

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 9:30 AM
The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
St. John's Episcopal Church
March 29, 2026**



***Our liturgy begins outdoors.
Please gather in the churchyard as close to the main
church doors as possible.

Palms will distributed for the Procession of the Palms.***

Choral Introit

Hosanna in the Highest

Text from Matthew 21:9, Zechariah 9:9a, Luke 19:38

Music by David W. Music

CANTATE

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

*Daughter of Zion, rejoice and see, your King comes to you.
Shout now, O daughter of Jerusalem, your King comes to you.*

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

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Celebrant 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.**

The Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem

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."

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 God thanks and praise.

All raise their palms for the blessing.

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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

All enter the church, waving palms and singing...

All glory, laud, and honor
#154, The Hymnal 1982

Valet will ich dir geben

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 is 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 praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present. **[Refrain]**

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

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

Celebrant 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 Liturgy of the Word

All remain standing in body or spirit.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People God's mercy endures forever.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.**

All are seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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?

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

- 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 consumed.**
- 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: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel lesson (the Passion story) will follow Communion today.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Interim Rector

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.



All stand in body or spirit for

The Prayers of the People

Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

Leader Be present, O merciful God, as we offer our prayers to you, knowing that you are always doing more for us than we can desire or ask.

Silence.

God of Love and Vulnerability, Jesus lived your Love fully as he walked the hard lonely road of pain and humiliation to the cross and death. Open our hearts to walk with him in self-giving Love in all that we do. Help us to embody the Truth that your Love is ultimately stronger than any hurt or evil that can befall us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Mother Hen, gather your Church throughout the world under the wings of your care. Banish fear and empower your gospel to be proclaimed. Bless all your people to be like Abram and trust in you. We especially pray for St. John's in this time of transition. Fill our leadership, staff, vestry, and search committee with the grace of your love and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Repentance and Truth, we pray for our nation and all in authority, especially for our President, Congress, Judiciary, and all local officials. May your truth and wisdom guide their decisions, that we may turn away from divisiveness, self-centered blindness, and systemic injustice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God the Great I AM, your providence sustains our lives and the world in which we live. Fill all people everywhere with the fire of your Love to care for your creation and all who are oppressed, homeless, and without hope. Like the fig tree, mercifully tend to us that we may be strengthened to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable, hungry, ignored, or despised. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Wholeness and Peace, as Mary anointed your Son Jesus before his passion, may your healing power anoint all who are afflicted or suffering in any way in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for **Carol, Tammy, Cindy, Elizabeth, Caroline, Marita, Wally, Dan,** and those we name to you now (*all may name those in need, either silently or aloud*). May your love and tenderness particularly enfold all who suffer from chronic conditions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Gladness and Delight, we ask your blessing on those who are joyous today, and especially on all those celebrating birthdays this week; Brian Doyle, Valerie McCoy, Linda Glenn. Lord of all blessings, **hear our prayer.**

God of Welcome and Hope, as our bodies eventually return to the dust, we place our sure and certain hope in the Resurrection of your Son. Welcome into your Eternal Life and Peace, we pray, all who have died, (*and those we name to you now, either silently or aloud*). Let perpetual light shine upon them forever. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Merciful God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love that we may be strengthened to do your will in all that we say, think, and do, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please be seated.

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

**Offertory Hymn
#435, The Hymnal 1982**

At the name of Jesus

Words: Caroline Maria Noel
Music: King's Weston

*On this final Sunday of Women's History Month, CAROLINE MARIA NOEL (1817-1877) was an English Anglican hymnographer, whose works are included in many standard hymnals. Though Noel began writing poetry as a teenager, she ceased this path and only resumed writing decades later, prompted by a serious illness. Her volume of verses entitled *The Name of Jesus and Other Poems* (1861), included today's hymn text.*

1 At the Name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

3 bore it up triumphant,
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your Captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

2 Humbled for a season,
to receive a Name
from the lips of sinners,
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed;

4 Name him, Christians,
name him, with love strong as death,
name with awe and wonder
and with bated breath;
he is God the Savior,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshiped,
trusted, and adored.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory
o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

All stand in body or spirit.

The Doxology

(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

p 361 Book of Common Prayer Eucharistic Prayer A

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing....who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus— Holy, holy, holy

S-130 (front of hymnal)

Setting from Deutsche Mass, Franz P. Schubert;

arr. Richard Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

All stand or kneel in body or spirit. The Celebrant continues.

Celebrant Holy and gracious father: In your infinite love...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption....

...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.**

Celebrant 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.

All stand in body or spirit.

Fraction Hymn

Setting from Deutsche Mass, Franz P. Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx

S-164, Agnus Dei (front of hymnal)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher. At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

Communion Hymn

#458, The Hymnal 1982

My song is love unknown

Words: Samuel Crossman

Music: Love Unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know!
But O, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his strong praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.

Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease
and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet steadfast he to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home;
but mine the tomb
wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

All stand in body or spirit for

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 Celebrant prays a Solemn Prayer for the People.

Eternal God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Savior Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts, led by a narrator.

NARRATOR: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

ACCUSERS: "This fellow said, `I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

BYSTANDER: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: But they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now 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,

CONGREGATION: "Barabbas."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "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,

CONGREGATION: "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.

(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing as able for the remainder of the reading.)

*NARRATOR: 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,

BYSTANDERS: "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,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "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,

BYSTANDERS: "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,

BYSTANDERS: "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!"

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

NARRATOR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

***The ministers depart in silence.
Then, the Congregation departs in silence.***



Holy Week & Easter



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

- 7 PM Service with Holy Eucharist (Livestreamed)

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

- Noon — Stations of the Cross
- 7 PM Proper Liturgy (Livestreamed)

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

- 7:45, 9:30, and 11:15 AM Easter Services in the Church Sanctuary (Livestreamed at 9:30 AM)
- 10:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt on the Upper Churchyard Lawn prior to the 11:15 AM service — **DON'T FORGET YOUR EASTER BASKET!**

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