

**St. Gregory's Episcopal Church**  
**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**  
*March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

**PRELUDE**.....*Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director*

**THE ANGELUS**

*The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.*

*The first three bells*



*V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,  
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death.

*The second three bells*

*V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The third three bells*

*V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The nine bells*



*V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

*Celebrant* Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord

*People* **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE GOSPEL

*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."

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

*The Celebrant then says the following blessing*

*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.**

*The Celebrant then says the following blessing*

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in

triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant* 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.**

**PSALM IN PROCESSION** (*said alternating verses*).....118:1-2, 19-20, 25-29

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, who is good; \*  
God's mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let Israel now proclaim \***  
**"God's mercy endures for ever."**
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 **"This is the gate of the LORD; \***  
**those who are righteous may enter."**
- 25 Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! \*  
LORD, send us now success.
- 26 **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; \***  
**we bless you from the house of the LORD.**
- 27 God is the LORD; God has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 **"You are my God, and I will thank you; \***  
**you are my God, and I will exalt you."**
- 29 Give thanks to the LORD, who is good; \*  
God's mercy endures for ever.

All then join in singing

*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;

*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.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.  
Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchoir 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 FIRST READING

*Isaiah 50:4-9a*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**THE RESPONSE** (*chanted in unison*)

*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 ex|ploited,

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 e|xalted 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 GOSPEL**

**The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (27:11-54).**

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation remains seated for the first part of the reading, responding as follows when Jesus is brought before Pilate:*

*Narrator:* Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is  
called the Messiah?" All of them said,

*Assembly:* **"Let him be crucified!"**

*Narrator:* Then Pilate asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they  
shouted all the more,

*Assembly:*     **“Let him be crucified!”**

*The reading continues. At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation stands, as able, and remains standing for the remainder of the reading.*

**THE SERMON**

*The Rev. Matthew Wright*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

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

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

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

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and for any others we now name.

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

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

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

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

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**THE PEACE**

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

*People*       **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

### DOXOLOGY



Praise God through - out these for - ty days. Praise



Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir - it who im -



parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

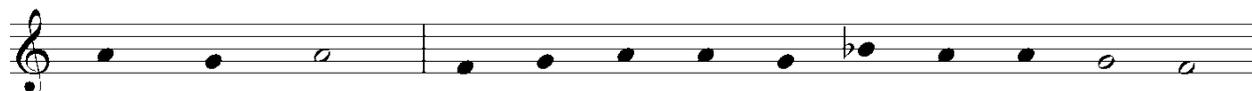
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

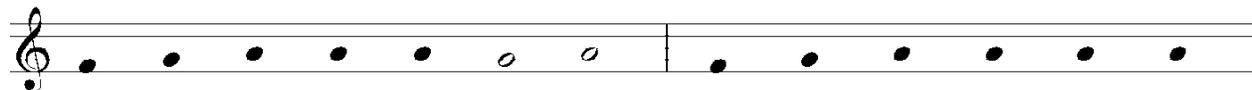
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the 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:



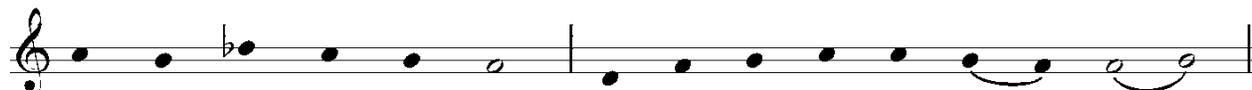
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

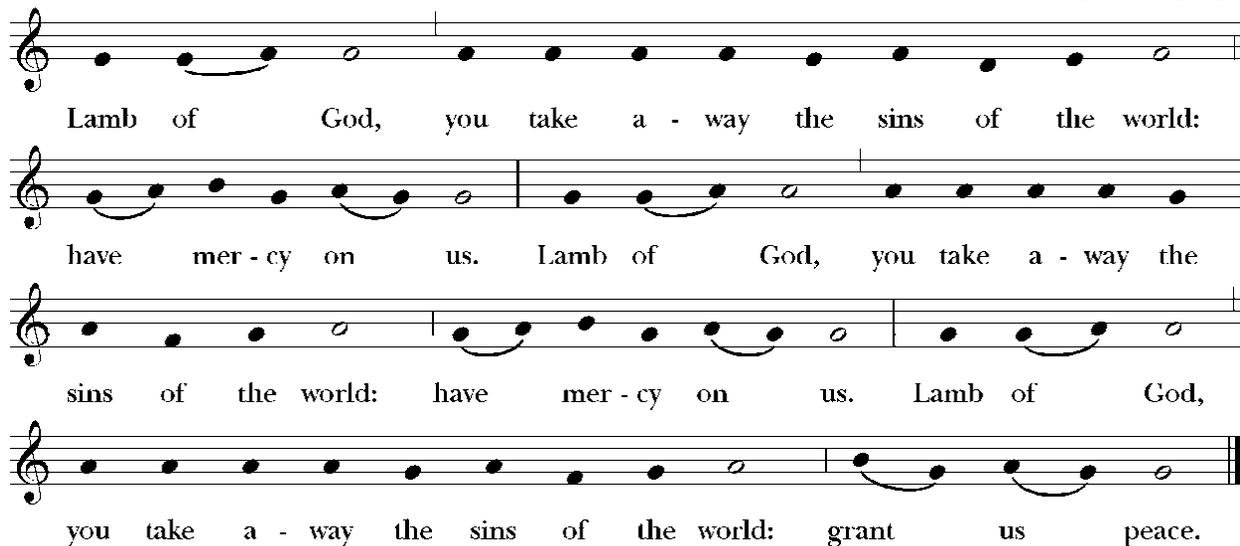
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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 brief silence follows. All then joining in singing*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.*

### **A PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where you live hidden for love of me. How I long to receive you at the table you have prepared. Since we cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise, I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy

Spirit and nourish me with your holy presence. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto your own. Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**THE BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**.....*My song is love unknown*

*(see next page)*

1. My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me, love  
 2. He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow; but  
 3. Some - times they strew his way, and his sweet prais - es sing; re -  
 4. Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He  
 5. They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord sent a - way; a

to the love-less shown, that they might love - ly be. O who am  
 men cared not, and none the longed-for Christ would know. But oh, my  
 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then "Cru - ci -  
 made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight. Sweet in - ju -  
 mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life they slay. Yet will - ing

I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
 fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 ries! Yet all his deeds their ha - tred feeds; they 'gainst him rise.  
 he to suf - f'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

6. In life, no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death, no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home,  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing,  
 no story so divine;  
 never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman, ca. 1624–1683  
 Alt. 1990

LOVE UNKNOWN 6.6.6.6.8.8.  
 John Ireland, 1918

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**