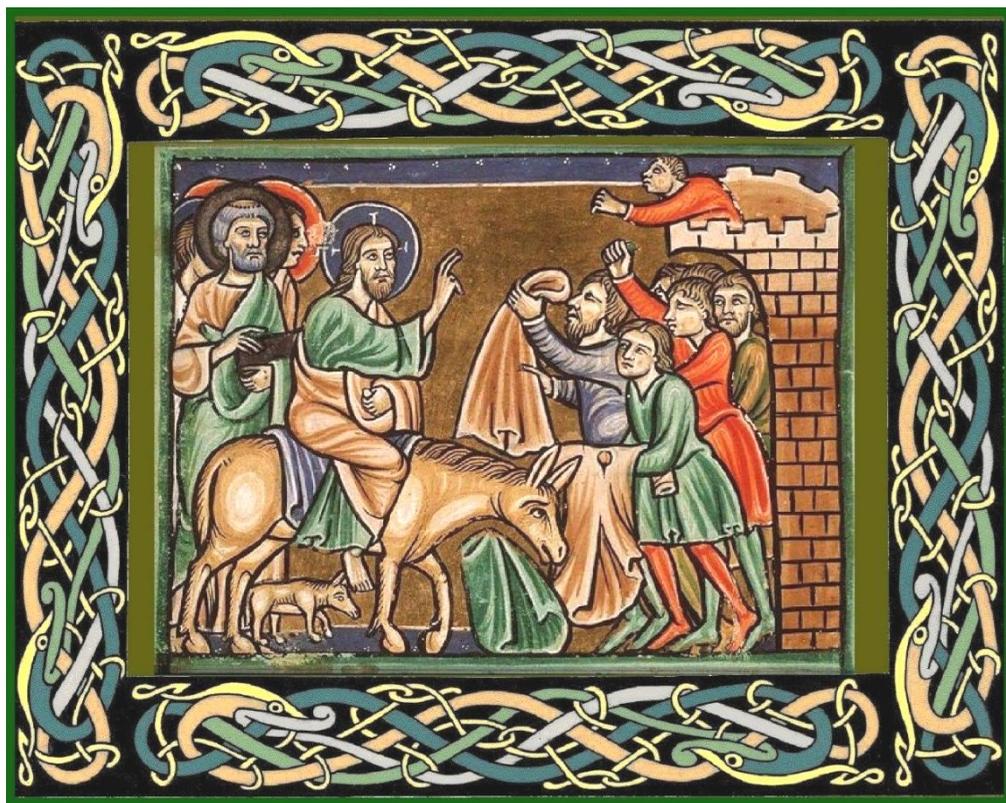


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY
THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS &
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II



MARCH 29, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. Following worship, please join us in the Parish Hall for coffee hour. Sunday School for our children and youth takes place in the Christian Education wing every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service as well, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

In addition to Sunday services, we also offer a Healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon and on Thursday, Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. All are welcome to join!

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

(Our Liturgy will begin in the courtyard)

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

Carl Tuttle

♩ = 120

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na! Ho -
 2. Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry to the King of kings! Glo - ry!

san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry to the King of kings!

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

HYMNAL 154 (vs. 1-3)

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?

People The Word of the Lord.
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.

People The Word of the Lord.
 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. DR. JOE PRITCHETT

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 St. James', Drifton; Christ Church, Coudersport; Brookland Retreat Center, Ulysses; and The Anglican Church of Melanesia, 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 Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Audrey and Kevin our Bishops; for Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Emma and Kim, our seminarians, 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 Donald, 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, **Ricky** Smith, **Joanna** Sweeney, **Al** Kuser, **Mary Sue** Farmer, **Ellen** Sellers, **Edith** Kane, **Merle** Schnee, **Sandy** Grove, **Peggy** Zuke, **Theresa** Sullivan, **Peggy** Buscher, and **Jim** Crothers. 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 **Judy** Modene, **Andrew** Gilpin, **Cheryl & Rhoda**, **Ted** Griswold,

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.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.* **HYMN S-124**

(During Holy Week, it is customary to kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer)

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:

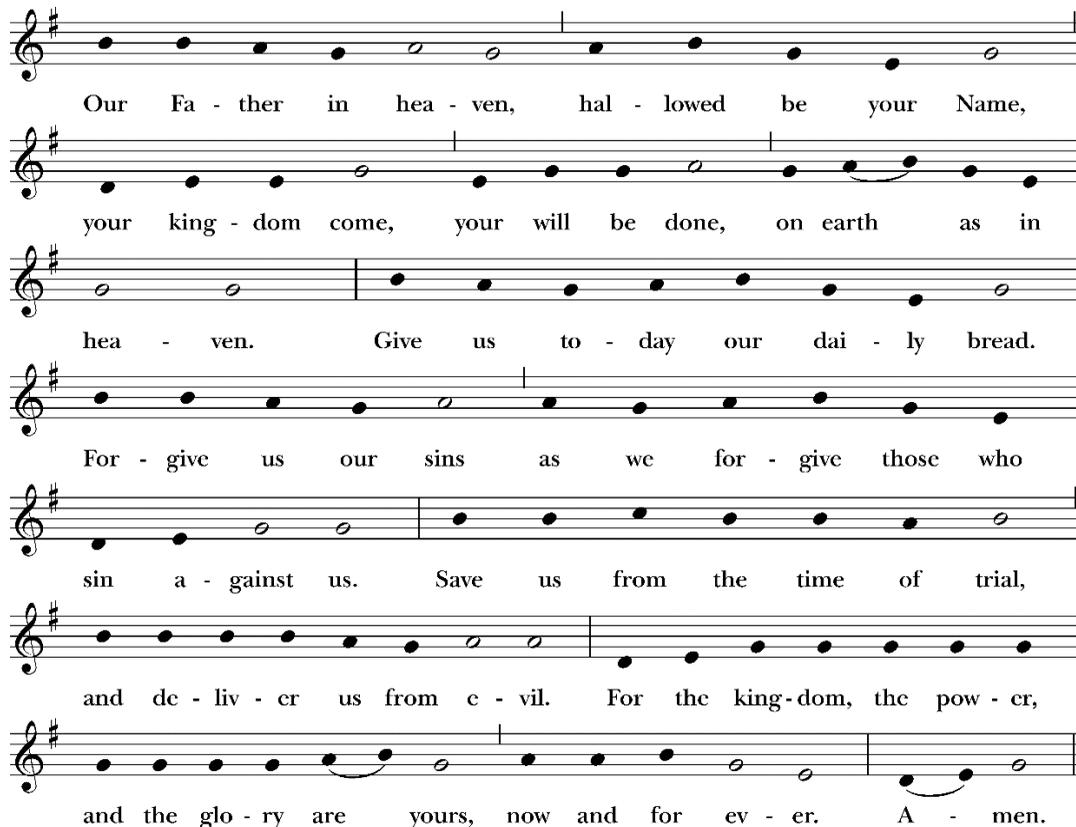
*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

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

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



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

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 altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the separate intinction cup. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Ah, Holy Jesus
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

HYMNAL 158
HYMNAL 168

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.

People *We, who are many, are one body 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

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

HYMN 156

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Toccata for Palm Sunday

Paul Fey

St. John's Traveler Letter:

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...

Bonjour from New Caledonia!

I may be thousands of miles from Paris, but this small island territory in the Southern Pacific Ocean, governed by France, speaks French as its official language. The *boulangeries*, or bakeries, sell all the foods you'd expect from Toulouse or Marseilles, including croissants and baguettes. I even saw a restaurant offering *escargot*, or snails, as one of its main entrees – can't get much more French than that.

At the same time, there are times when I couldn't feel farther away from the outside world. The New Caledonian lagoon – the world's largest – is home to more than 1600 species of fish, turtles, manta rays, humpback whales, and sharks. Earlier this week, I dove to a depth of 30 feet to explore the Cathedral of Hienghene, a coral maze of underwater corridors and outcroppings filled with marine life that made *Finding Nemo* look tame. While not a cathedral like you'd find on land, I still found myself captured by wonder as I swam through.

The local native population, known as the Kanak people, depend on the sea and barrier reef for food, economic opportunities, and tourism. Without any of that, their survival is at stake, as it's often been for the past 170 years under French rule. Colonization and diseases like smallpox wiped out many of the Kanak tribes, and "the Events" of the 1970s and 1980s led to land being taken away from the tribes and violence in the streets of Nouméa, the capital.

The good news? Just last year, the French government signed an agreement recognizing the "State of New Caledonia." While this falls short of independence, it grants New Caledonia more freedom to choose its own path and provides additional protections for the Kanak people. It gives me hope that other countries may also choose this path of peace and understanding in solving their own differences on this most blessed of Palm Sundays.

Blessings always,
John Traveler

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. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Rob Kazee, Ecumenical Associate

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Gretchen Walden,
Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones,
Emma Luck, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (music@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (finance@stjohns-lancaster.org)
John Knouse, Property Manager (property@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

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