

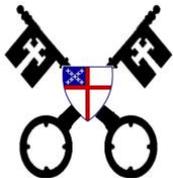
*Bringing Hope to the Hopeless  
Feeding the Body and Spirit  
Making God Available to All*

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*Palm Sunday  
Year A*

**April 5th, 2020**

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**St. Peter Episcopal Church**

Began Meeting 1816 ~ Founded 1817  
P.O. Box 357, 4901 Main Ave. Ashtabula, OH 44005  
(440) 992-8100 [www.stpetersashtabula.org](http://www.stpetersashtabula.org)

Jesus Christ  
Head of the Church

Every Baptized Member  
Ministers of the Church

The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen III  
Rector

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio

Sheryle Daly/Janet Schall  
Pat Van Allen  
Church Musicians

Dale Schall  
Choir Director

Melyssa G. Ziegler  
Administrative Assistant

# Holy Eucharist

**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, Year A**

April 5, 2020

## Liturgy of the Palms

*The people gather in the parish hall so that all may process into the church.*

*The following is sung, all standing*

*People*                    Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
                                  Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

*The Celebrant then continues*

*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.*

*All stand.*

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 and People together say*

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

*People* Hosanna in the highest.

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.*

### **Opening Acclamation**

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

*People* His mercy endures forever.

### **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.*

### **Kyrie**

*Said in unison*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All sit.*

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**

*Remain seated said in unison*

**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.”

## **Second Reading**

Philippians 2:5-11

A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Church in Philippi.

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.

*All stand.*

## **Passion Gospel**

Matthew 27:11-54

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew*

*Pilate Questions Jesus*

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor

was greatly amazed.

### *Barabbas or Jesus?*

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”<sup>[c]</sup> 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 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.” 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” 22 Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”<sup>[d]</sup> All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” 23 Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

### *Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified*

24 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;<sup>[e]</sup> see to it yourselves.” 25 Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” 26 So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### *The Soldiers Mock Jesus*

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters,<sup>[f]</sup> and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 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!” 30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;<sup>[g]</sup> 36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” 38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who

passed by derided<sup>[h]</sup> him, shaking their heads **40** 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.” **41** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, **42** “He saved others; he cannot save himself.<sup>[i]</sup> He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” **44** The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### *The Death of Jesus*

**45** From noon on, darkness came over the whole land<sup>[j]</sup> until three in the afternoon. **46** 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?” **47** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” **48** 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. **49** But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”<sup>[k]</sup> **50** Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.<sup>[l]</sup> **51** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. **52** The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. **53** After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. **54** 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!”

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

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen, III

## **Nicene Creed**

*All stand.*

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.

## **Prayers of the People**

*All remain standing.*

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

[For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*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 our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For this city (town, village, \_\_\_\_\_), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

[For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, 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 those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

[For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, 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.*

[Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

*Lord, have mercy.]*

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

*To thee, O Lord our God.*

*Silence*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*All kneel.*

*The Celebrant says*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Priest then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Minister and 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.

*The Priest stands and says*

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.*

## **Peace**

*All stand.*

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

## **Holy Communion**

*The Celebrant says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

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

## **Great Thanksgiving. Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*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 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:

*Celebrant and People*

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 forever. *AMEN.*

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

*People and Celebrant*

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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

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

*Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

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.

*Because in this time we are not able to be together to receive the physical elements of the Blessed Sacrament please join me in the following prayer and know the grace of God's love for you.*

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

*The Bread and the Cup are consumed by the Celebrant using the following words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

**\*\* *Announcements and special blessings are offered at this time.***

*The Priest, gives the final blessing*

May the Lord God Almighty bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, on this day and for evermore. Amen.

## **Dismissal**

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