunday we focus our observation on the triumph and suffering in a particular, dramatic way.

At the opening of the service, we recognize Jesus' identity as did the crowds present in Jerusalem for the Passover. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, they proclaimed him to be their long awaited Messiah, inciting the wrath of the religious authorities. By the end of the service we have transitioned from jubilantly waving palm fronds to a somber observance of Christ's sentencing, crucifixion, and death on the cross.

As with the other Sundays of Lent, we would like to draw your attention to changes you may notice during the service.

- 1) **Frontal color and matching vestments – oxblood (burgundy).** We use a burgundy altar frontal and the clergy wear burgundy stoles. This liturgical color symbolizes martyrs' blood and on this day, Christ's death.
- 2) **Greens and palms in the church instead of flowers.** In keeping with the mood of penitence and reflection that we observe during Lent, we refrain from the use of flower arrangements in the church and simplify with greens (and palms for Palm Sunday).
- 3) **Reenacting Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.** To render the drama of Palm Sunday distinct from the drama of the Passion narrative, we have modified the Palm Sunday service. The readings are intended to give us a sense of the shift from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the events surrounding that entry that led to Jesus' sentencing and crucifixion.
- 4) **Blessing of the Palms.** We receive and bless palm fronds that every participant in the service waves as the people did who covered the road with palms to make way for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.
- 5) **Prayers of the People.** Instead of the more familiar Form VI (found on page 392) to which we are accustomed at St. John's, during Lent we pray using Form IV (page 388). Again, this is a more penitential arrangement, with the people responding to each petition, "Hear our prayer."
- 6) **No Alleluias in Lent.** In keeping with the spirit of penitence, saying and singing Alleluia is omitted during the service, in hymns and anthems, in the opening sentences, and at the breaking of the bread (fraction) during communion. As we catch ourselves where we are accustomed to saying "Alleluia," we are reminded that in addition to the enormous gift we have received in Christ's dying for us, it was also an incredibly humbling sacrifice.
- 7) **A dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative.** This reading emphasizes the contrast between the triumph of the palms with which the service begins and the sobering moment of the crucifixion with which we conclude our worship together and enter into a solemn observation of Holy Week.
- 8) **The service concludes with silence.**





## *Welcome!*

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE [WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG) has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

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### *Vestry*

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Clark Ervin, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Krista Rimple  
Bradley, Carolyn Crouch, Lauren  
Edwards, Wendy Fibison, David  
Gallalee, Peter Odom, Anthony  
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,  
Desirée Stolar, and Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

### *Head Usher*

James H. Czerwonky

### *Staff*

Kim Carlson

*Director for Operations*

Preston Cherouny

*Financial Secretary*

Sharlyne Griffin

*Receptionist*

R. J. Gravina

*Program Coordinator*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

*Assistant Sextons*

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