

# Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday March 29, 2026 The Liturgy of the Palms



## Prelude:

*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 Gospel Reading - *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.***

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 he 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 glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1. Thou art the Kind of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4. To thee fe - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*



1. who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
2. and we with all crea - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
3. our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
4. to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
5. who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt; harm. Wiliam Henry Monk (1823-1889)

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* ***His mercy endures forever.***

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect*

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.

*People* ***Amen.***

### First Reading (*Please be seated*)

*Reader* A Reading from Isaiah:

#### *Introduction to the First Reading*

*This reading, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Christians have often recognized the figure of the suffering Christ in these poems.*

#### **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?

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

# Psalm of the Day

# Psalm 31:9-16



Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
 my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
 and also my throat and my belly.  
 For my life is wasted with grief,  
 and my years with sighing;  
 my strength fails me because of affliction,  
 and my bones are consumed.

[ANT.]

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.  
 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
 I am as useless as a broken pot.

[ANT.]

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.  
 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.  
 I have said, "You are my God.

[ANT.]

My times are in your hand;  
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
 and from those who persecute me.  
 Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
 and in your loving-kindness save me."

[ANT.]

## Second Reading

Reader A Reading from The Letter of Paul to the Philippians:

### *Introduction to the Second Reading*

*St. Paul quotes an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even suffering death, and then his exaltation and glory as Lord over all.*

### *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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn (Please stand as able) - See Page 7

#474 | "When I Survey"

## The Passion of Jesus Christ According To Saint Matthew *Matthew 26:14-27:66*

### THE SERMON

### The Nicene Creed (Please stand as able)

**We believe in one God,**  
*the Father, the Almighty,*  
*maker of heaven and earth,*  
*of all that is, seen and unseen.*

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
*the only Son of God,*  
*eternally begotten of the Father,*  
*God from God, Light from Light,*  
*true God from true God,*  
*begotten, not made,*  
*of one Being with the Father.*  
*Through him all things were made.*  
*For us and for our salvation*  
*he came down from heaven:*  
*by the power of the Holy Spirit*  
*he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,*  
*and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;*  
*he suffered death and was buried.*  
*On the third day he rose again*  
*in accordance with the Scriptures;*  
*he ascended into heaven*  
*and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*  
*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,*  
*and his kingdom will have no end.*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**  
*who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*  
*With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.*

*He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Have mercy on your Church, O Lord, for the times we have denied you. We have not been humble as you are humble. We are too often quick to speak and slow to love. *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Have mercy on those who hold authority in the nations of the world, O Lord, especially those who are deaf to your message of love and mercy. Forgive us for our silence and complicity. *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Have mercy on those of us who are called to be stewards of your creation, O Lord. We have exploited and mistreated your masterpiece. Teach us to love what you have called good. *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Have mercy on our enemies, O Lord, and on those who persecute us. Teach us the love of Jesus, who from the cross prayed, "Father, forgive them." *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Have mercy on all who are sick and suffering, O Lord. Strengthen the afflicted. Comfort and care for those wasted with grief. Make your face to shine upon your servants. *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Merciful Lord, you became obedient to death, even death upon a cross. Even as you have shared our mortality, mercifully grant us to share in your resurrection. *Silence* Look upon us in mercy;

*And with compassion remember us.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

*(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)*

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect, or a Doxology.)*

**The Confession of Sin** *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

*People* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *(Please stand as able)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**The Holy Communion**

*Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.*

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:  
 The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR  
 Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

**Offertory Sentence & Interlude**

**Doxology** *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung.)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

**Offertory Hymn**

*Please see page 8*

#341 | "For the Bread"

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus:** *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

*Hymnal S130*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and mi - ght, Hol - ly, ho - ly,

11 ho - ly Lord, God of power and mi - ght, heav - en and earth are fu -

20 ll, fu - ll of your glor - ry Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the

31 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes - . in the name of the Lo - rd. Ho -

41 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *Amen.*

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

*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
*hallowed be thy Name,*  
*thy kingdom come,*  
*thy will be done,*  
*on earth as it is in heaven.*  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*And forgive us our trespasses,*  
*as we forgive those*  
*who trespass against us.*  
*And lead us not into temptation,*  
*but deliver us from evil.*  
*For thine is the kingdom,*  
*and the power, and the glory,*  
*for ever and ever. Amen.*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction Anthem: O Lamb of God**

*New Plainsong*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world grant — us peace.

*Celebrant* 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.

**Post Communion Prayer** *(Please kneel or be seated)*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Blessed Jesus,**  
*in this rich meal of grace,*  
*you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.*  
*Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope*  
*to a world in need.*  
**Amen.**

**Benediction** *(Please stand as able)*

**Recessional Hymn**

*Please see page 9*

*"My Song is Love Unknown"*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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*The Rev. Terrence O'Connor, Jr., Priest-in-Charge*

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*Rebecca Frankum, Cantor*

*Tracy Howland, Usher*

*Bonnie Kuhn, Minister of Music*

*Scott Kresge, Minister of Technology & Parish Administration*

*Elizabeth Scheer, Jim Mulholland, Susan Mattia, Deb Vranich, Technology Ministry*

*Jean Skocypec, Helen Hines, Gerri Reuter, & Celeste Babiarz, Altar Guild*

## Jesus Christ our Lord

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1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 cross of Christ my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Another harmonization, 321.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: *Rockingham*, from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780;  
harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807)♩ = 100  
LM

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Holy Eucharist

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the  
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your  
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed  
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have  
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -  
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing  
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Words: Louis F. Benson (1855-1930), alt.

Music: *Omni die*, melody from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631;  
 harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895)

87. 87

# Recessional Hymn

"My Song is Love Unknown"

1. My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me,  
 2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow,  
 3. Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing,  
 4. Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
 5. They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made a - way;  
 6. In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;  
 7. Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di - vine:

1. love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be.  
 2. but men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know.  
 3. re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
 4. He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.  
 5. a mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life they slay.  
 6. in death no friend - ly tomb but what a stran - ger gave.  
 7. nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like thine.

1. O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
 2. But O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
 3. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
 4. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and  
 5. Yet stead - fast he to suf - ferings goes, that he his foes from  
 6. What may I say? Heaven was his home; but mine the tomb where -  
 7. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

1. flesh, and die? My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 2. life did spend. Who at my need his life did spend.  
 3. thirst and cry. And for his death they thirst and cry.  
 4. 'gainst him rise. Them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.  
 5. thence might free. That he his foes from thence might free.  
 6. in he lay. But mine the tomb where - in he lay.  
 7. glad - ly spend. I all my days could glad - ly spend.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), alt.  
 Music: *Rhosymedre*, John Edwards (1806-1885)