

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S
Palm Sunday
April 13th, 2025



Liturgy of the Palms

Prayer Book page 270

(Palms will be blessed at the Altar and distributed at the entrance of the church upon arrival to service)

Processional Hymn (with procession of the palms if you are able)

Hymnal 154

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord:

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 19: 28-40 (Year C)

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 congregation to read responses in bold

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; ***his mercy endures for ever.**

2 Let Israel now proclaim, ***"His 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; ***he who is righteous may enter."**

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me ***and have become my salvation.**

22 The same stone which the builders rejected ***has become the chief cornerstone.**

23 This is the LORD's doing, ***and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 On this day the LORD has acted; ***we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! ***LORD, send us now success.**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; ***we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

27 God is the LORD; he 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, for he is good; ***his mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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 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.**

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

People: Hosanna in the highest.

The Penitential Order

Prayer Book page 351

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Confession

Prayer Book page 352

Absolution

Prayer Book page 353

Kyrie Eleison

Hymnal S-96 (found in front of hymnal)

Collect:

Almighty and ever-living 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.*

1st 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?

Psalm 31: 9-16 congregation to read responses in bold

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."

Epistle 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.

Hymn

Hymnal 158 Verse 1-3 prior, verse 4-5 after gospel

Holy Gospel Luke 23: 1-49

The assembly of the elders of the people rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Homily

Prayers of the People Form V

Prayer Book 389

Peace / Announcements

Offertory and Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

Prayer Book 361

Sanctus

Hymnal S-130

Eucharistic Prayer A

Prayer Book 361

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book 364

Fraction Hymn

Hymnal S-164

Prayer of Humble Access

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.

COMMUNION All are welcome

Post-Communion Prayer

Prayer Book 366

Closing Prayer:

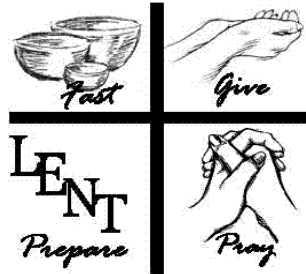
Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal 448, verses 1-3 and 6

Dismissal

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Dates to remember:

- April 17th** - Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist w/ stripping of the Altar service at 6pm
- April 18th**- Good Friday Service at 12:00 noon
- April 20th**- Easter Sunday service at 11:00 am
- April 27th** - Vestry Meeting following coffee hour after service
- May 3rd** Lasagna Takeout Dinner 4-5:30pm
- May 24th** - Women Connecting in Faith forum 9:30-12:30 parish hall
- May 31st** - Community Yard Sale 8am-1:00pm

Attendance for last week 4/06 /25 service:
20 in person, at least 5 on line

The 7-Day Reservation candle is given this week to The Glory of God, by Shirley Raab, in memory of Elsie Caddington

A hearty welcome to any who are visiting with us today!
We are so pleased that you are with us! Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the parish hall immediately following our service!

We pray for healing:

in our fellowship for: Kelly, Monica, Donald, Charlotte, Joan, Connie, Paula and Carlos.

In our extended fellowship we pray for: Katie, Jennifer, Matthew, Deborah, Mary, Diane, Dorothy, Delores, Letiticia, Robert, Ceil, Carol, Frank, John, Pete and Eileen.

In the food pantry community:

Dan

In our diocese, we pray for:

Trinity Episcopal Church, Easton, PA and all Clergy Widows and Widowers

In the greater Anglican communion, we pray for:

St. John Limi Parish, Kajo Keji and
The Church of England

St. Stephen's Church
3900 Mechanicsville Rd
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Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols

Priest: Rev. Timothy Griffin
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Office hours: Wed: 10-1pm then sick and shut in visits

Senior Warden: Lisa Ligi

Jr. Warden: Scott Holmes

Organist: Ellen Erb

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Vestry: Lisa Ligi, Scott Holmes, Paul Ferrera, Marge Kelly, Zachary Reeder, Susan Rish, Lisa Ligi and Valerie Smith (Treasurer)