

Bethesda Episcopal Church



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

24 March 2024

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.**

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

Mark 11:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Mark.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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.

The Lord be with you.

People **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.**

The Lesson

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

Mark 15:1-39

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Mark.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

All stand.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, 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, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

A period of silence is kept after the Gospel. A homily is preached.

The Nicene Creed and Confession of Sin are omitted on Palm Sunday. After the homily, all kneel.

The Prayers of the People

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 Jeremiah, our Bishop; and for God’s blessing on our parish as we begin this Holy Week.

Intercessor In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

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.

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us. Q most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,

may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, today and for evermore. **Amen.**

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

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

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, 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 Fraction

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

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

Today

The **Bible Study** led by Dr Edele continues today at 9.20am. All welcome.

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

8am Bob Bullock

10am Epistle: Ann Bullock Prayers: Rick Wissler;

Passion Gospel: Libby Smith-Holmes, Rick Wissler, and Daniel Beach

Please note that there will be no refreshments today and Easter Sunday. If you are able to provide **refreshments** in the weeks after Easter, please sign your name on the sheet in the narthex.

Bethesda's special monthly envelope for **March** supports **LifeWorks**. Since 1965, Lifeworks Community Action has built a comprehensive network of programs and resources in Saratoga County to assist low-income families facing a variety of challenges, including health, housing, childcare, immigration and legal services. Envelopes are available on the back table.

Office After Easter Sunday, the parish office will be closed for two weeks. The office re-opens on Tuesday, 16 April.

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.

Upcoming Services at Bethesda

Wednesday in Holy Week. There will be a service of **Stations of the Cross** this Wednesday, 27th March at 7pm. The service lasts approximately half an hour. The Stations of the Cross are an exercise in following Christ in the last few hours of his earthly life through his passion and death as we contemplate the love our Saviour showed for us, revealed in the incidents that characterised his journey to the Calvary and the tomb.

This Thursday, 28 March, and the Thursday in Easter Week, 4 April, there will be service of **Holy Communion at 12.10.**

The **Maundy Thursday Liturgy** begins at 7pm. The church will remain open for private prayer following the service between 8pm - 10pm, and on Good Friday between 10am - 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet at the door. If you wish to keep vigil, 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, 7 April, there will be a service of **Lessons and Carols for Easter** at 10am with music by our choir and Elizabeth Huntley, harpist.

Daily Prayers for Holy Week

Opening Sentences

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Prayer (said daily)

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold 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 may add the appointed psalm.*

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

Prayers

Our Father, who art in heaven... Amen.

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.

Holy Week and Easter Services 2024

Wednesday, 27 March	7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 28 March	12:10pm Holy Communion 7pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy <i>The church remains open until 10pm for private prayer</i>
Friday, 29 March	<i>The church opens at 10am for private prayer</i> 12pm Liturgy for Good Friday
Sunday, 31 March	Easter Day 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 7 April	The Sunday after Easter 8am Holy Communion 10am Lessons and Carols for Eastertide <i>Music by the Choir and Elizabeth Huntley, harp</i>

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
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

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