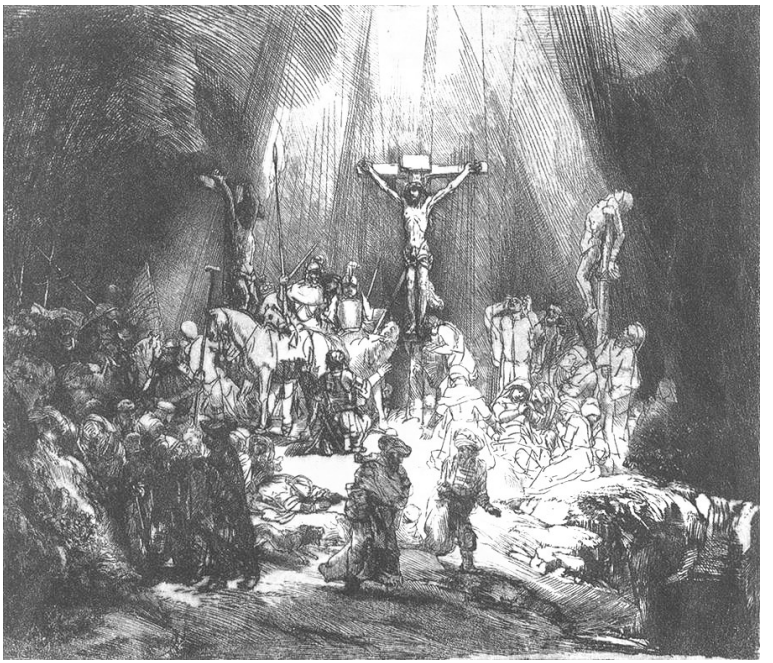


Good Friday

Seven o'clock in the evening
Friday, April 3, 2026

Christ Church, New Brunswick
St. Alban's Church, New Brunswick
in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

2026 Presiding Bishop's Letter to Congregations

Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Lent 2026

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:

For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

I am in frequent touch with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who leads the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and I know how urgently he and his people need our support as they alleviate suffering and provide hope to God's people of all faiths. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey recently gave the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem $1 million to support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian territories, and I am hoping that we can build on that extraordinary gift with this year's Good Friday Offering.

Your gift will support:

- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel-Hamas War amid bombardment, devastating shortages of food, water, and medicine, and extended power outages.

- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Episcopal Church supports just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land and around the world. While we pray and work for peace, our siblings in the Holy Land will continue to serve God's people with hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Together, we can support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as it turns despair into hope for God's people in the land where our faith was born.

+Sean

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

To make your gift today:
Online: iam.ec/goodfridayoffering
Send a check with "Good Friday Appeal" in the memo line to:
The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

THE LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the middle of the *Triduum*, the three-days space starting with Maundy Thursday and ending at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The traditional elements of the Good Friday liturgy include the reading of the Passion of our Lord from the Gospel of John and the Solemn Collects, a form of prayers associated with this service since the third century.

We invite you to pray, sing, listen to the silence, and reflect as we contemplate Christ's mighty act of redemption on the Cross.

THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION ON GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the one day in the church year when it is forbidden to celebrate the Eucharist. On this day, the true offering is the one Christ makes on the cross, not the one we might make on an altar. However, the Church does permit Christians to receive Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament, should they wish to do so.



Permission is given to print and stream music via One License # #*A-700522*

Cover art: Rembrandt, The Three Crosses

The Liturgy for
GOOD FRIDAY

All who are able please stand as the silent procession begins

All who are able then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Presider stands and begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.

Presider Blessed be our God.
People **For ever and ever. Amen.**
Presider Let us pray. 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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12*

Reader *A reading from the prophet Isaiah.* See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my
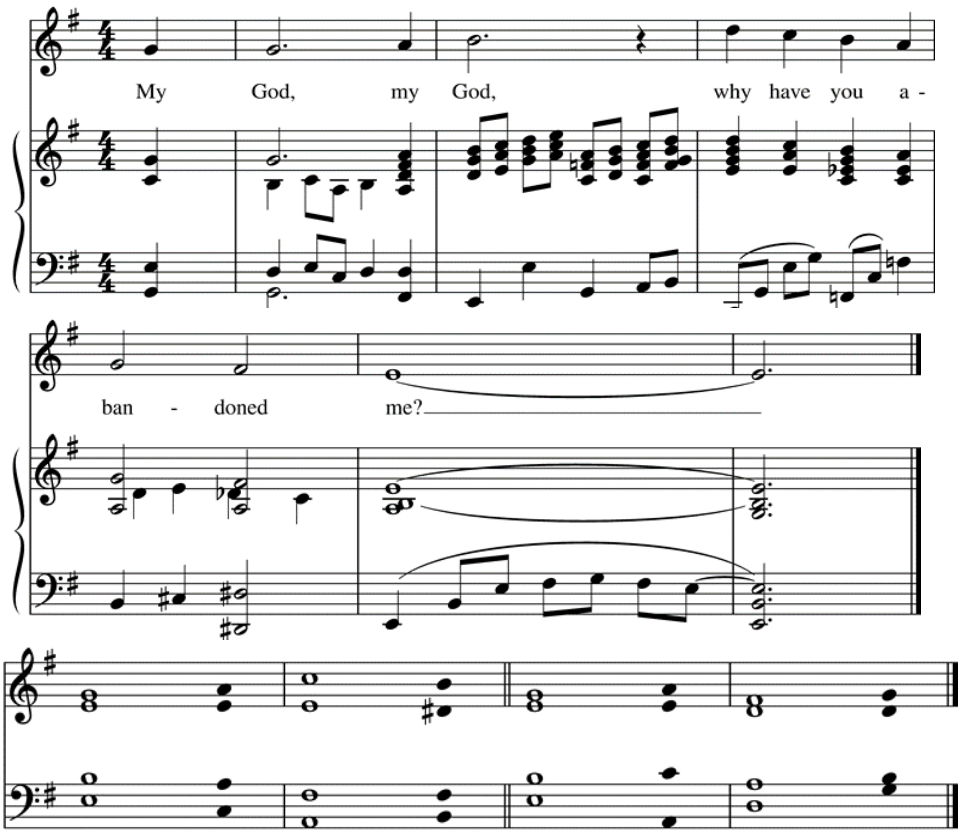
people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Silence is kept for a space

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:1-2, 7-8, 14-21 **Red LEVAS *Hymnal II, 276***

Congregation please sing the Refrain.



My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1 My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;
by night as well, but I find no rest.

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

Refrain

14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Refrain

16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count my bones.

17 They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

18 Be not far away, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

19 Save me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.

Refrain

20 Save me from the lion's mouth,
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

21 I will declare your Name to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Reader *A reading from Hebrews.* Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

Silence is kept for a space

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *John 18:1 – 19:42*

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Please follow the reading on the inserts found in your pew. The customary responses are omitted. Please be seated for the first part of the Passion, then stand and kneel where indicated in your Passion insert.

A period of silence follows the reading of the Passion.

SERMON *The Rev. Salvador Ros*

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS

All standing, the Deacon, or other person appointed, says to the people

Intercessor Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Silence

Intercessor Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world; for its unity in witness and service; for all bishops and other ministers and the

people whom they serve; for Sally, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese; for all Christians in this community; for those about to be baptized (particularly_____), that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.
Silence

Presider Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them; for Donald, the President of the United States; for the Congress and the Supreme Court; for the Members and Representatives of the United Nations; for all who serve the common good; that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.
Silence

Presider Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor Let us pray for the Jewish people, who by the grace of their eternal covenant with God were delivered from bondage into freedom; for their continued faithfulness; for their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love; for their safety from all malice and harm; for their liberation from all forms of antisemitism and hatred; for the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name; that unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians, in obedience to God's will.

Silence

Presider O God of Abraham and Sarah, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted all peoples as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born.

Bless the children of your covenant, so that together we may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind; for those who are hungry and homeless, destitute and oppressed; for those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit; for those who are lonely, fearful or anguished; for those who face temptation, doubt, and despair; for those who are sorrowful and bereaved; for those who are prisoners, refugees, and captives; for those who are victims of war, genocide, and trafficking; and all those in mortal danger; for those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ; that God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Presider Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love; for those who have never heard the word of salvation; for those who have lost their faith; for those hardened by sin and indifference; for those who are contemptuous or scornful; for those who are persecutors of Christ's disciples; for those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others; that God will open their hearts to truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Presider Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you; let the Good News of your salvation be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Intercessor *Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.*

Silence

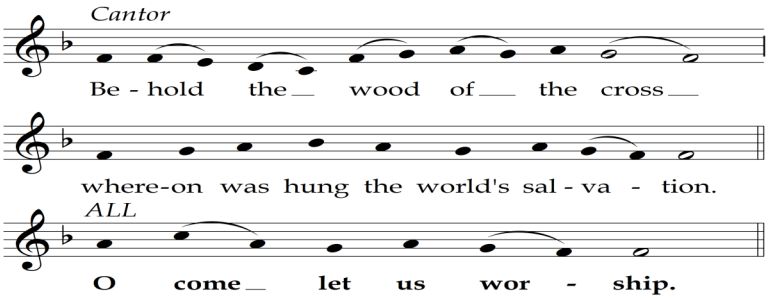
Presider O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

DEVOTIONS BEFORE THE CROSS

All who are able please kneel

A large crucifix has been placed in front of the altar. As it is unveiled, the cantor sings the following three times:



After a period of silent prayer, those who wish may come forward to the cross to pray.

During the devotions before the cross, the Cantor will sing the three Anthems below.

ANTHEM 1

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come to the whole world.

ANTHEM 2

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
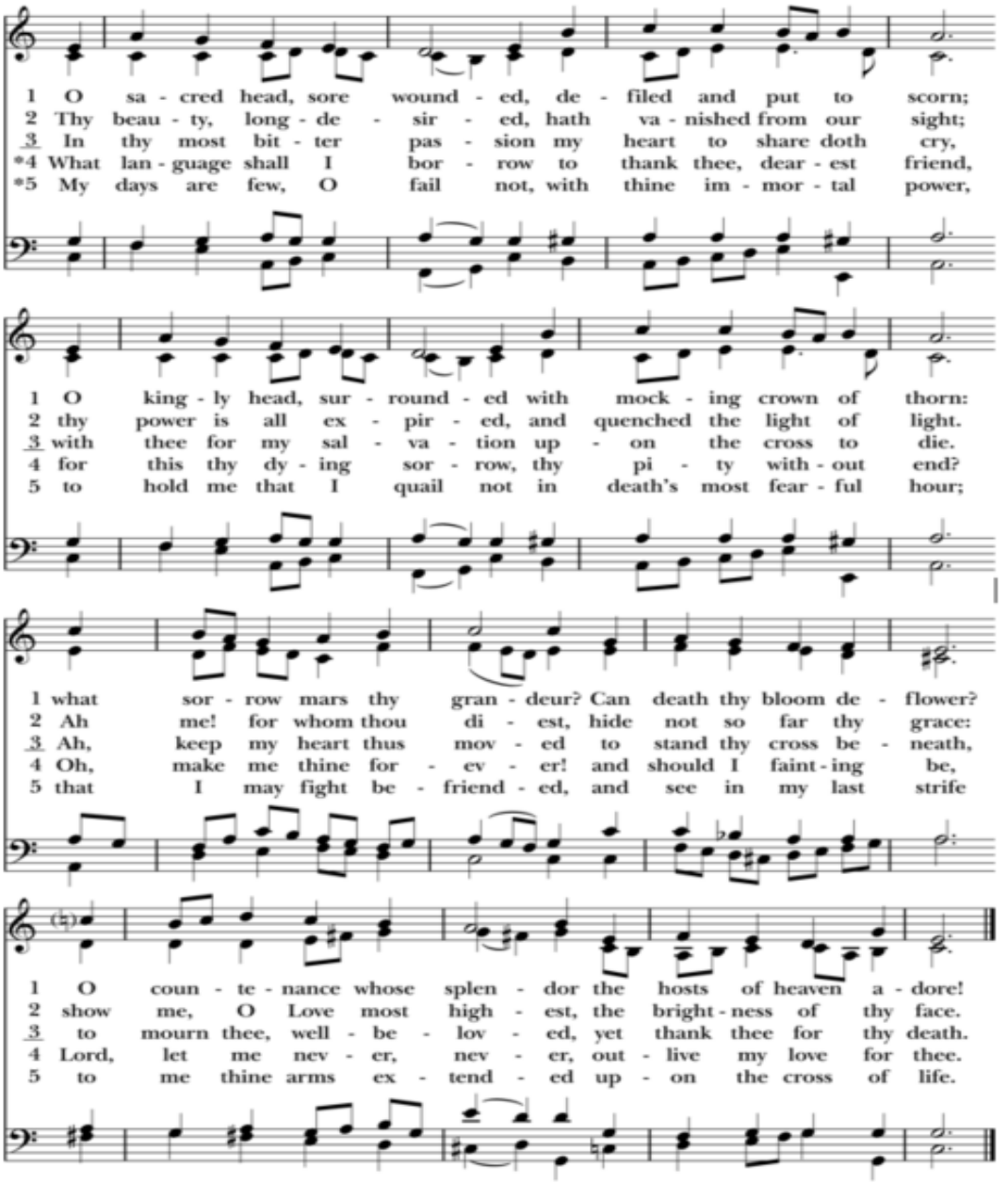
ANTHEM 3

O Savior of the world,
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the devotions, all who are able please stand and sing the following hymn. During the singing of the hymn, an offering will be collected to benefit the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

OFFERTORY HYMN "O sacred head"

Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #168



HOLY COMMUNION

The Reserved Sacrament is placed on the altar. The Deacon says

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept, then all say together

ALL **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.**

Presider 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.

ALL **Amen.**

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

ALL **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.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation.

Many Christians choose to fast from receiving Communion on Good Friday, in order to emphasize for themselves the death of God. However, many other Christians choose to receive, in order to emphasize the abiding presence of God, even in the times of greatest desolation. We honor your choice today, and trust that it will help you to be fully present to God.

All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this evening, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the Communicants with these words
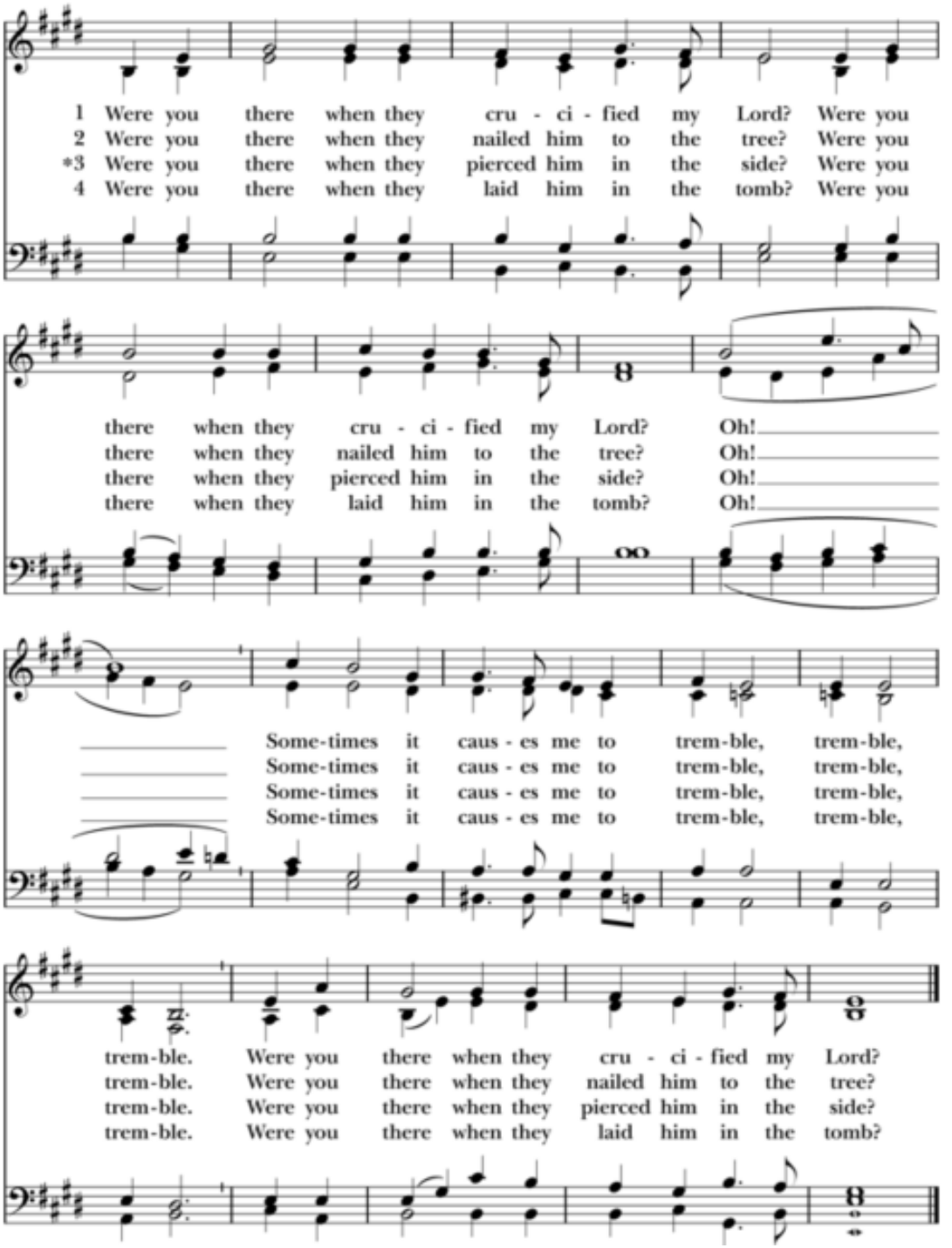
Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Recipient **Amen.**

Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Recipient **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN "Were you there" Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #172



After Communion

All who are able please stand. The service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added.

Presider Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Ministers process out of the church in silence, and then all may leave quietly.

✠

Assisting in Worship

The Rev. Scott Russell, *Presider*
The Rev. Salvador Ros, *Preacher*
The Rev. Deacon Daphne Roberts, *Assisting Clergy*
Lisa Brown, *Old Testament,*
Shannon Pullaro, *Evangelist*
Mel Garber, *Jesus*
Joanna Greenwood, *Servant Girl*
Jonathan Gloster, *Peter*
Stephen Greenwood, *One of the Police*
Gordon Arsenoff, *Pilate*
Paul Ambos,*Cantor*
Artie Phills, *LEM*
TBD, *Usher*
Nancy Walworth, *Altar Guild*
Jonathan Gloster, *Production Minister*

The Christ Church Choir

David Citron, piano

Sopranos: Zida Abbott, Catherine Ambos, Joanna Greenwood, Mary Nelson

Altos: Beth Binde, Patricia Buckendahl, Louise Deis

Tenors: Paul Ambos, Julius Jarrett

Basses: Chris Davies, Jim Nichols, Gordon Arsenoff, Stephen Greenwood

ST. ALBAN'S
EASTER SCHEDULE 2026

April 5~ Easter Sunday:
The Sunday of the Resurrection
11:00 a.m. Bilingual Eucharist (English & Spanish)

Parking is available directly across the street at the Livingston Elementary School on the corner of Delavan Street.



CHRIST CHURCH
HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026



April 4 ~ Holy Saturday
8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
Christ Church

April 5~ Easter Sunday:
The Sunday of the Resurrection
9:30 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist *

An Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages will be held after the 9:30 a.m. service

*Incense will be used at these services.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

APRIL 2-4, 2026
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY

taking faith home

In suffering and death, Jesus shows God's power.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

Thursday	**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**	**Jesus gives a new commandment**
Friday	**John 18:1—19:42**	**The suffering and death of Jesus**
Saturday	**Matthew 27:57-66**	**The burial of Jesus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. **John 18:4-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:
Almighty God, through Jesus' betrayal and death on the cross, you show us the power of your love. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love and saving grace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Merciful God, through Jesus' suffering and death you heal us. Through this food you restore us daily. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Christ shine his face on you with love.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

© 2025 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

APRIL 2-4, 2026

taking faith home

HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

Go to Dark Gethsemane

HOLY WEEK MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words describe how you or someone you know has felt when a loved one died?
- How would you describe the way you feel about Jesus' suffering and death?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:1–19:47.

Read the passage from the Bible or use a storybook Bible to tell the story of Jesus' death. Jesus' death was no accident. Jesus knew what was to happen to him, but the powerful nature of the event was in God's hands, not human hands. When Jesus said *"I am he,"* (John 18:5) that is, I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one the soldiers wanted to arrest, they—not Jesus—fell. It has always been hard for us to grasp that God in Christ suffered a painful and humiliating death, one reserved for the most despised by those in power. Yet, true power, the power to forgive and to give eternal life remains God's greatest gift to humanity. Nothing stops God's purposes for life, reconciliation, and eternal life. Jesus' concern for the sacredness of daily life is even shown from the cross when he tells his mother that she will not be abandoned but be given one of the disciples (likely John) as a new son to care for her (John 19:26-27).

Discuss: What are some ways that God empowers you to care for others today?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see, in the suffering and death of Jesus, the depth of your love and power that brings life and forgiveness for all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Holy Week Bible Readings and theme, how can you serve someone in response to God's love and care ?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Light the six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross on Maundy Thursday. Tell the story about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the last supper in your own words. When you finish telling the story, blow each candle out and say this prayer: **Dear Lord Jesus, help us to honor your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. We ask this in your precious name, amen.**

On Good Friday do not light the candles. Cover the Lenten Candle Cross with a black cloth and observe a time of silence.



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
148 Lee Avenue ▪ New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.882.3029 ▪ office@stalbansnewbrunswick.org



CHRIST CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK
in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
5 Paterson Street ▪ New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org