

# **Bethesda Episcopal Church**



**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

**2 April 2023**

**8.00am Blessing of Palms & Holy Communion**

*All stand as the Ministers enter.*

### ***The Entrance Rite: The Liturgy of the Palms***

*Priest:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People:* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with thy help, O God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The Palm Sunday Gospel***

*Matthew 21.1-11*

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Matthew  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.  
*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*All remain standing. The Celebrant blesses the branches of palm, the people holding them high.*

*People* The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is right to praise thee, Almighty God, for the acts of love whereby thou hast redeemed us through thy 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. Bless these branches that they 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 leadeth unto eternal life; who liveth and reigneth in glory with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Collect of the Day***

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that we should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit*

### **The Lesson**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

*The congregation remains seated for the first part of the Passion Gospel. The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted today.*

### **The Gospel of the Passion**

*Matthew 27.11-54*

The Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

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

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

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

and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*All stand.*

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, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

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

*The Nicene Creed and Confession of Sin are omitted on Palm Sunday. All kneel.*

### ***The Prayers of the People***

*Celebrant*        In peace let us pray to the Lord.

In our Intercessions for the Church and parish this week, we pray for the Anglican Communion, and today, we remember the Episcopal Province of South Sudan. In the Albany diocese, we pray for the ministry of Michael Smith, our Assisting Bishop; and in our parish, we ask for God's blessing as we begin this Holy Week.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son. Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet and to stand with those condemned to die.  
Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes. Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.  
Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in your kingdom. Give pardon and hope, healing and peace, to all who look death in the face. Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other's care. Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross. Fill our relationships with mutual care and responsibility, and give us a secure hope for the future. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah. Open our eyes that we may see in your Son the meaning of life and death. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body away. Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness to those who minister to them. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John, became part of your Church in Jerusalem. Bring into your Church today a varied company of people to walk with Christ in the way of his passion and to find their salvation in the victory of the cross. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The Celebrant concludes with a prayer.*

*All stand.*

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And with thy spirit.**

*The Greetings are omitted today.*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

	The Lord be with you.
People	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	<b>We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People	<b>It is meet and right so to do.</b>

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*All kneel. The Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father,**

### ***The Fraction***

*Celebrant  
People*

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

### ***Agnus Dei***

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step.*

*After Communion, all kneel.*

### ***The Prayer after Communion***

Let us pray. Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Blessing and Dismissal***

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Celebrant  
People*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Notices

**Readers.** Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:

8am Lisa Edele

10am Katie Hooper & Tom Remington

**Maundy Thursday** The church will be open for private prayer on Maundy Thursday between 8pm - 10pm, and on Good Friday between 10am - 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet at the door. If you wish to take part, please sign up for a particular period (each slot is 30 minutes) so that we have at least two persons present at all times.

**Sunday after Easter**, 16 April, there will be a service of **Readings and Music for Easter** at 10am with Elizabeth Huntley, harpist.

**Special Monthly Envelope** Donations in **April** will be directed to the Thomas T. Parke Music Fund. Fr Parke was Rector of Bethesda from 1968 to 2012. In recognition of his commitment to the liturgical and musical life of the parish, a fund was established in his name which would provide additional financial support to our choral program throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity to the ministry of music at Bethesda.

**Today**, the Cathedral Choir of All Saints', Albany, presents a service of lessons and carols on the Passion of Christ. The service begins at 3.00pm, and is preceded by an organ recital at 2.30pm. The Cathedral is located at 62 South Swan Street, Albany.

### **Holy Week and Easter Services 2023**

Wednesday, 5 April	7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 6 April	7pm <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Liturgy <i>The church remains open until 10pm for private prayer.</i>
Friday, 7 April	<i>The church opens at 10am for silent prayer.</i> 12 Noon Liturgy for <b>Good Friday</b>
Sunday, 9 April	<b>Easter Day</b> 8am Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 16 April	<b>The Sunday after Easter</b> 8am Holy Communion 10am Readings and Music for Easter

## ***Daily Devotions for Holy Week 2023***

**Invocation:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Opening Prayer** (*said daily*):

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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Readings:** (*before the reading, you can say the appointed psalm if you wish*)

Monday:	(Psalm 51.1-18)	John 12.9-19
Tuesday:	(Psalm 6)	John 12.20-26
Wednesday:	(Psalm 55)	John 12.27-36
Thursday:	(Psalm 102)	John 17.1-11
Friday:	(Psalm 40.1-14)	John 19.36-38
Saturday:	(Psalm 88)	Hebrews 4.1-16

Say the ***Our Father*** and the following ***prayers***:

O Holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother: may we know you more clearly; love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, now and for evermore. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

***Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact method: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Reason(s):

- Visitor or new resident
- Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- Interested in opportunities to serve
- Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge*

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