

The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023
11:00 a.m.

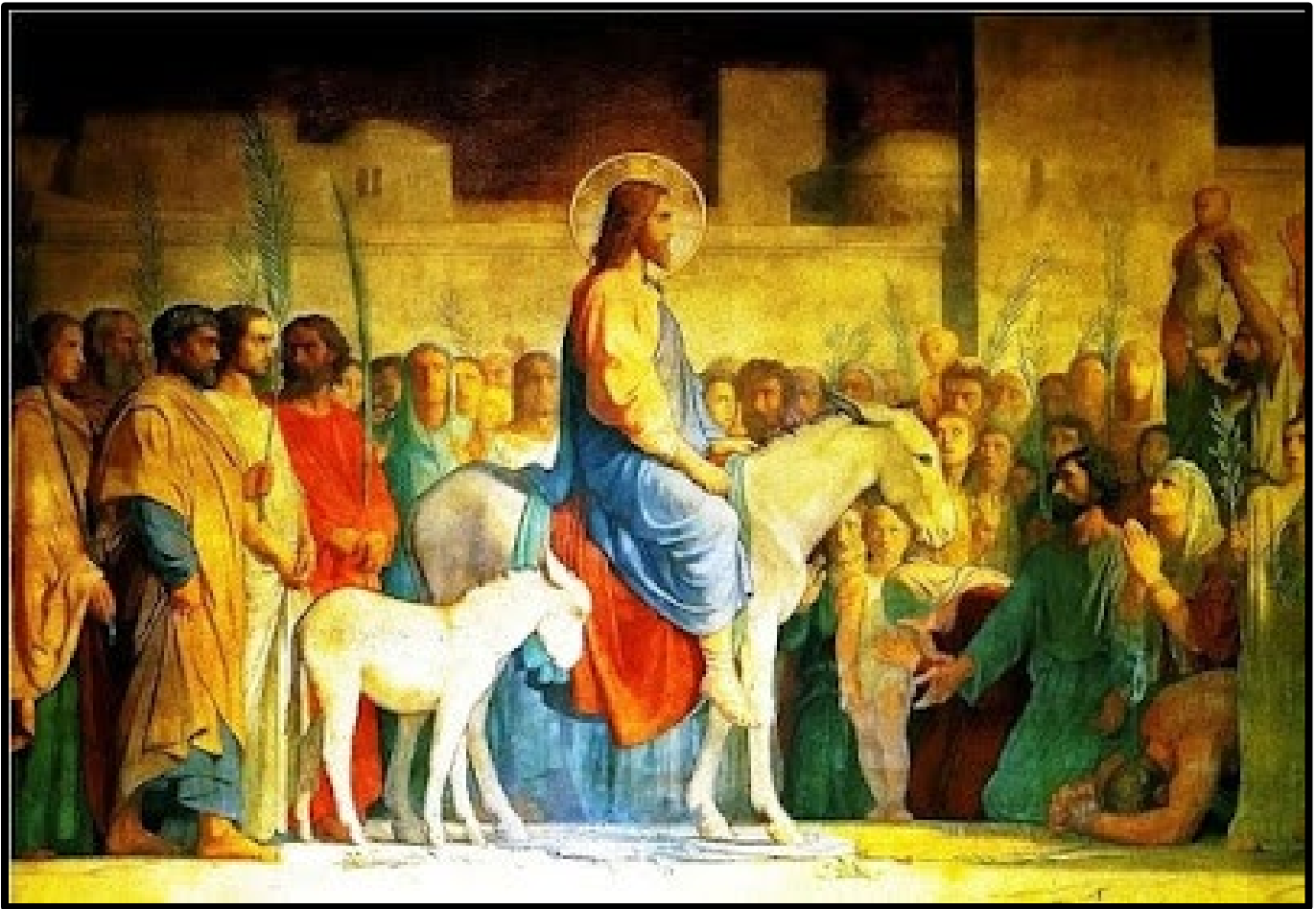


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The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

205 W. Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
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www.ascensioncartersville.org

*Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Ascension.
Here "we challenge ourselves and the world to love
like Jesus as we worship joyfully,
serve compassionately and grow spiritually."*

Our shared purpose in the Diocese of Atlanta,
as agreed upon at Annual Council 2015

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

The people may make the sign of the cross (optional) when this sign † appears throughout the order of the service.

*Let us gather in the lawn behind Ascension House.
After the Palms are distributed by the Ushers,
they are blessed.*

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."

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

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 thank and praise.**

Celebrant It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

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

The Procession

A procession is formed. The people follow the Crucifer. During the procession, all hold branches in their hands and chant Psalm 118.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Chanted by congregation and choir

Confitemini Domino



- 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 right-/eous 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 re-/jected *
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 Hosanna, LORD, ho-/sanna! *
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 up-/on 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 en-/dures for ever.

At a suitable place (red doors), 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.**

The Celebrant knocks three times using the foot of the Processional Cross.

Celebrant Open in the name of the Lord.

The doors are opened and the procession enters.

A fanfare is sounded as all take their places. The people remain standing, waving their palms.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

The Hymn in Procession

Hymn 154

Valet will ich dir geben

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

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

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people 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?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

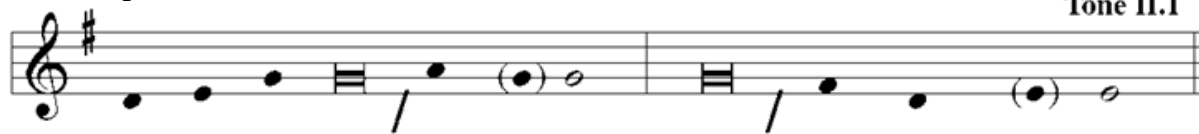
The Response

Psalm 31:9-16

Chanted by congregation and choir

In te, Domine, speravi

Tone II.1



- 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 ac-/quaintance; *
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 per- / secute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your / servant, *
and in your loving-kind- / ness 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Passion According to Matthew

The congregation remains seated as 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.

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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.'"

NARRATOR: 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."

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

DISCIPLES: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

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

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

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

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

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

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

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

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

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

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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.'"

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

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

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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."

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

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

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: 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."

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

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

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

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

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: But they said,

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

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

CONGREGATION: "Barabbas."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

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

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

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

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

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

NARRATOR: 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!"

NARRATOR: 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.)

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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.'"

NARRATOR: 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?"

NARRATOR: that is,

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

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

BYSTANDERS: "This man is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: 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!"

NARRATOR: 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."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

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

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Richard Winters

When the Liturgy of the Palms has preceded, the Nicene Creed and the Confession may be omitted.

The people stand

The Prayers of the People

Form IV, BCP

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.**

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

Parish Notices

The Offertory Anthem

Kyrie Eleison (from Messe Solennelle)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

The Presentation

Hymn 160

Cross of Jesus

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row, where the
2 Here the King of all the a - ges, throned in
3 O mys - ter - ious con - de - scend - ing! O a -
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row, where the

blood of Christ was shed, per - fect Man on
light ere worlds could be, robed in mor - tal
ban - don - ment sub - lime! Ve - ry God him -
blood of Christ was shed, per - fect Man on

thee did suf - fer, per - fect God on thee has bled!
flesh is dy - ing, cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
self is bear - ing all the suf - fer - ings of time!
thee did suf - fer, per - fect God on thee has bled!

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

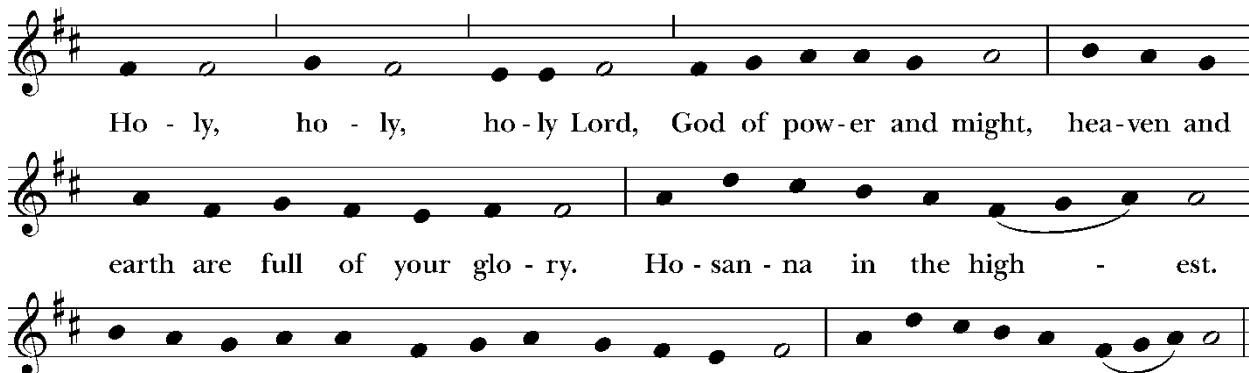
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

S 124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.**

Celebrant 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 period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God

Celebrant and People

S 161

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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant 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.

Hymns during Communion

Hymn 458

Love Unknown

Unison or harmony

1 My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior'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 strong 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 made a - way; a

1 to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O
 2 men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know. But
 3 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then
 4 made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight. Sweet
 5 mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life they slay. Yet

1 who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 2 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.
 3 "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 4 in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.
 5 stead - fast he to suf - fering 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?
 Heaven 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.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), alt.
 Music: *Love Unknown*, John Ireland (1879-1962)

66. 66. 44. 44

Hymn 313

Jesus meine Zuversicht

1 Let thy Blood in mer - cy poured, let thy gra - cious
 2 Thou didst die that I might live; bless - ed Lord, thou
 3 By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear-wound
 4 Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my pen - i -

Bo - dy bro - ken, be to me, O gra - cious Lord,
 cam'st to save me; all that love of God could give
 and the nail - ing, by the pain and death, I now
 tence I give thee; thou art my ex - alt - ed King,

of thy bound-less love the to - ken.
 Jes - us by his sor - rows gave me. Thou didst give thy -
 claim, O Christ, thy love un - fail - ing.
 of thy match-less love for - give me.

Refrain



Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925). Music: *Jesus, meine Zuversicht*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. after *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863.

If you are worshipping with us virtually, please pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshipping at home, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me... I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart.

†I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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 Solemn Prayer

All kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

The Hymn in Procession

Hymn 164

Bangor

1 A - lone thou go - est forth, O Lord, in
2 Our sins, not thine, thou bear - est, Lord; make
3 This is earth's dark - est hour, but thou dost
4 Grant us with thee to suf - fer pain that,

sac - ri - fice to die; is this thy sor - row
us thy sor - row feel, till through our pit - y
light and life re - store; then let all praise be
as we share this hour, thy cross may bring us

nought to us who pass un - heed - ing by?
and our shame love an - swers love's ap - peal.
giv - en thee who liv - est ev - er - more.
to thy joy and re - sur - rec - tion power.

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

The Dismissal

The people are dismissed to follow the cross into the world.

The people respond, saying

Thanks be to God.

Please depart in silence.

Please take this home with you and use it to guide your prayers.

Please pray for the world.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for all veterans and their families and for those who are currently serving our country in the Armed Forces, especially Stovall Knight, Chandler Celluzi, Taylor Tekesky, Kyle Hubert, Steven Velencia, Louis Evans and Sean Baker.

Please pray for the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for blessings on those who have birthdays or anniversaries this week.

Jessica Franklin, Ales Dial, Matt McClung, Pam Hyde, John Adams, Stephen Hamilton, Steve Shinall & Peggy Brown, Erle & Meg Newton.

Pray for guidance.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please pray for those among us in need of healing, comfort, support, and compassion.

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers by name, especially Katy Johnson, Derrick Smart, the Cunningham family, Susan Wade and family, Pam Hyde, Jackie Jewett, Carol Youd, Terry Brennon, Marina Robertson, Sis Eastland, Linda Jolly, Paul & Rebecca Wilson, Noah McLeod, Michael Johnson, Mal Underwood, Lynn Fowler, The Rev. Louis Tonsmeire, Sam Hood and Lynette Pasek.

Please pray for those who have long-term health problems or are homebound, especially Alan Haigler, June Hyde-Hight, William Brown, Joseph McLure, Gary Schebbta, Wendy Little, Beverly Montagno, Markie Montagno, Keith Scoimshaw, Arielle Leviuff, Zane Hoyt, Janet Witner, Linda Kindon, Bob & Claudia White, Bonnie Harrelson, Sandy Rutters, Glendy Biggs, Hope Cunningham, Sarah McLeod, Kimberly Gottardi, and Steve Novak.

Please pray for those who have died.

You are called to ministry!

Please know that volunteering in the work of God here at Ascension will bring you joy and fellowship as well as bless those you encounter. You have a place in strengthening our efforts to bring God's mission for the Church of the Ascension to full measure by getting involved. If uncertain of how to begin, please contact the church office, 770-382-2626, or anyone on the list below.

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Some Important Dates

- April 6, 2023 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing
9:00 pm – 12:00am Prayer Vigil
- April 7, 2023 – Good Friday
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Veneration of the Cross
- April 8, 2023 – Holy Saturday
7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, reception to follow
- April 9, 2023 – Easter Day
9:00 am Holy Eucharist, reception to follow
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir, reception to follow
- April 12, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm
- April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter
9:00 am Family Service with Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Christian Formation for all ages
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
12:15 pm Fellowship in the Parish Hall
- April 19, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm
- April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter
9:00 am Family Service with Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Christian Formation for all ages
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
12:15 pm Fellowship in the Parish Hall
- April 26, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm
- April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:00 am Family Service with Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Christian Formation for all ages
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
12:15 pm Fellowship in the Parish Hall
- May 3, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm
- May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
9:00 am Family Service with Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Christian Formation for all ages
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
12:15 pm Fellowship in the Parish Hall
- May 10, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm
- May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
9:00 am Family Service with Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Christian Formation for all ages
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
12:15 pm Fellowship in the Parish Hall
- May 17, 2023 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 12:15 pm