



The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Saint Luke's Parish
Darien, Connecticut

Welcome!

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, we are so glad you have joined us for worship today. May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here. Everything you need to participate in today's service is included in this leaflet. Ushers are available to answer any questions or direct you as needed. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete and return a welcome card so we can be in touch. May God bless you now and always.

About Today's Service

Today's liturgy marks the beginning of Holy Week. In this Palm Sunday service we journey with Jesus as he is welcomed in triumph upon entering Jerusalem and then utterly rejected and crucified at Golgotha outside the gates of the city. Today's reading of Christ's passion sets forth the central act of God's love for humankind. We are not just observers but are part of the passion of Christ and through it we come to know the reality of God's saving action in our lives. Holy Week will culminate in the celebration of the Triduum—the Sacred Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion
Come As You Are Liturgy of the Palms
& Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Rector's Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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.**

The Gospel of the Triumphant Entry | Matthew 21:1-11

Deacon The 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Welcome to visitors and members alike. Our church's motto is: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and we hope you find this a most hospitable place to worship, to grow, and to be.

The order for our service is from the **Book of Common Prayer**. The order is called the liturgy, which means "work of the people." It is responsive and participatory because your contribution to worship is what truly makes us a worshipping community.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. On this Sunday we enter into a week of remembering and reenacting Jesus' final days, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the last supper in the upstairs room, to the foot of the cross, all before we arrive again at the joy of the empty tomb on Easter morning.

The service starts with the **Liturgy of the Palms**. In it we wave palm fronds to join with the first century followers of Jesus as we proclaim with them across time and space that Jesus is our king and Messiah, the one we have all been waiting and hoping for.

The people raise their palms as the Celebrant then says the following blessing.

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.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Refrain:

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

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

Refrain

The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

Refrain

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

Refrain

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 Word of God

The First Lesson | Isaiah 50:4-9

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain CCLI License # 11394986

The Lectionary: The choice of readings comes from the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings covering the whole Bible that we share with other major Christian denominations.

“Hosanna”

I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes
Yeah

I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

Chorus:

Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest (x2)

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

[Chorus]

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me

Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

[Chorus x2]

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew

Please stand upon hearing, “a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull)”.

Musical Meditation

The Prayers of the People

The Celebrant begins

As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the Paschal Mystery of his death and resurrection, let us pray to God for ourselves and for the world.

The Intercessor continues

Fill the Church, Christ's broken body, with your Spirit. Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the cross and follow you. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

“Hosanna”

By Brooke Ligertwood
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There is always a **Gospel** reading and it is proclaimed by the deacon or priest from among the people. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ among us, but it is also our story, the good news of our faith.

The **Prayers of the People** are always responsive. They are “of the people” because everyone gives voice to the supplications. It is part of our liturgy where it is most evident that we would be noticeably less without the contribution of each person present.

Bless those who lead the Church's worship at this solemn time. In the proclamation of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments, draw your people close to you. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Strengthen those among us who are preparing for baptism and confirmation this Easter. Teach them what it means to die and rise with Christ, and prepare them to receive the gift of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Look in mercy upon the world you made, and for which your Son came to live and die as one of us. Strengthen those who work to continue his ministry of reconciliation, peace, justice, and love. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Bring healing to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice. Help the lonely and the betrayed, the sick, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus, and in his passion to know their salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship. According to your promises, bring them with all your saints to share in your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you all our days, and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Please stand.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make an electronic gift today, please either visit www.saintlukesdarien.org/give or scan the QR code below with your phone.

Thank you for your generosity.



Offertory Words

“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

The **Peace** has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the Apostles. It is both the proper response to the Word, and our expression of reconciliation with one another before we come to the altar to be reconciled with God.

The **Offertory** is where we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of Thanksgiving, which is what Eucharist means.

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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, 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 & Benedictus

Sung by all.

Grayson Warren Brown

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Hea-ven and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

For Episcopalians, the Eucharist, rather than the sermon, is the principle act of Christian worship. The Eucharistic prayer always entails a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel.

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.

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

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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

Sung by all.

Ike Sturm

Je - sus, Lamb of God. You for-give our sins. Have mer cy on us.
Lord, you take a - way our sins. Lord, grant us peace, O
Lamb of God.

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It is a form on which we can model our prayers.

Invitation to Communion

The Table is ready. So, come, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short. Come, because it is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion, regardless of age or denomination. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Song “Above All ”

Postcommunion Prayer

**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

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.**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please depart in silence.

The Eucharist, or **Communion**, is reminiscent of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death. Now he shares it with us and invites all of us to share symbolically in his life, death, and resurrection, through it. It should remind us that we are Christ's body in our time.

The Postcommunion Prayer concludes the Eucharist. In it we always say “thank you” to God for the gift of Christ, the Spirit, and the community of the Church.

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a **Solemn Prayer** over the people is used to beseech God to strengthen our faith and aid us in our efforts.

The **Dismissal** is an important part of the service. Having heard the gospel and been served at the table of Christ, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the good news and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

The Altar Flowers are given today to the Glory of God.

Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor
Deacon	The Rev. Ansley E. Walker
Lay Reader & Chalice Bearer	Ellie O'Kane
Intercessor & Chalice Bearer	Mary Shaw
Greeter	Val Maroney
Altar Guild	Pat Cage
Musicians	Bob Leinbach, Keyboards, Vocals Anna Jacobson, Vocals, Violin Tod Baharian, Guitar, Vocals Tod Hedrick, Bass Colin Meyer, Percussion

About these Prayers

Saint Luke's is a community committed to prayer. Holding one another's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice at the heart of our life together. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family.

We invite you to add yourself or others to the Saint Luke's prayer list by submitting a prayer request card or notifying the Parish Office at 203-655-1456 or info@saintlukesdarien.org.

Pastoral Visits

Please notify us if you or a family member is hospitalized and/or in need of a pastoral call or visit. We often have no other way of knowing a visit is needed. Please email a member of the clergy or call the Parish Office.

Sharing Holy Communion

If illness prevents you or a loved one from joining us for services, a priest or a lay eucharistic visitor can share Holy Communion with you at home or in a health care facility. Please contact the Parish Office.

Celebrations

If you would like to ask for prayers for the celebrations in your life or in the life of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

Flowers

The Flower Guild adorns the church with flowers and greens thanks to donations given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for special occasions. The names are listed in the service bulletins. If you would like to make a gift of flowers, please contact Aynsley Joyce at 203-655-1456 or aynsleyjoyce@gmail.com.

12 Step Groups

Saint Luke's hosts multiple 12 Step Recovery and Support groups, including AA, AlAnon, Alateen, and Fabulous Women of Wednesday. Call the Parish Office for meeting times, or see our online calendar.

Prayer List

For the Church

In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

In our Diocese, we pray for St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; Regions & Regio Leadership teams. For Holy Landers Ministry Network.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for the staff at Saint Luke's Parish.

Thanksgivings & Celebrations

For the birth of Emma McLean Wood, daughter of Andrew and Lauren, granddaughter of Terrie and Jay Wood.

Those who have requested our prayers

For members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Charlie, Cody, Lauren, Anne, Foster, Nathan, Desi, Mary, Chloe, Christian, Elizabeth, Jim, Beth, Kerry, Ava, April, Ann, Gaffney, Ellen, Donna, Melissa, Dave, Steven, Marilyn, Warren, Kyle, Megan, Judy, Laura, Larry, John, Paul, Our service members, Megan, Robert, Vivian, Wayland.

In our Outreach cycle of prayer, we pray for Pacific House all clients, staff, volunteers, and board members.

Those who have died

All whom we love but see no more.

All who have died in civil and military conflict around the world, especially in the Holy Land, Sudan, and Ukraine

Saint Luke's Parish

A parish in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,
a member of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop of Connecticut The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Rector

The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor

2026-2027 Vestry

Bill Bowman, *Senior Warden* Lida Ward, *Junior Warden*
Eric Bickford, *Treasurer* Fred Elliott, *Clerk*

Class of 2027
Victoria Bolton
Marilu Cleary
Jeanne Sekse

Class of 2028
Barclay Bowen
Bion Piepmeier
Tammy Sload

Class of 2029
Gayle Baldwin
Whitney Cruetz
Peter Love

Assisting Clergy and Program Staff

Frankie Amore
Youth Assistant
Jodie Azzopardi
Office Manager
Erika Caputo
Director of Children's Ministries
Lyle Foster
Facilities Manager
Huw Jones
Associate Organist
Misty Krasawski
Seminarian Intern
Amy O'Kane
Director of Communications

The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim
Associate Rector
H. David Pulliam
Director of Music and Organist
The Rev. Ansley E. Walker
Associate Rector
Kelly Wheeler
Director of Engagement
Ron Wilson
Director of Finance
The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Pastoral Associate

Priest Associates

The Rev. Dawn Stegelmann
The Rev. G. Hartwell Hylton

Campus Partners

Elizabeth Hearle
Parish School Director
Nancy Coughlin
Director of Person-to-Person

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Saint Luke's Parish

Grow

Love

Serve

Holy Week & Easter

Maundy Thursday | April 2

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 8:00AM | Morning Prayer <i>in the Chapel</i> |
| 4:00PM | Children's Service <i>in the AYCC</i> |
| 7:00PM | Solemn Eucharist with Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar |
| 8:30PM | Vigil at the Altar of Repose <i>in the Chapel</i> |

Good Friday | April 3

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9:30 AM | Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk |
| 12:00PM | Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday with Veneration of the Cross |
| 4:00PM | Children's Good Friday Service <i>in the AYCC</i> |

Holy Saturday | April 4

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8:30 AM | Liturgy for Holy Saturday <i>in the Columbarium</i> |
| 3:00 PM | Children's Easter Vigil <i>in the AYCC</i> |
| 7:00 PM | The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter |

Easter Day | April 5

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 7:45 AM | Holy Eucharist with Hymns <i>in the Church</i> |
| 9:15 AM | Festal Holy Eucharist <i>in the Church</i> |
| 9:15 AM | <i>Come As You Are</i> Holy Eucharist <i>in the AYCC</i> |
| 11:15 AM | Festal Holy Eucharist <i>in the Church</i> |
| 11:15 AM | Holy Eucharist <i>in the Chapel</i> |