

**Palm Sunday  
The Sunday of the Passion  
March 29, 2026**

**The Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw  
**Assisting:** The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans, The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins,  
The Rev. Patricia Downing and The Rev. Walter Thorne  
**Homilist:** Ms. Lisa Sharon Harper, Aspirant for Holy Orders  
**Vergers:** Karen Ragland and Eugene Golson  
**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Chancel Choir, St. Thomas Gospel Choir and  
Ambassador Choir of St. James School  
**Donkey:** Beezus

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**Order of Service**

**The Liturgy of the Palms (To take place outside of the church)**

**The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

The Rev. Patricia Downing

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

**The 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."

**The Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

The Rev. Walter Thorne

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Let Israel now proclaim, \*

**"His mercy endures forever."**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*

**I will enter them;**

**I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

“This is the gate of the LORD; \*

**he who is righteous may enter.”**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*

**and have become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected \*

**has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the LORD's doing, \*

**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

On this day the LORD has acted; \*

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! \*

**LORD, send us now success.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*

**we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; \*

**form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

“You are my God, and I will thank you; \*

**you are my God, and I will exalt you.”**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*

**his mercy endures forever.**

### **The Blessing and Distribution of the Palms**

**The Processional – led by Beezus the donkey, Clergy, Acolytes, and Choir**

#### **Donkey riders:**

Sarah Williams-St. Thomas

Lucas Jackson-St. Thomas

Cameron Chatman-St. Thomas

Zavier Ingram-St. Thomas

Oshun McAllister EL-St. Thomas

Jayson Smith-St. James

Jeremiah Long -St. James

**The Opening Hymn- “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

**1982 Hymnal # 154**

**Refrain: 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 Blessed One. [Refrain]**

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

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

**4) To thee before they passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted our melody we raise. [Refrain]**

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

**A Word of Welcome**

The Celebrant

**The Opening Salutation**

**The Celebrant:** Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

**The People:** His mercy endures forever.

**The Collect for Purity**

BCP 355

**The Celebrant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

**The Kyrie**

BCP 356

**The Celebrant:** Lord, have mercy

**The People:** Christ, have mercy

**The Celebrant:** Lord, have mercy

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant:** Let us pray

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

**The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9**

Patricia Garfield, St. Thomas Health Ministry

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

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?

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 31:9-16**

Sharon Harper, St. Thomas Health Ministry

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; \*

**my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.**

For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing; \*

**my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

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.**

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \*

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

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.**

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. \*

**I have said, "You are my God.**

My times are in your hand; \*

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*

**and in your loving-kindness save me.'**

**The Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

Tynecia Wilson, St. Thomas Health Ministry

A Reading from the Book of Philippians.

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.

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual Hymn- “Were you There?” Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal (LEVAS) #37 (vv. 1-2)**

**1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**2) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**The Gospel Narrative according to Matthew 27:11-54**

Led by students from St. James School:

Jamillah Hannibal II

Janiyla Roberts

Joshiah Smith

Malaysia Cuffee-Pompey

Malaysia Green

Mi’Ayr Culbreth

**Palm Sunday Passion - Matthew 27:11-54**

**Narrator:** Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

**Pilate:** Are you the King of the Jews?

**Narrator:** Jesus said,

**Jesus:** You say so.

**Narrator:** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

**Pilate:** Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

**Narrator:** 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,

**Pilate:** Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

**Narrator:** 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,

**Pilate’s wife:** Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

**Narrator:** 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,

**Pilate:** Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

**Narrator:** And they said,

**Crowd:** Barabbas.

**Narrator:** Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:** Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

**Narrator:** All of them said,

**Crowd:** Let him be crucified!

**Narrator:** Then he asked,

**Pilate:** Why, what evil has he done?

**Narrator:** But they shouted all the more,

**Crowd:** Let him be crucified!

**Narrator:** 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,

**Pilate:** I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

**Narrator:** Then the people as a whole answered,

**Crowd:** His blood be on us and on our children!

**Narrator:** 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,

**Soldiers:** Hail, King of the Jews!

**Narrator:** 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. 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,

**Crowd:** 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.

**Narrator:** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

**Crowd:** 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.'

**Narrator:** 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,

**Jesus:** Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

**Narrator:** that is,

**Jesus:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Narrator:** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**Crowd:** This man is calling for Elijah.

**Narrator:** 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,

**Crowd:** Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

**Narrator:** 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,

**Centurion:** Truly this man was God's Son!

**The Homily Hymn- "Were You There"**

**LEVAS #37 (vv. 3-4)**

**3) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**4) Were you there when He rose up from the grave?**

**Were you there when He rose up from the grave?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when He rose up from the grave?**

**The Homily**

**Lisa Sharon Harper, Aspirant for Holy Orders**

**The Call to Christian Discipleship**

**The Celebrant**

**A Musical Selection**

**St. James School's Ambassador Choir**

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.**

**The Prayers of the People**

Dr. Timothy Barksdale, St. Thomas Health Ministry

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

**The Concluding Collect**

The Celebrant

**The Confession**

BCP 360

**The Celebrant:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Silence is kept)

**The Celebrant and The People:**

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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**

**The Absolution**

The Celebrant

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. **AMEN**

**The Peace**

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

**The People:** And also with you.

**A Musical Selection**

St. James School's Ambassador Choir

**The Holy Eucharist**

**Offertory Sentence and Offering**

**Oblation Bearers**

Ky'ale Ballard and Ryan Rivers, St. James School

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**Offertory Musical Selection**

St. Thomas Mass Choir

**The Great Thanksgiving (Sung)**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**The People:** It is right to give God 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. (Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface)

Therefore we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and the People:**

**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.**

**The Celebrant:** 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:

**The Memorial Acclamation: (Sung)**

**Jesus Christ has died.**

**Jesus Christ is risen.**

**Jesus Christ will come again.**

**The Celebrant:** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer 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 your, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer (Sung)**

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

**The Celebrant and the People:**

**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, forever and ever. AMEN.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**The People:** Therefore let us keep the feast.

**The Agnus Dei (Sung)**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Grant us thy peace.

### **The Prayer of Humble Access**

**Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.**

**The Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **The Distribution of Communion**

(All baptized persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament. If you only wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest.)

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

**The Celebrant and the 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.**

### **Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

**The Celebrant:** In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**The People:** We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

### **The Announcements**

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

### **The Recognition of Visitors and Guests**

### **The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel**

### **The Final Blessing**

The Celebrant

### **The Closing Hymn- "Down at the Cross"**

LEVAS # 28

**1) Down at the cross where my Savior died. Down where for cleansing from sin I cried; there to my heart was the blood applied;**

**Glory to His name. Glory to His name. Glory to His name!**

**There to my heart was the blood applied. Glory to His name.**

**2) I am so wondrously saved from sin. Jesus so sweetly abides within; there at the cross where He took me in; Glory to His name.**

**Glory to His name. Glory to His name: There to my heart was**

**the blood applied. Glory to His name.**

**3) O precious fountain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have entered in; There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean;**

**Glory to His name. Glory to His name. Glory to His name.**

**4) Come to this fountain so rich and sweet;**

**Cast your poor soul at the Savior's feet;  
Plunge in today, and be made complete;  
Glory to His name. Glory to His name. Glory to His name.**

**The Dismissal  
The Postlude**

Fr. (Gerald) Jay Collins  
St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The End of Mass:** This is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the closing hymn and dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the service before its conclusion. This request is being made to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

