



St. John's Episcopal Church
Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026 10am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Ciacona*

Bernardo Storace (ca. 1637-1707)

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Presider 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."

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.*

Presider Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Procession

Presider Let us go forth in peace.

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

The congregation is invited to join the procession through the sanctuary, following the Rector as we sing

Hymn 154

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring*

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

2 The company of angels
is praising thee on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

3 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems
before thee we present.

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

4 To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

5 Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Repeat beginning with verse 1 as needed until procession concludes

- 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.

following the reading

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion reading. The people stand at the mention of the name "Golgotha."

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. *The people stand at the mention of the name "Golgotha."*

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Sermon

The Rector

The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for our Bishop Julia; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, and especially for Bridget, Tony, Lyn, Megan, Cecilia, Elizabeth, Lin, David, Alicia, Mateo, and Ellen. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

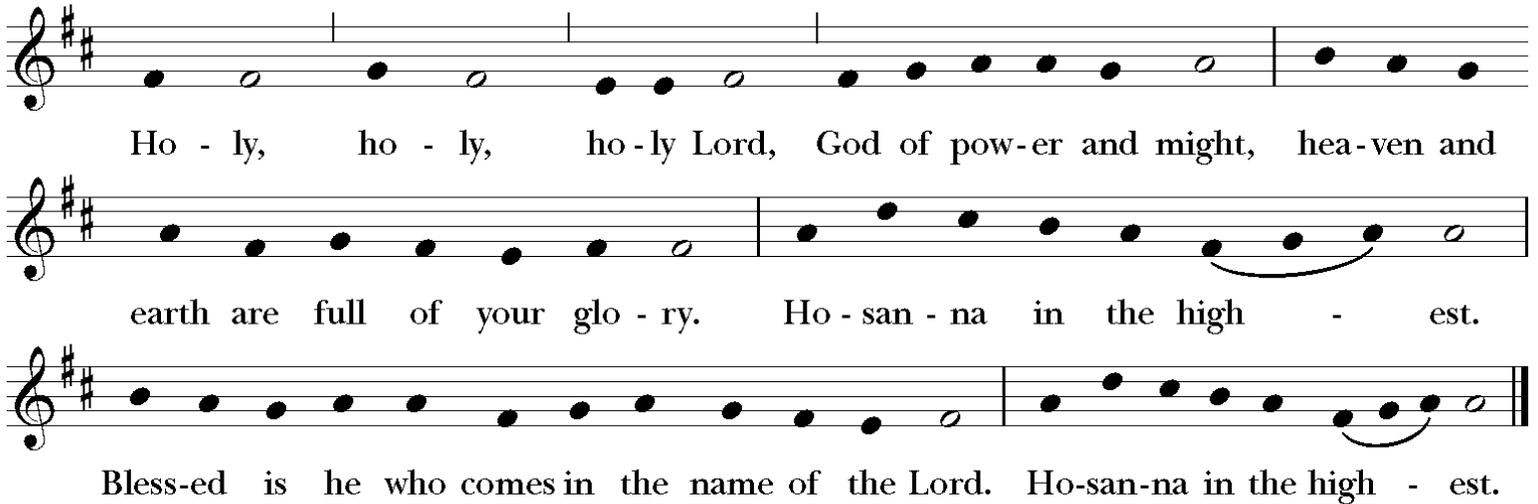
I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

The Sanctus S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

The Presider continues to give thanks, and invites all to join in

The Memorial Acclamation

Presider Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Presider continues praying, concluding with

Presider 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.

All **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

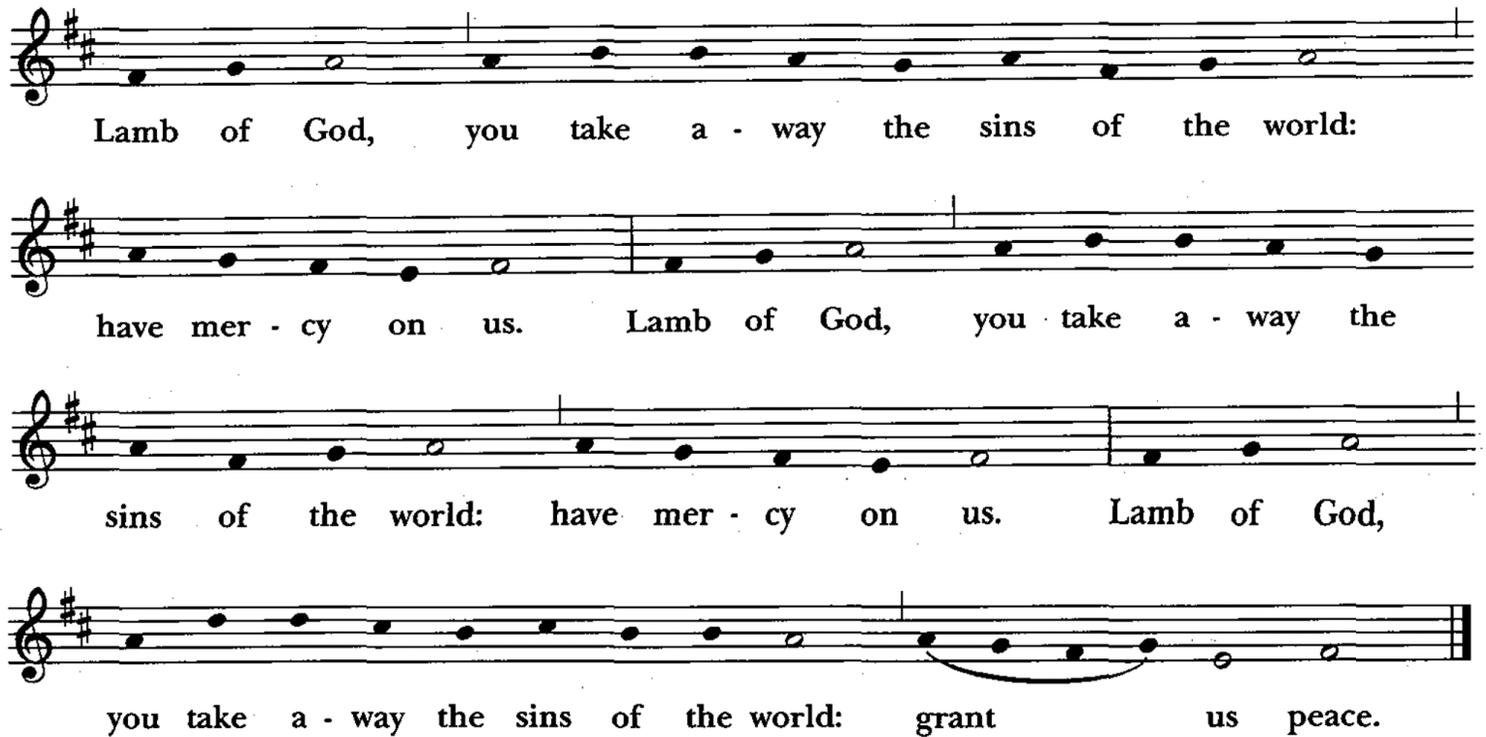
**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread *The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Agnus Dei S-161



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

Anthem at Communion *Is it nothing to you?*

Frederick Arthur Gore Ousley (1825-1889)

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

People **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 Prayer over the People *please kneel as you are able*

Closing Hymn #168 *O sacred head, sore wounded* HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Voluntary *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*You are invited to remain seated in the Sanctuary for the Postlude
or move immediately to the kitchen for refreshments.
Please help maintain a quiet atmosphere in the sanctuary during the Postlude.*

Ministers Serving Today:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Officiant

Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director

Julianne Gearhart, Vestry Person of the Day

Duncan Holbrook-Smith and Simon Ringrose, Readers

Shannon Fry and Kate Gunsch, Passion Gospel Readers

Augusta Fry, Intercessor

Duncan Holbrook-Smith, Chalice

Robin Moody and Elizabeth Hay, Ushers

D. Lawrence Ross, Altar Guild

Louise Ambler Osborn, Laura Carroll and Nancy Armstrong Coffee Hour Hosts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you're new to St. John's, welcome! If you'd like to stay in touch, you can fill out one of the **Visitor Cards** available in your pew to share your contact information and/or to sign up for our weekly newsletter to stay in touch about what's going on in the church.

From early times, Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. The services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday provide a liturgical experience of the last days of Jesus' earthly life and the events leading up to his resurrection as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the joy of Easter. You're invited to join us at any and all of the Holy Week services listed below.

Our Maundy Thursday observance begins at 6pm with a community supper (known as an "Agape meal") in the Parish Hall and continues in the Sanctuary for Footwashing, Holy Communion, and the Stripping of the Altar.

The Good Friday service is at 7pm, as we remember Jesus' crucifixion and death. We listen to the Passion According to John and reflect on Jesus' death with solemn prayers. At the conclusion of the service, all are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for silent prayer and reflection.

On Holy Saturday at noon, we observe a simple Liturgy of the Word as Jesus' body rests in the tomb on the Sabbath day. Drawing on the traditions of our funeral services, this liturgy invites us to reflect on the fragility of human life.

At 7pm on Saturday we celebrate the Great Vigil, the first celebration of Easter. The service begins in darkness with the kindling of the new fire and the lighting the Paschal candle; readings from the Hebrew Scriptures interspersed with psalms and prayers; the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the First Eucharist of Easter.



Calendar for Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Thursday, April 2

6pm ~ Maundy Thursday Service
with Community Supper (Agape Meal)

Friday, April 3

7pm ~ Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 4

12pm ~ Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word
7pm ~ Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday
10am ~ Holy Eucharist
11:15 ~ Easter Egg Hunt

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 Devens Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

617-242-1272 | stjohns02129@gmail.com | www.stjohns02129.org

The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Nancy Savage, Godly Play Teacher

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sexton

Mr. Matt Hast and Ms. Shannon Fry, Wardens