

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 8:00 a.m.



Blessed is the one
who cometh in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The usher hands out palms as the people enter the church.

Welcome

The Liturgy of the Palms

✦ *Please stand when the bell rings.*

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who cometh in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord 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 Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant: 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.**

Please, raise your palm for the blessing.

It is right to praise thee Almighty God, for the acts of love by which 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. 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 thee and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

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 of God

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins. **God's mercy endures forever.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who, in 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 all mankind 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 First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm 31:9-16

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 Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

Please stay seated for the first part of the Passion.

*The congregation is invited to say the passages **in bold.***

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.

✦ *Please stand, as you are able.*

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!**"

Sermon followed by a time of silence

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: On this day when we follow our Lord into Jerusalem and toward the Cross, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor: For the Church throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and for all who lead and serve; let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and for all nations; for Donald, our President, and for all in authority; that those who govern may humble themselves in service and pursue justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peoples of the Middle East and all places torn by war; that God may comfort the suffering and move leaders toward reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jeannette, Lianne, Stacy, Bill, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Liz, Karen, Scott, Drew, Mary, Steve, Betsy, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, Bob, and those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*); that Christ, who in his passion bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, may sustain and console all who are in need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the lonely, the hungry, and the forgotten; let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those celebrating birthdays this week, Helen, Debi, Hanora, Cherlyn, Frank, Jeanne M., Deb; let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Holy God, whose Son humbled himself and became obedient unto death: hear the prayers of your Church, forgive our sins, and keep us faithful in this Holy Week, that bearing the cross with patience we may come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in thy hands: look with favor, we pray, on thy servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send thy blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Announcements

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code:

The Celebration of the Holy Communion



✠ At the Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

✠ The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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 he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, 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 glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

Breaking of the Bread

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

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.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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

Communion: *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Prayer over the People

Bow down before the Lord. *The people bow.*

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this thy 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 liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. **Amen.**

✠ The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

March 29, 2026 8:00 am

Worship Assistants	March 29 Palm Sunday	April 5 Easter Day
Usher	Cheryl Vecera	<i>1 needed</i>
Lectors	Roberta Wilhelm, Dave Gosnell, Ashley Schwartz, Dominic Day	Mary Lou Berg
Acolyte	Beverly Baker	Charlie Aler

March Altar Guild: Kim Tompkins, Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Helen Lang

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Steve and Deb Vana, in celebration of their twin sons' birthday today.

Attendance - March 22:

8:00 am - 22 10:15 am In-person - 65 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 4 **Total: 95**

Readings for Next Sunday: Easter - A

Acts 10:34-43 ; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10