



MARCH 29, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

Members of the congregation gather in the parking lot for the procession.

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

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.**

A READING FROM 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."

The Celebrant offers the following blessing over the palms.

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 him 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 Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

THE PROCESSION

The congregation begins the procession with Psalm 118, joins in the hymn upon entering the church.

PSALM 118: 1-2, 19-29

Said in unison.

**¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**

**²Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."**

**¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

**²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."**

**²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.**

**²²The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.**

**²³This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**²⁴On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**²⁵Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.**

**²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

**²⁷God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

**²⁸"You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

**²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**

OPENING HYMN 154 All glory, laud, and honor

Once the congregation is back inside the church, the Celebrant continues

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.

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.**

A Reading from 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 awakens—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.**

⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I 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.

¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *

I have said, “You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; *

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me.”

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philipians.

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.**

Priest The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The customary responses before and after are omitted. The congregation remains seated until the mention of “the skull.”

Now 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.

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 SERMON The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston *All sit.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV) *All kneel as able.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; especially _____ that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially _____, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially _____, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant will add this concluding Collect

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 your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus

Ronald Pearsall

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind; whose pierced side flowed (with water) and blood; may it be for us a foretaste (of the Heavenly banquet) in the trial of death. ~ sung in Latin.

All stand as the offertory is brought up to the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

Remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

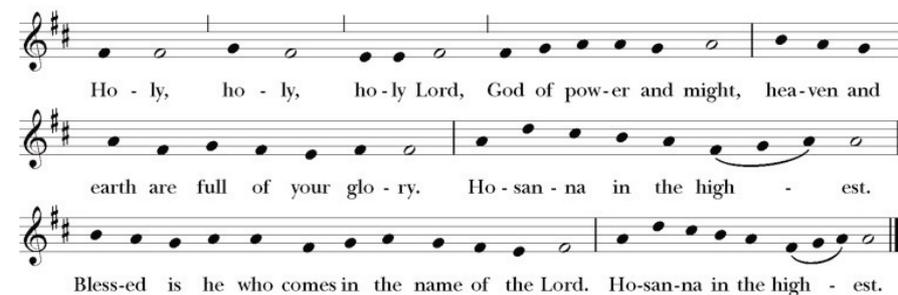
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel as able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the bread and after a moment of silence says

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

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.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor. If you are unable to come forward, the priest and eucharistic minister will come to you in your pew.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**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 BLESSING

All kneel as able.

The Celebrant blesses the people

Go now and follow Christ in obedience.

Have the same mind as was in Christ Jesus;

Keep your ears open to God's teaching;

Be humble, even in the face of hostility

and do not turn back.

And may God help you and keep you from disgrace;

May Christ Jesus lead you through the gates of justice;

And may the Holy Spirit keep you in God's steadfast love

and fill your mouths with praise to the glory of God. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 168 *O sacred head, sore wounded* (stanzas 1-3 only)

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fantasy in g minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*

The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Organist: Joel Gregory

Acolytes: Maggie Mantooth, Parker Mantooth, Anna Lynn White,
McKinney Wise

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Lector and Intercessor: Tracey Campbell, Natalie Snyder

Eucharistic Ministers: Kat Dailey, Robbie Everett, Dudley Perry

Ushers/Greeters: Florence Tyson, Tracey Campbell, Mary Martin Mitchell,
Karen Westhauser

Flower Delivery Team: Tracey Campbell

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Molly Ledyard McGough,
Joseph Matthew McGough, Sr., Joseph Matthew McGough, Jr., Ethel A. Mahan,
Oscar C. Mahan, Danella Kennedy Ledyard, William Morgan Ledyard

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Carolyn Fillmore, Anne Hill,
Emily Crump Johannes, Valinda Johnson, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat
McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud
Nason, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Constance Rodgers, Sarah Spratling,
Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton,
Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday,
Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Karen
Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Serge Ruffato, Ron Skoneki, Johnny Smith, Madera
Spencer, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Katherine Weidner, Frank Winkler,
Ross Wisnewski, Sharon Carney Wright

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

Pastoral Care Team for April: Jane Barganier, Melissa Carter, Alice Barganier
Longshore, Allison Prillaman



Holy Week at St John's



On Easter Sunday, April 5, we rejoice in the Resurrection with services at 7, 9, and 11 a.m. Between services, all are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15. Come and walk this holy journey with us—from the quiet of the cross to the triumph of the empty tomb. All are welcome.

***Please note: there will be no morning Eucharist Service on Tuesday or lunch Healing Service on Thursday of Holy Week.*

New Rector's Forum: Bouncing Back

Beginning Sunday, April 12, join us for a new Rector's Forum series, Bouncing Back, focused on what it means to live resilient Christian lives in an ever-changing and often challenging world. Together, we will explore how our faith equips us to navigate setbacks, uncertainty, and growth with hope, courage, and trust in God's enduring presence. Through thoughtful conversation and reflection, we'll consider practical ways to cultivate spiritual resilience in our daily lives.

The forum meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the library. All are welcome—come as you are and join the conversation.

Holy Week Services

Join us at St. John's Episcopal Church as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter. We begin with Holy Eucharist services at 12:05 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the chapel. Then the Maundy Thursday Service on April 2 at 6 p.m. commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another.

VBS Is on the Horizon...

Step back in time this summer at St. John's for an unforgettable Vacation Bible School experience! From June 1–4, children are invited to journey to ancient Rome for "ROME: Paul and the Underground Church," a vibrant marketplace-style VBS. Each day, participants will explore bustling shops, meet early Christians, and discover what life was like for Paul and the underground church as they shared the Good News in a challenging time. Through hands-on activities, storytelling, music, and crafts, children will experience Scripture in a whole new way—immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and spirit of the early Church. Registration link is available on the St. John's website or by emailing sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

Easter Flower Donations

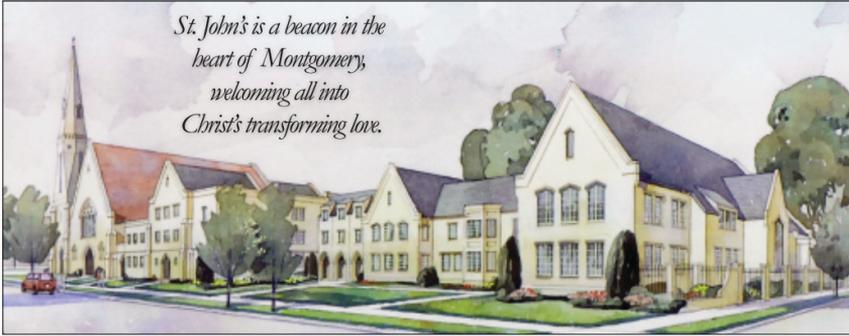
If you would like to contribute money toward decorating the church for Easter, you may do so by either writing a check to St. John's or giving via Tithely. If you would like to add honorarium or memorial names, please email to emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org. All memorial & honorarium names will be included in Easter bulletins. Please return names & donations by Monday, March 30.

Join a Guild at St. John's

St. John's is blessed with many opportunities to serve, and we invite you to share your time and talents by joining one of our church guilds. Guilds are at the heart of our parish life. They support our worship, care for our community, and help us live out Christ's call to love and serve. Some of the Guilds and Committees in need of volunteers include:

- Altar Guild - contact Kitty Coleman or Chuck Moore
- Flower Guild - contact Jean Smyth
- Reception - contact Libby Beck
- Pastoral Care - contact Virginia Banister

No experience is required — training and guidance are provided. Whether you can serve occasionally or regularly, there is a place for you.



We're glad you are at St. John's today.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or attending regularly,
you are a part of the St. John's family.

Visitor Card



Visitors, please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

stjohnsmontgomery.org

Visit our website to see service times,
news from the parish, upcoming events,
mission opportunities and more.



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.
Your generosity supports our ministries
in Montgomery and beyond.

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