

Welcome to Palm Sunday at St. Stephen's

Thank you for coming. We are very happy that you have joined us today. What follows is an explanation of this service we hope you find helpful.

On Palm Sunday the Church commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem to accomplish his saving work by dying and rising again. The liturgy of the day has two distinctive features: the procession and the reading of the Passion Gospel.

The procession is the first of the **commemorative liturgical actions** of Holy Week which remind us of the main events in the last week of Jesus' ministry. Palm branches aid us in this commemoration as a reminder of what happened and as an act of praise to Christ the King who reigns and triumphs on the Cross. We express our own readiness to take up our cross and follow our crucified and risen Lord, as we go with him to the place of suffering and death.

For some, the reading of the Passion seems out of place on Palm Sunday, thinking it should be read only on Good Friday. The shapers of our Liturgy however, realized that the Passion takes us into the heart of Holy Week and the Gospel. Holy Week is shaped by the historical commemoration of the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Yet when connected to the Triumphal Procession, the liturgy communicates that our celebration of victory over death, the Triumph, is won by the Cross. It is, therefore, essential that the Passion Narrative be placed side-by-side with the Triumphal Procession lest we forget what victory looks like in God's economy - **Victory accomplished through the self-sacrificing love of Jesus the Christ.**

Prelude "Palm Sunday Procession," by M. Helman St. Stephen's Handbell Choir

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.**

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant 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.**

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 palms along his way. Let these branches be for us a sign of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen

At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following Collect is said

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.

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,

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 - them 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.

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 - them 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 Word of God

The people stand.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures forever.**

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, on God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The First 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?

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 31:9-16 BCP, p.623

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 Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn “There is a redeemer” vs. 1-2

Celebration Hymnal #308

Verse 1

There is a Redeemer
Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
Holy One

And leaving Your Spirit

Till the work on earth is done

Verse 2

Jesus my Redeemer
name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
O for sinners slain

Chorus

Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son

The Passion Gospel According to Matthew

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts, led by a narrator who begins by saying:

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

NARR: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARR: 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,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARR: He said,

JESUS: "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.'"

NARR: 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,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARR: He answered,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,
`I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'
But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARR: And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

NARR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARR: 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,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: 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,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARR: 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,

JESUS: "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?"

NARR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: 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,

ACCUSERS: "This fellow said, `I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

NARR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "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."

NARR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARR: They answered,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

BYSTANDER: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARR: 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,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARR: But they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARR: 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,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARR: 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,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARR: 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,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARR: 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,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

NARR: 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,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

NARR: And they said,

CONGREGATION: "Barabbas."

NARR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"

NARR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"

NARR: 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,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

NARR: 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,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARR: 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.

(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)

NARR: 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,

BYSTANDERS: "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."

NARR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "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.'"

NARR: 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,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARR: that is,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: "This man is calling for Elijah."

NARR: 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,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

NARR: 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,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARR: 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,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "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."

NARR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

NARR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Gospel Hymn "There is a redeemer" vs. 3

Celebration Hymnal #308

Verse 3

When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place

Chorus

Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done

The people sit.

The Sermon

The Rev. Scott A. Garno

The people stand or kneel.

The Prayers of the People

Christ Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death...death on the cross. As we journey with Him this week and enter into the paschal mystery of His death and resurrection, let us pray through Him to the Father saying:

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

Grant that Your Church may remain faithful in times of trouble. May we minister to others with Your hands. May we love one another with Your heart. We continue to pray for our Diocese during this time of transition.

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of this world to work together and share resources for the welfare of all people. We pray especially for an end to the violence and war in Ukraine. For those who are weary and tired from this journey but not willing to give up, sustain them with Your Spirit and restore them with Your Love.

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

Help us to care for others and to relieve their distress by the grace that reveals the mystery of love through suffering. Keep us ever alert to those in need. Guide our hearts to help them carry their burdens, providing comfort and solace.

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

For the many times we have turned away, or remained silent, or arrogant, and rejected Your Son, we beg your forgiveness.

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the hope of the Resurrection, and those whose faith is known to You alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We pray especially for Anne Gibbons, Patricia Jeune, Helen Bauer, Ruth Shepherd, and Beatrice Helen Ritchie.

Father, we place our trust in You.

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Father, the prayer of Christ brought forgiveness to those who crucified Him, and the prayer of the thief brought him to a place with Christ at Your side. Hear the prayers we make now to You, and sustain Your people in their need. We make our prayer through Christ, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us fulfill our mission, to worship you in a loving community, to support people on their Christian journey, and to empower disciples for service, so that we can bring Jesus to each other and to the world.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The people sit.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loved us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

The people stand.

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

As a sign of our thanksgiving the Celebrant and people pray responsively

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 unto our Lord 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed his he that 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.

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 for ever.
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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Angus Dei

Hymnal 1982 #S161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world

Grant us peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says 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.

For those unable to worship in person with us today, we include this prayer

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and my body with the earnest desire that I may continually be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you with my own faith community, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

(Spiritual Communion Prayer adapted from the Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1951)

Communion Hymn “Ah Holy Jesus”

St. Stephen’s Handbell Choir

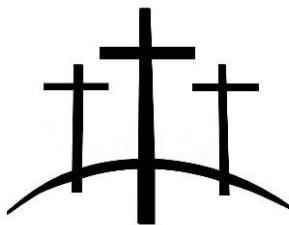
The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant 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.

The Blessing



Qmng

Recessional Hymn “O sacred head, sore wounded”

Hymnal 1982 #168

Verse 1

O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
what sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
the hosts of heaven adore!

Verse 2

Thy beauty, long-desirèd,
hath vanished from our sight;
thy power is all expirèd,
and quenched the light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest,
hide not so far thy grace:
show me, O Love most highest,
the brightness of thy face.

Verse 3

In thy most bitter passion
my heart to share doth cry,
with thee for my salvation
upon the cross to die.

The Dismissal

The Celebrant may dismiss the people with these words

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well-belovèd,
yet thank thee for thy death.

Verse 4

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?

Oh, make me thine forever!
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
outlive my love for thee.

Verse 5

My days are few, O fail not,
with thine immortal power,
to hold me that I quail not
in death's most fearful hour;
that I may fight befriended,
and see in my last strife
to me thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.

Prayer Requests

Please keep these people in your prayers this week:

- the people in the AA Groups,
- Kama Cooper
- Linda Quinn
- our sister church, St. Andre in Flande, Haiti and Fr. Deravil and his family,
- the Malchow and the Bianchine families
- the Barnes family: Beth, Terry, Kimberly, John, Alexis and Kendall,
- Nancy and Herb, Ronan and Matthew
- Niki, Galen, Chase, Louise, Laura, Matt, Isaach, Ethan, Grace and Susan

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity:

Be present in your goodness with these your servants, that their afflictions may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, we may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP p. 458)



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(a lot can happen in 7 days)

Monday, April 3rd at 6:00pm

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany

Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00pm

Holy Eucharist Rite 1

Wednesday, April 5th at 7:30pm

Tenebrae Service

Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7:00pm

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 including Foot Washing Ceremony,
Stripping of the Altar, and All Night Vigil
(8:30pm to 9:30am on Good Friday)

Good Friday, April 7th at 12:00pm and 7:00pm

Holy Eucharist Rite 1

Saturday, April 8th at 7:00pm Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite 2 including Baptism
and the 1st Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 9th at 8:00am and 10:30am