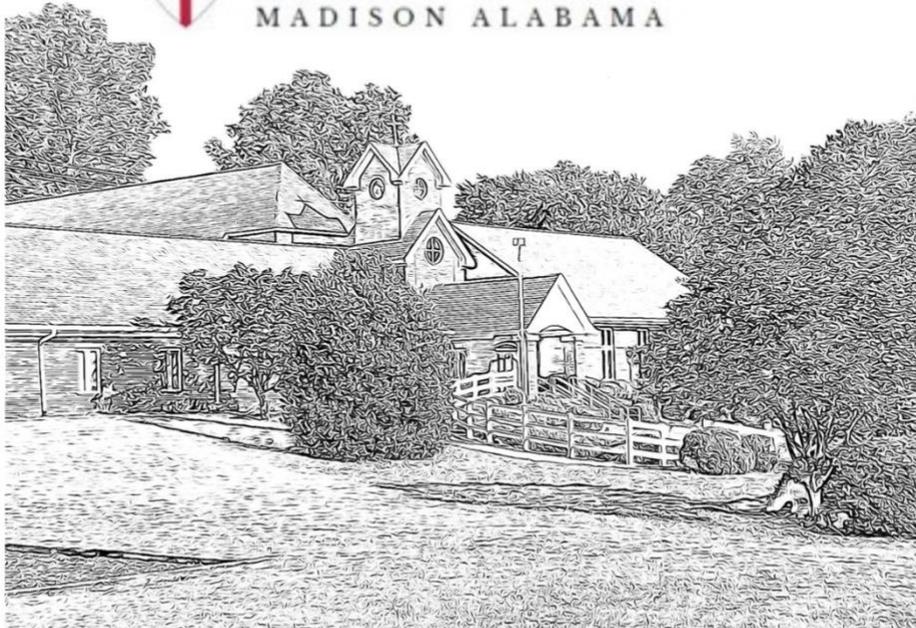




**ST MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

MADISON ALABAMA



**THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

MARCH 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Quiet before the service helps us to mark sacred space and time. Please use this time to prayerfully prepare for worship. Please remember to silence your cell phone.

The Liturgy of the Word

The service begins outdoors at the Columbarium (weather permitting).

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.**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Blessing of 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.**
Celebrant 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.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Llanfair*), *Choir*

John Charlton, *cantor*

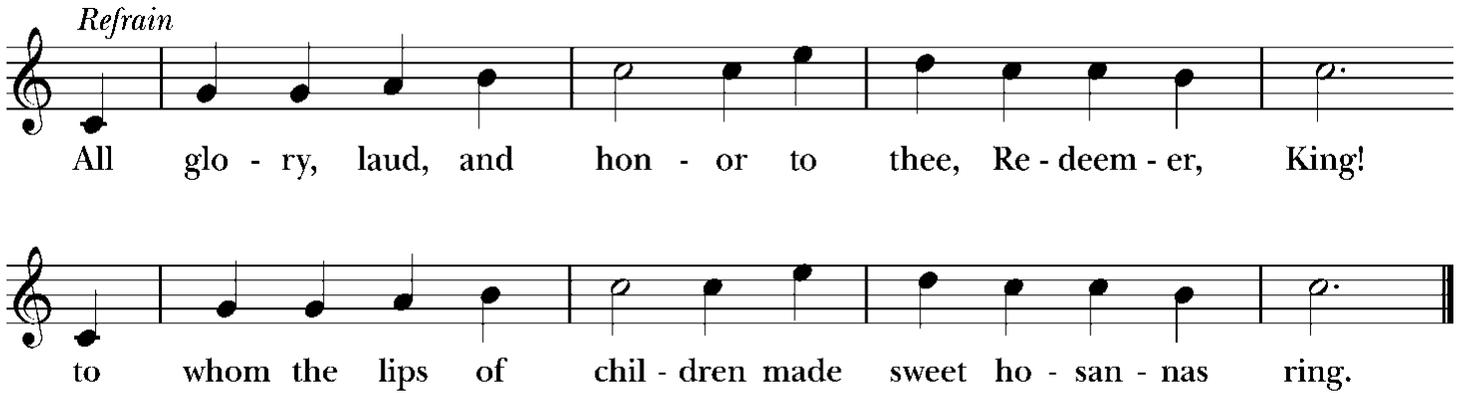
The Procession of the Palms

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.
People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

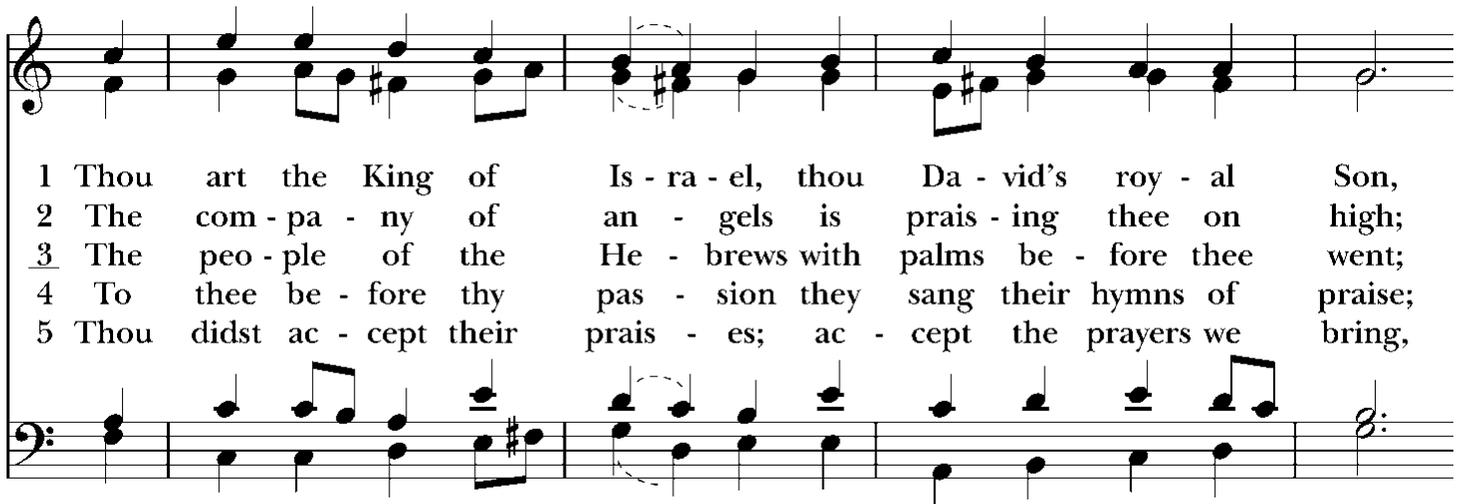
Processional Hymn #154, *Standing, sung by all*

All glory, laud, and honor

Refrain

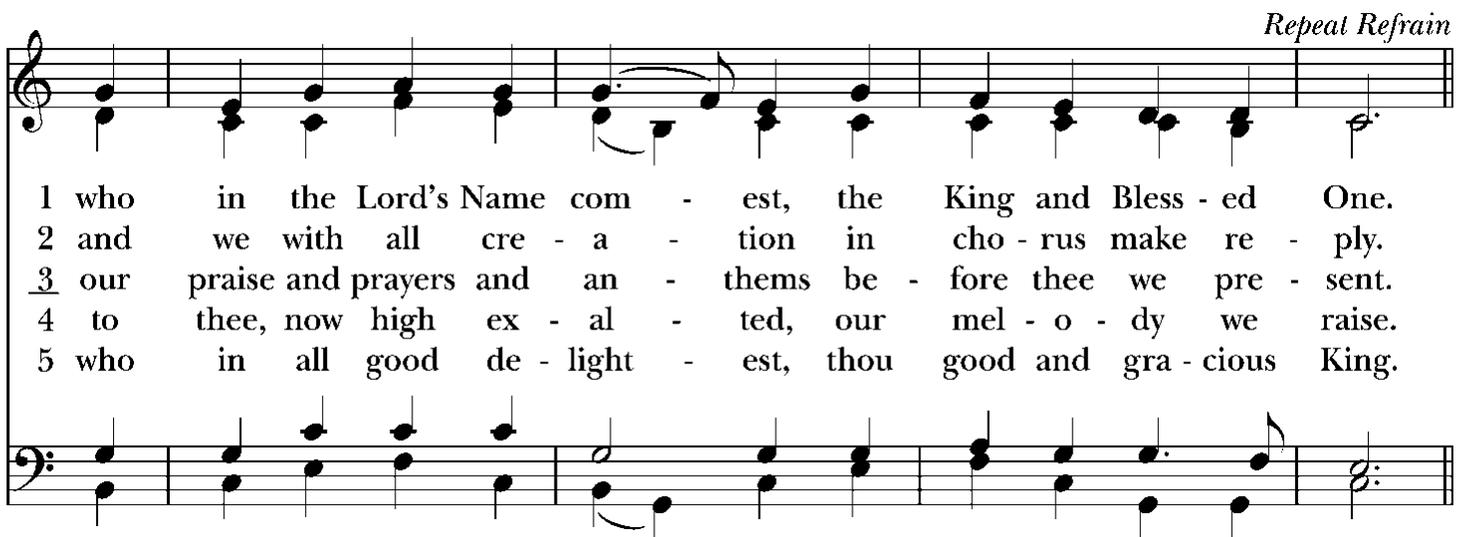


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King 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 be - 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 cre - 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 - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

All glory, laud, and honor, #154 from *The Hymnal 1982* — 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. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

The Lesson, 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?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **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

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.**

Sequence Hymn #156, *Standing, sung by all*

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!

The Passion Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

The congregation remains seated. Follow along on the Narrative located in the pews.

The Sermon

The Rev. Susan Sloan

The Prayers of the People – Form 1

BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda, our Bishop; for Richard, our Bishop-Elect; for Susan, our Interim Rector; for Taylor, our Deacon; for Bob and Sam, our retired clergy; for Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Donald, our President; for JD, our Vice President; for Kay, our Governor; for the Congress, State Legislature, and courts; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, Madison; for Ranae, our Mayor; for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Anglican Church of Melanesia; for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; for the Church of the Resurrection in Rainbow City, for Messiah in Heflin; for Grace Church in Sheffield; for Grace Church in Cullman; for Grace Church in Woodlawn; for all clergy spouses; for all who seek to be faithful to the call of Jesus Christ in their lives; for the Food Bank of North Alabama; for First Stop; for the Episcopal Relief and Development; for Sawyerville; for the Huntsville Assistance Program; for the National Children's Advocacy Center; for peace in Ukraine, and the Middle East, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, especially our military in the Middle East who are in harm's way, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome

The Offertory, *Sung by Choir* Ave Verum Corpus *(Sir Edward Elgar)*

(English translation) Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:

Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death! O clement, O loving, O sweet Jesus, son of Mary.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus #S-124, *Sung by all*

Standing or kneeling

Celebrant 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, according to his command, O Father,

People **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 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.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer, *Said by all*

BCP 364

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.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*, Sung by All

Enriching Our Music, #38



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.

Setting: Susan Calvin Fletcher, © 2002 Susan Calvin Fletcher.
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Invitation to Communion

Regardless of the denomination of your baptism, you are invited to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest. If you are interested in being baptized please speak with the clergy after the service or contact the church office.

Communion Hymn #337

And now, O Father, mindful of the love

Communion Hymn #341

For the bread which you have broken

The Postcommunion Prayer *Said by all, standing or kneeling*

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of you Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of**

Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing, *all standing*

Closing Hymn #474, *Standing, sung by all* **When I survey the wondrous cross**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude The Royal Banners Forward Go (*Wilbur Held*)

✠ ✠ ✠

ALTAR GIFTS:

The Bread and Wine is given to the glory of God by **Mary Brown** in honor of Amber and Jeff's birthday.

✠ ✠ ✠

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

No Noon Eucharist on April 1.

Maundy Thursday Labyrinth Walk – April 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday service – April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave.

Good Friday service – April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism* – April 4 at 7:00 p.m., begins at Columbarium.

Easter – Holy Eucharist Rite II – April 5 at 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.* in the Nave.

*INCENSE IS USED IN THIS SERVICE

✠ ✠ ✠

Remember in your prayers this week:

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, the Sloan Family, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Daryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis and Beth Blanco, Scott Cechovic, Beau Womack, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Robby Brueggeman, Laura Weatherbee, Jimmy Hubbard, David Lawrence.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco, Jane Stanland, Wisam Safie, Diego Candia, The Hardin family, Anthony Hardin, Cathy Collier, Elizabeth Lundey.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 29	The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
Monday, March 30	
5:45 PM	Scouting America Troup #628, Amy West
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
Tuesday, March 31	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, GH/Kitchen
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
5:30 PM	Wing and a Prayer at Crickets
Wednesday, April 1	
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
Thursday, April 2	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, Gruman Hall
5:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Labyrinth Walk
7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday service, Nave
Friday, April 3	
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning Service (Church Closed)
7:00 PM	Good Friday service, Nave
Saturday, April 4	
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Flower Guild Workday, Nave & Gruman Hall
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	EYC Lunch/Easter Prep, CE 1, 2
7:00 PM	Easter Vigil/Holy Baptism, Nave

Bulletin Announcements – March 29

Easter Lilies - Pick up your purchased lilies after the 10:00 a.m. Easter service on April 5.

SERVING TODAY

PREACHER/CELEBRANT: The Rev. Susan Sloan

DEACON: The Rev. Deacon Taylor Johnson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian

ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher

ALTAR GUILD: Grace Loe

LEM: Kathy Barr, Jason Vaughn

LECTOR: Frank Looney

EPISTOLER: Natalie Lapacek-Trout

INTERCESSOR: Brian Buzby

ACOLYTES: Austin Utt, Ben Watson, Nora Ramussen, Miles Ramussen

USHERS: Michael Harrison, James Weaver

COUNTERS: Melissa Barton, Alinda Coiner

HOSPITALITY: Donna Kleinjung

NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Rebecca Franz