



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

April 13, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion with Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Welcome to St. John's Church. We are glad you are here. If you are new to us today and have questions about our worship, please ask our ushers or one of our members in the pews. Here is some information to assist you:

Children's Chapel meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Nursery care is available in the Parish Hall. Your infants and toddlers are welcome to stay in the nursery during the church service.

Other Helpful Information

Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall and behind the church.

The Book of Common Prayer is red.

The Hymnal is blue. Numbers preceded by "S" are in the front of the hymnal.

Food and Beverage We thank you for not eating or drinking in the church.

Communion All are welcome at Christ's table. To receive wine by drinking from the chalice, please go to the right at the communion rail. To receive wine through intinction, go to the left; a member of the clergy will dip your wafer in the intinction cup and hand it to you. To take just the wafer or to receive only a blessing, please go to the right. To receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer communion be brought to you in your pew, let the usher know.

We will continue to livestream worship on YouTube for our online community. We hope that by offering an option for online worship, those who are not able to come to church will feel connected.

Our Mission

We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all;
serving God, each other, and the community.

The Liturgy of the Palms

Before the service begins ushers will distribute palm branches and rhythm instruments to all participants. Additional palm branches are available at the back of the church. The service begins outdoors, in front of the church.

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.***

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke **Luke 19:28-40**

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

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

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

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

Then, with the branches of palm held high by the People, the Liturgy of Palms continues:

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 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.***

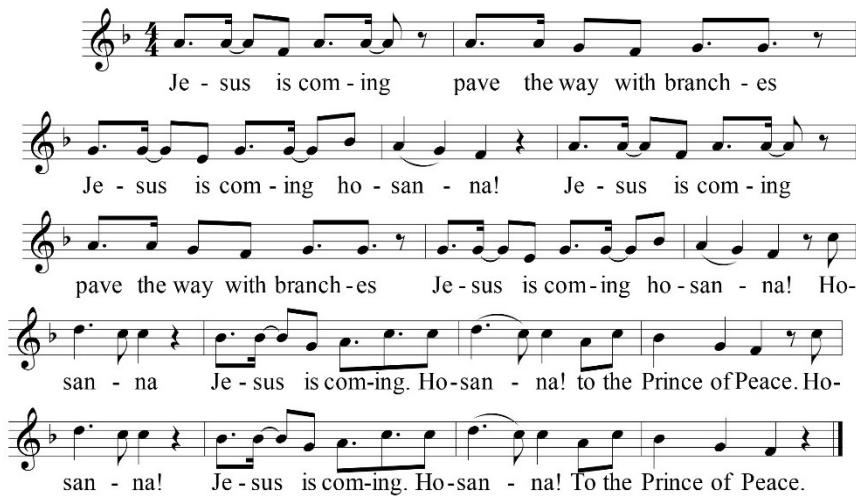
The Procession

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

People *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

The Congregation follows the procession around the church grounds and, at the conclusion, gathers at the entrance to the church. Palm branches are held high during the Procession and later during the reading of the Passion of our Lord. Rhythm instruments are also employed during the procession.

Processional Hymn "Pave the Way with Branches"



Je-sus is com-ing pave the way with branch-es
Je-sus is com-ing ho-san-na! Je-sus is com-ing
pave the way with branch-es Je-sus is com-ing ho-san-na! Ho-
san-na! Je-sus is com-ing. Ho-san-na! To the Prince of Peace. Ho-
san-na! Je-sus is com-ing. Ho-san-na! To the Prince of Peace.

2. Hope for the downtrod. Pave the way with justice....

3. Release for the captives. Pave the way with justice....

4. Sins are forgiven. Pave the way with justice.....

At the entrance to the church

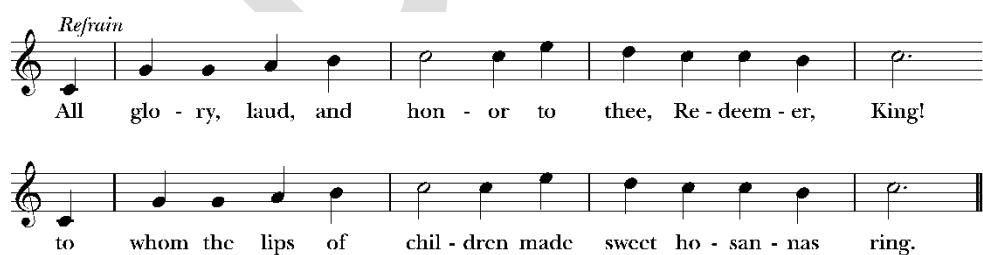
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

While singing the opening hymn, the congregation processes into the church to their seats, where all remain standing.

Opening Hymn "All glory, laud, and honor"

Hymnal 154



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 - them 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.

The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

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).

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

The Collect

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.

D1 D2 D3

E¹ → I

Lid 1 52.42

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.

The Response *The psalm is read responsively by half verse.*

In te, Domine, speravi

Psalm 31: 9-16

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 Epistle

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn “At the Name of Jesus” (vs. 1-4)

Hymnal 435

Passion Gospel

Luke 22:14-23:56

Please be seated for the reading of the Passion Narrative. The customary responses before and after the reading of the Holy Gospel are omitted. The Congregation is invited to read the portions of the Passion indicated as the "Assembly." For the first part of the Passion, the Congregation is seated. At the verse that mentions the arrival at the Skull, all stand.

Celebrant: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

NARRATOR: When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"

NARRATOR: Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

JESUS: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

NARRATOR: And he said to him,

PETER: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: "No, not a thing."

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: "Lord, look, here are two swords."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "It is enough."

NARRATOR: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

NARRATOR: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

JESUS: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

NARRATOR: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

JESUS: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

NARRATOR: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

DISCIPLES: "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"

NARRATOR: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "No more of this!"

NARRATOR: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

NARRATOR: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

SERVANT 1: "This man also was with him."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "Woman, I do not know him."

NARRATOR: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

ACCUSER 1: "You also are one of them."

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: "Man, I am not!"

NARRATOR: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

ACCUSER 2: "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

NARRATOR: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

SOLDIERS: "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

ASSEMBLY: "If you are the Messiah, tell us."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

NARRATOR: All of them asked,

ASSEMBLY: "Are you, then, the Son of God?"

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "You say that I am."

NARRATOR: Then they said,

ASSEMBLY: "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

ASSEMBLY: "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the king of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

ASSEMBLY: "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him;

then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

PILATE: "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

NARRATOR: Then they all shouted out together,

ASSEMBLY: "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"

NARRATOR: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

ASSEMBLY: "Crucify, crucify him!"

NARRATOR: A third time he said to them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

NARRATOR: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

(At the mention of the place called the Skull, all should stand, as able.)

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

JESUS: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

ASSEMBLY: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIERS: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him, saying,

CRIMINAL 2: "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

JESUS: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

CENTURION: "Certainly this man was innocent."

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Passion Narrative 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.

Homily

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer

The Prayers of the People Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Leader

As we enter Holy Week, may we travel with Jesus to the Last Supper, to his crucifixion and to his resurrection.

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For the courage and the grace to be refined and changed during this season of Lent.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For the holy catholic church throughout the world, especially for Grace, Alexandria; and St. Luke's, Wellington, Alexandria.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For Sean, our presiding bishop; Mark and Gayle, our bishops; for the clergy of St. John's; for all who minister in Christ; and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For President Trump, Governor Youngkin, for all elected officials and unelected policy makers, and for the strength and courage to hold them accountable to those they serve.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For those experiencing eviction, housing insecurity, poverty, homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, or trauma.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For justice and peace on this earth, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Haiti, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and other places of unrest.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For your creation, which you have called good, that our hearts may be enriched to care for it.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For all who are oppressed, afflicted, struggling, grieving, or in need, especially for Betsy, Lana, Marti, Rives, Don, Mary, Brett, Ellen, Cindy, Jane, Michael, Rob, Claudia, Faye, Victoria, Patty, those in Appalachia and other areas who lost life, loved ones, economic security, or property during Hurricane Helene and those who have suffered the same losses in the wake of the earthquake in Myanmar.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For the dying and the dead, especially for Lorene Gibson, whose life we celebrated here Tuesday, and for Rachael Stewart-Nuttle.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For our own needs and thanksgiving, which we offer either silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

The Celebrant concludes with a collect

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

arr. Sydnor

The Presentation of the Offering "Bless the Lord"

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A

BCP 361

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na on the high - est.

The Celebrant continues with Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Great Amen

Sydnor

A - men, A - men, A - men.
A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Vasile

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy, have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
grant us, O grant us your peace.

Please sit or kneel. All are welcome at Christ's table. *To receive wine by drinking from the chalice, please go to the right at the communion rail. To receive wine through intinction, go to the left; a member of the clergy will dip your wafer in the intinction cup and hand it to you. To take just the wafer or to receive only a blessing, please go to the right. To receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer communion be brought to you in your pew, let the usher know.*

Communion Anthem	<i>Stabat Mater</i>	Pergolesi
Communion Hymn	“O sacred head, sore wounded”	Hymnal 168
Post Communion Prayer		BCP 365

Solemn Blessing

Bow down before the Lord. Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn “Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended”

Hymnal 158

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended op. 122/2*

Johannes Brahms

Welcome to St. John's Church

If you are seeking a place to explore your faith, we invite you to make St. John's Church your spiritual home. Please complete a visitor card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate to receive our weekly email. We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall after the service. We are eager to tell you about the life and ministries of St. John's Church.

Prayer for St. John's Church

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen

Land Acknowledgment

Please join us in acknowledging and honoring the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of the land on which St. John's Church now stands: the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway, Pamunkey, Patawomeck, Powhatan, Upper Mattaponi, and Rappahannock tribes. We give thanks for them and express our gratitude for their witness on how to live a life that is honorable and humble. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong us: that we belong the Earth and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to learn from our past mistakes and to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants.

Serving this Morning

Celebrant	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Preacher	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Deacon	The Rev. JD Dickinson
Minister of Music	Curt Sydnor
LEM	Debbie Solyan
Lectors	Ryan Smith, Lisa Wood, Patty Soileau, Michael Broda, Barbara Bayler, Raymond Elmore, Maureen Matsen, Jeffry Burden, Debbie Solyan, Victoria Hauser, and Kathy Dixon
Crucifer	Bert Hillier
Acolyte	Serafina Stamm
Ushers	Cal Buchanan and Neill Goff
Greeter	John King
Tellers	Bert Hillier and Patty Soileau
Children's Chapel	Lora Toothman and Hillary Dickinson
Altar Guild	Martha Broughton, Raymond Elmore, and Ashley Stamm
Nursery	Samia Amrouche and Katy Davis
Videographer	Alice McGuire



What is Holy Week?

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday**. On this day, we re-enact the procession of Jesus into Jerusalem with a blessing of the palms, songs of Hosanna, and a procession into the church. The tone of the liturgy turns from celebratory to solemn as we read the Passion Narrative and, as observers, experience the wide range of emotions and responses to Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion.

We continue through Holy Week, not as observers, but as participants in Jesus' walk toward the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection. The first three days of Holy Week are times for prayer and reflection, and many churches offer services on Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Then we arrive at **Maundy Thursday**. The word "maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum" which means

commandment. More precisely, it refers to the "new commandment" that we hear in our reading from the Gospel of John on this day, the Love Commandment, the commandment that Jesus gives his disciples, and all of us, "to love one another, as I have loved you." The service itself is hauntingly lovely, including foot washing and Eucharist and ending with the stripping of the altar.

The next day is **Good Friday**. We are not really sure of the historical basis for calling the day of Jesus' crucifixion "Good Friday," but it most likely refers to the word "good" as meaning "holy." In fact, in the Eastern churches, both Catholic and

Orthodox, as well as in the non-Germanic western churches, the day is referred to as "Holy Friday." At this day's service, we enter the story of Jesus' passion, offering prayers at the foot of the cross.

And then of course we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on **Easter Day**. By the way, we don't refer to that day as "Easter Sunday". This is because every Sunday is Easter Sunday as we proclaim Christ resurrected each week of the year. Easter Day is that special Sunday which brings our Lenten season to an end and restarts the cycle of worship and celebration in which we partake throughout the year.

We hope you will join us for our Holy Day Liturgies this week.

Blessings from St. John's!

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Agnus Dei, Music: Paul M. Vasile; ©2008 Paul M. Vasile.

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Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741

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