

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
& AFRICAN PALMS USA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

8am & 10:30am

HOLY EUCHARIST

Palm Sunday



"Hosanna" by Mike Moyer

3427 Olney-Laytonsville Road, Olney, MD 20832

Phone: (301) 774-6999 | website: www.stjec.org

CALLED BY CHRIST IN LOVE, TO LIVE IN TRUTH AND ACTION

Welcome to St. John's Church

We are a diverse faith community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us. We love the beauty of worship, and live into the faithful and constant commitment towards seeking social and economic justice and reconciliation among all peoples.

We come from across the globe, with varied family configurations, educational backgrounds, occupations, interests, and talents and invite you to join us.

If you are visiting our church for the first time, please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Clergy. We have a small gift for you from the parish.

If you are seeking a spiritual home, please speak with the Clergy.



Please join us for Coffee and fellowship following the worship service

If you are a guest with us today, please know that you are welcome to enjoy some fellowship, coffee, and tea with us in the Parish Hall following the service.

Children are welcome at all services

If you have little worshipers with you today who might enjoy coloring, Play-Doh, or a Rubik's cube, these can be found at either entrance.

The Nursery is open from 10:15am to 12pm for children age 5 and under.



THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Palms

When circumstances permit at 10:30am, the congregation will gather at the front of the school.

Celebrant Beloved in Christ, for these forty days we have journeyed with Jesus from the wilderness up to the gates of Jerusalem. As we join with all the faithful and celebrate his entry in both triumph and humility, let us welcome him with cries of "Hosanna," and may his praise be on our lips even as we walk with him toward the cross and the grave, confident in God's power to save.

Celebrant Let us pray:

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that as we greet our Savior with joy at his entry into Jerusalem, we may follow him in humility and contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Hosanna to the Son of David.

People **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Lector Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.

Psalms 45:4

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures forever;
and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter.
You have loved righteousness and hated evil.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Psalms 45:7-8

Celebrant Hosanna to the Son of David.

People **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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.**

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 forever.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Hosanna to the Son of David.

People **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

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

Process to the church with responsive chants

Hymn #154

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.

The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

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)

THE 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 People are seated

Philippians 2:5-11

Lector A reading from Paul's first letter 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

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #164

Alone thou goest forth, O Lord

1 A - lone thou go - est forth, O Lord, in
2 Our sins, not thine, thou bear - est, Lord; make
3 This is earth's dark - est hour, but thou dost
4 Grant us with thee to suf - fer pain that,
sac - ri - fice to die; is this thy sor - row
us thy sor - row feel, till through our pit - y
light and life re - store; then let all praise be
as we share this hour, thy cross may bring us
nought to us who pass un - heed - ing by?
and our shame love an - swers love's ap - peal.
giv - en thee who liv - est ev - er - more.
to thy joy and re - sur - rec - tion power.

Words: Peter Abelard (1079-1142); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: *Bangor*, from *A Compleat Melody or Harmony of Zion*, 1734

The Holy Gospel of our Lord According to Matthew (21:1-11)

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."

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of Intercession

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Silence

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, you did not forget your beloved Son in death, but raised him to life on the third day. In his most sacred name, we ask to have mercy on us, forgive all our sins and to answer our prayers. Let us share the joy of heaven today and every day, both now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another with a sign of God's peace. After the peace, the People are seated.

Anthem: Behold the Cross of Christ

Kelly

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is our joy and destiny to praise you, Lord God, for in wondrous love you cast stars into space, and in meek obedience your Son surrendered to cruel nails. With loving-kindness you called your people in Abraham, and in covenant with Moses you bound up your life in theirs.

Through exile you stayed close to them, and in Jesus you came among them bearing the fullness of grace and truth. Your Son Jesus faced rejection, cruelty, and death, yet in resurrection you exalted him, and in sending your Spirit you shed glory on all people.

And so we rejoice with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, singing the song of your unending praise.

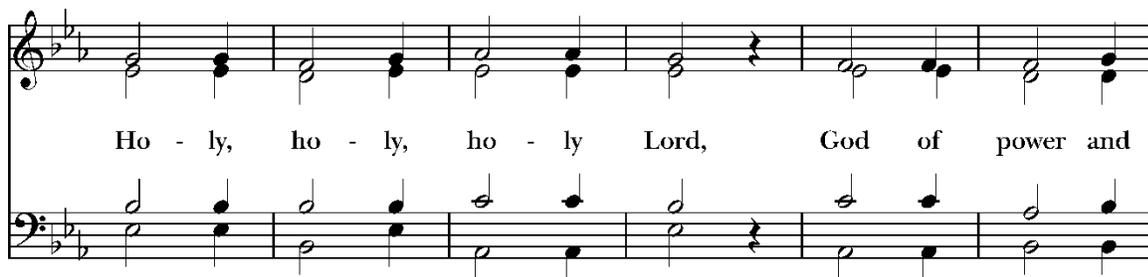
8AM

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

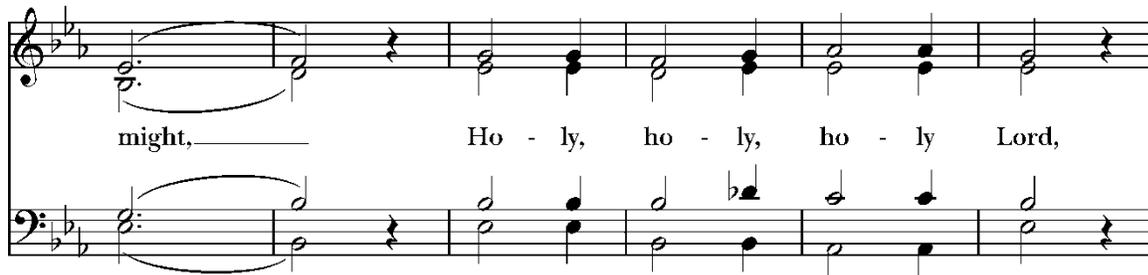
10:30AM

Sanctus 130

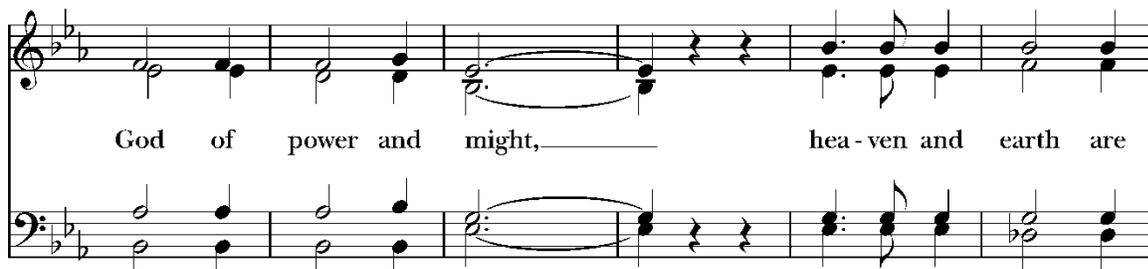
Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

Hosanna is our cry, Blessed One.
Your Son comes on a donkey in your name.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem to bear our sorrows and suffer for our sins, enter our hearts and confront our waywardness today.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may be your Son's crucified and risen body. Send your Spirit upon this bread that it may be living bread, and on this wine that it may be the cup of salvation, that together they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Humble God, your Son did not exploit his status but emptied himself.

Pour out your Spirit on all who are exploited, in world or church, on all who are humbled, by state or employer or family member, on all who are emptied of hope, faith, or love.

As you highly exalted your Son who had become a slave, highly exalt your children who suffer for righteousness, or grieve those they have cherished, or bend the knee to one who does not honor them.

Fill the earth with your justice and peace, until every heart shall sing and every tongue confess that you are the joy of their desiring, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God, in all ages and forevermore. **Amen.**

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro,
que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre;
venga a nosotros tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
no nos dejes caer en la tentación,
y líbranos del mal. Amén.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP Page 337

A period of silence is kept, after which the following is said:

8AM

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.

10:30AM

Agnus Dei, WLP #871

Ronald Arnatt

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.

The Gifts of God for the People of God

This is God's table; communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. You can receive in both kinds, bread, and wine, or in just one. To receive communion, or a blessing, please come forward to the priest at the front of the altar. To receive bread put your hands out, to receive wine, please drink from the chalice. For health reasons, we do not intinct (deep) the bread. To receive a blessing cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free host is available. Please make your needs known to the priest.

The people are seated.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Lord Jesus Christ, you set your example before us as one who came not to be served but to serve: Give us the courage to be your faithful disciples, following your way even to the cross, and proclaiming you as Savior and King. **Amen.**

The children are invited to go with Mother Shivaun to the Parish Hall to learn about Holy Week.

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the place that is called The Skull the congregation stands.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (26:14-27:66)

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?" Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they

took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

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!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away,

and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The congregation exits quietly.

TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Use this list to pray and to show your love and concern for the sick, shut-in, bereaved, or those merely in need of prayer. If you wish to submit a name please contact the office at accounting@stjec.org.

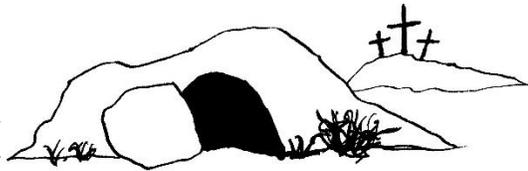
In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email pastoralcare@stjec.org

Stephanie Sidella
Andrew Erickson
Kathleen Benson
Gregoria
Nancy Soukup
Betty, Patrick & Jessica Blackburn
Stephanie Sidella
Cynie Eisler

Sara R.
Aurora
Katie Fairbanks
Carole
Ivy Choe-Branstetter
Steve Ruff
Celeste McGee
Mary Persinger

If you are ill for an extended period, are hospitalized, need a visit or Eucharist brought to you, want your home blessed, are celebrating a birth, adoption, or want specific prayers for any number of celebrations or sorrows, please email: pastoralcare@stjec.org.

Easter Morning



9:00AM **FAMILY INTERACTIVE SERVICE** with worship props and the children's choir. Excellent service for families with young children or people who enjoy celebrating with child-like joy.

10:00AM **EASTER EGG SCAVENGER HUNT** and Easter games for children age 12 and under.

11:00AM **TRADITIONAL FESTIVE EASTER** with choir and brass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

The Women of St. John's will be stuffing Easter Eggs for the children's Easter Scavenger Egg Hunt today at 12:15pm.

- **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Please join us in congratulating and celebrating Bree Bruemmer and Becca Roberson, recipients of the Episcopal Church Women Award, which will be presented at the Celebration of Women Gospel Brunch on Saturday, April 11th at Montgomery Country Club. Bree is being honored for her outstanding service to St. John's and the wider community, while Becca is recognized for her exceptional service to St. John's. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased on Eventbrite or by check (payable to ECW/EDOW). Checks will be collected by Mathy Downing. Questions? Contact Mathy at mathy02@aol.com.

- **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

As we enter this sacred Holy Week, a time of reflection, compassion, and renewal – we are reminded of our call to care for one another, especially those most in need. We invite you to live out the spirit of Holy Week by extending a helping hand. Donations of non-perishable food items, or your time as a volunteer can make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Let us come together in faith and action, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry. Your generosity is a powerful expression of hope and love.

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Pudding | Shelf Stable Milk | Canned Chili
Chef Boyardee | Canned Beef Stew | Pancake Mix.

- **CASSEROLE CLUB**

Grieving the loss of a loved one? Whether your loss was recent or long ago, you are warmly invited to join the Casserole Club, a supportive gathering for those experiencing grief and deep loss, on Sunday April 12th at 12pm in the Parish Hall. This is an informal, come-as-you-are space to share, listen, and find comfort in the company of others who understand. Feel free to invite anyone who may benefit. Drop-ins are always welcome.

- **BOOK GROUP OFFERING**

All are invited to a book discussion on "The Digital Delusion: How Classroom Technology Harms Our Kids' Learning" by Jared Cooney Horvath. This timely book explores the impact of classroom technology on student learning and may inspire meaningful conversation and future advocacy within our school systems. Join us for discussion, tea, and treats at 4:30pm on April 19 in the Parish Hall. For assistance obtaining a copy of the book, contact one of the clergy.

Holy Week



TENEBRAE
SERVICE

WEDNESDAY
April 1
7:30pm



MAUNDY
Thursday

THURSDAY
April 2
6pm & 7:30pm



GOOD
FRIDAY

FRIDAY
April 3
12pm & 7:30pm



EASTER Vigil

SATURDAY
April 4
8pm



EASTER SUNDAY

INTERACTIVE
Family Service
9am

EASTER EGG
Scavenger
Hunt
10am

EASTER
Traditional Service
11am

WORSHIP WITH US

As we approach the sacred observance of Holy Week, we invite you to join us on a journey of faith and reflection over the transformative days leading to Easter. We began this sacred time with the celebration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, marking the betrayal of Jesus at the Tenebrae service on Wednesday, climaxing with the commemoration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. The Great Vigil of Easter, the first of three services, will be held Saturday evening, followed by two Easter Services and an Egg Scavenger Hunt on Easter Sunday.

**SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
& AFRICAN PALMS USA**

Diocese of Washington

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, *Archbishop of Canterbury*
The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

STAFF

The Reverend Henry P. McQueen, *Rector*
rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, *Associate Rector*
associate@stjec.org

The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge, *Deacon*
deacon@stjec.org

Tammy Turner, *Parish Administrator*
accounting@stjec.org

Cambria Van de Vaarst, *Minister of Music*
music@stjec.org

Africanpalms@stjec.org

Joe Powers, *Interim Head of School*
Joe.Powers@stjes.org

Eoin Benson, *Sexton*

VESTRY

Bree Bruemmer, 2027 - *Pastoral Care*
Carmen Jones, 2027 - *Evangelism*
Becca Roberson, 2027 - *Sr. Warden, Outreach*
Andrew Hamill - *Treasurer*
Julie Metcalf - *Registrar*

Becky Hast, 2028 - *Jr. Warden, STJES*
Mary Lou McMaster, 2028
Rob Schellhase, 2028 - *Parish Life*
Mark Glaudemans, 2029 - *Worship*
Francesco Paganini, 2029 - *STJES*
Mary Quinn, 2029 - *Stewardship*



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832
(301) 774-6999 - Welcome@stjec.org

~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~