

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS & HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

APRIL 2, 2023 AT 10:15 A.M.



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We pray you experience the love of God through our worship and fellowship. For those who are new to our community, restrooms can be found on the other side of the parish hall. Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after each service. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

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

MATTHEW 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The 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!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

THE 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 God 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.*

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

THE PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.
People *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

PALM PROCESSION

Hosanna in excelsis

Jacques Berthier



THE WORD OF GOD

TRANSITIONAL PRAYER FOR OPENING HYMN

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.*

OPENING HYMN

All glory, laud, and honor

HYMN 154 (vs. 1-3)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

THE COLLECT

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 FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 50:4-9A (*please be seated for the readings*)

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?

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (*spoken*)

- 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 LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION *(Please be seated for the reading of the passion.)*

Celebrant The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.
The congregation may remain seated until Jesus arrives at Golgotha.*

THE SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(please kneel as you are able)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, especially All Saints, Williamsport, Christ Church, Milton, and The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Audrey our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; and Danene, our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, for those who are present and those who are absent, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey, that we may show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; especially Claire Phillips, Charlie Rahe, Kate, Nancy Strasburg, Debbie Carter, Justin and Lisa, Paula Wolf, Pat Pankey, Mary Byrley, Ann Marie, Marilyn Wienk, Mary Hinkle, Ella and Colleen, Carmen, Nicole Pham, Lydia Gouveia, Mike and Myla Morrison, Fred Gary, Pam Kester, Jeannie Zeller, Matt Patterson, Tiny Nolan, Dan Rosenfeld, that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Sing Hosanna!

Stan Pethel

THE PRESENTATION HYMN *Hosanna to the living Lord!*

HYMNAL 486, vs. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high up on 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 SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

HYMN S-129

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S-149

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the front of the chancel steps when the usher indicates. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Blessed Jesus, at thy word
O love, how deep, how broad, how high*

**HYMNAL 440
HYMNAL 448, v. 1-3**

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body.
People *Because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER**BCP 365**

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.

THE BLESSING

May God's extravagant love consume you, Christ's life and passion inspire you, and the Spirit compel you to do ordinary things with extraordinary love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

HYMN 450**THE DISMISSAL****BCP 366**

Celebrant Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Finale, Symphony No. 1
St. John's Traveler Letter:

Louis Vierne

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

Blessings to you and our St. John's family on this Palm Sunday. Today we are praying for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, but I am unable to travel there because of

ongoing violence among ethnic groups and instability throughout the country. South Sudan is one of the world's poorest and least developed countries, and crime rates are high. Food security is among the greatest humanitarian issues facing the country. My heart was very saddened that I could not travel there because I have long wanted to learn more about South Sudan, which is the world's youngest country. South Sudan became independent in 2011, which means it will celebrate its 12th birthday in July.

I am writing to you today from Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya shares a border with South Sudan, and many refugees from South Sudan have sought safety here. At church today, my Kenyan friends and I sat with a young refugee family from Juba, the capital of South Sudan. I am truly humbled and grateful to hear their stories. Did you know that South Sudan is home to more than 60 ethnic groups? Literacy is very low in South Sudan, so many people have become wonderful storytellers to preserve their history and culture.

My new South Sudanese friends, Mary and Deng, are from the Dinka tribe, the country's largest ethnic group. Mary and Deng are 17-year-old twins, and they come from a family of farmers. They told me about the Nile River and that flows through their country, and the mountains that dominate much of the landscape. Can you believe that there are over 1400 named mountains in the country? Mary and Deng also told me how they miss playing basketball and football – most of the world calls soccer football – with their friends. I also learned that wrestling is a popular sport in South Sudan!

Life is very difficult in South Sudan, but Mary and Deng told me that the church is very much alive there. Mary and Deng were also truly inspired by the visit of Pope Francis, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and Moderator of the Church of Scotland Rt. Rev. Dr. Iain Greenshields to South Sudan over three days in February. They share the Archbishop of Canterbury's prayers for lasting peace in their country, hope for all those who have suffered from the ongoing violence, and for the safety of women and girls. I will keep you and our St. John's family in my prayers this Holy Week and always. Please keep the people of South Sudan in your prayers.

Your friend,
John Traveler

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30 AM Sunday School & Youth Group
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

**PLEASE CHECK THE MESSENGER
FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS
HAPPENING THIS MONTH!**

MONDAY, APRIL 3

5:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Daughters of the King

6:00 PM Ministries Council

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Good Friday Service

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry

2:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

12:00 PM Healing Service

3:00 PM Eagle's Nest

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting

10:00 AM Worship Committee

2:30 PM Food Pantry

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

8:30 PM The Garden of Repose

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

6:30 AM Sunrise Service

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist with
Handbells

9:30 AM Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Brass

WEEKLY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

AA: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

NA: Mon., Weds. & Fri. at 12:00 PM

NA: Thursdays & Saturdays at 6:30 PM

FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK:

Deodorant, Toothpaste, Spaghetti, Tuna Helper - Thank you, St. John's!

THE MESSENGER:

Copies of the Messenger can be found in the back of the church!

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon
scatigano@gmail.com

VESTRY

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),
Marylee Sauder, Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, John Modene
Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper

STAFF

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper
John Knouse, Property Manager
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

The Rev. Matt MacDougall
Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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