

# The Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ



March 28, 2026 • 5 pm

## **WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

Our mission is to be a Christian community of all ages  
grounded in worship, well-being and service.

We hope you will experience God's own welcome here and return again and  
again. Find us online at [www.smcportsmouth.org](http://www.smcportsmouth.org) and on Facebook.

## NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP AT ST. MARY'S

- If you are our guest today, please complete a welcome card and put it in the offering plate or give it to the greeter. This will give us a chance to learn your name welcome you more personally.
- It is our pleasure to welcome children and their parents at all services. We understand that children's energy and voices are gifts they may share during worship. That is how God made them and we are grateful they are worshipping with us. Feel free to step out and step back in as needed. Sitting as close to the front as possible helps them to see.
- If you have need, restrooms are accessible on both levels of the parish house.
- Text written in **bold** in this bulletin is to be spoken by all. When printed, the ✠ indicates an appropriate time to make the sign of the cross.
- All Christians are invited to the Holy Table to receive communion. If it is difficult for you to walk, please notify a greeter, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. If you are interested in Holy Baptism, please speak with our rector, Jennifer. We welcome the opportunity to prepare people of all ages for baptism.
- Music Notes:  
Our music books for worship include Wonder Love and Praise, WLP & The Hymnal 1982. Both can be found in the pew. Additional music can be found in the bulletin.

To find out what's happening at St. Mary's this week and in the coming weeks, visit our on line calendar by scanning the QR code below!



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Weather permitting, we begin outside.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### LITURGY OF THE PALMS

#### Opening Acclamation

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

*People* Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

#### Opening Prayer

*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.**

#### Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

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."

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Blessing of 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 him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## Procession

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

*After the palms are distributed the people process into the church,  
entering through the west doors.*

*Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29 is read, as the procession enters.*

*The priest says from the back of the church:*

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.**

*The Ministers enter in silence.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Collect of the Day

*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 People may be seated.*

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

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.**

Psalm 31:9-16

*spoken together*

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 con- / sumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,  
a dismay to those of my ac- / quaintance; \*  
when they see me in the street they a - / void 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 a- / round; \*  
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 New Testament Letter: 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.**

*All may be seated for the reading of the Passion Gospel.*

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.*

**The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew** Matt. 26:14-27:66

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.*

*The people may stand as indicated by the lector.*

**Meditation**

*At various points in the Gospel, we will pause for reflection.*

*All may stand for the Prayers.*

**Prayers of the People**

BCP, 388 Form IV

*The people may offer prayers aloud during the silence following each petition.*

The leader will say, “Lord, in your mercy,”

*Our response will be*

**Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Offertory

*If you would like to make an offering there is a plate at the rear of the church, or if electronically please use this code.*



*The people may stand as the gifts are brought forward.*

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon 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:

## **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.**

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**

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

**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**

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*Please come forward at the invitation: "The gifts of God for the people of God ..."*

## Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.  
Solemn Prayer over the People

*Celebrant* Bow down before the Lord.

*All may bow as they are able.*

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.**

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Liturgical Ministers

**Altar Guild:** Jennie Nestlerode, Joanne Gracia

**Greeters:** Marlo Pratt, Christine Cotsoridis

**Lectors:** Anne Wood, Audrey Chase, Lauren Lema

**Crucifer/Lay Eucharistic Minister:** Lauren Lema





*Worship at St. Mary's will begin in or outside the historic church. We share worship with Holy Trinity on Good Friday evening and at the Great Vigil. See below for details.*

### **Triduum Sacrum - The Three Holy Days**

**Maundy Thursday** – April 2, 7 pm at St. Mary's church (*livestream*)

*Foot washing – Remembering the Last Supper – Stripping of the Altar*

**Good Friday** – April 3

*Passion Gospel – Solemn Collects – Burial Devotion*

Noon at St. Mary's church (*livestream*)

or

7 pm at Holy Trinity Church, 1956 Main Road Tiverton, RI

**Great Vigil of Easter at St. Mary's church** – April 4 (*livestream*)

*7:15 pm Lighting of the new fire*

*7:30 pm Blessing of the new fire and new Paschal Candle in the churchyard*

*The Exultet*

*The Story of God's Saving Actions*

*Baptism & renewal of baptismal vows – Easter Communion*

*Followed by a festive Easter celebration in the Parish House*

**Easter Sunday** – April 5, 9 am (*livestream*) and 11 am

*Festive Holy Eucharist*

*Egg Hunt 10:15*

**For our Easter services please bring bells to ring!**



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**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

324 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871

(401) 846-9700 ♦ [www.smcportsmouth.org](http://www.smcportsmouth.org)

The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. John Gregory Prior, *Associate Rector*

Michael DiMucci, *Pastoral Musician*

Karen Laroche, *Pastoral Associate of Administration*

Jon Walker, *Property Manager*