



THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION:
PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024 at 10:15 am

The Liturgy begins in the Parish Hall

ST JOHN'S CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY
158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876
908.722.1250 • stjohnsomerville.org

Welcome to St. John's Church

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this morning. When you enter our church with its crenelated tower, projecting gargoyles, stout buttresses, and warmly recognized big red doors, we hope you will see what St. John's is all about: worship, community, and service. As we strive to live out the two great commandments of our Lord, to love the Lord our God and our neighbor, we hope you will find St. John's to become more and more your spiritual home where so many others have already found a home. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

Welcome and Offering

During the offertory, all are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device, or visit simplechurchgiving.net/app/giving/st158149



Reflections

Today is the first day of Holy Week, the most solemn time of the Church Year. During this period, Christians throughout the world strive to “walk the road that Jesus trod” from his arrival in Jerusalem, his last meal with his friends, his trial, his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection. In particular, liturgical focus is centered on the *Triduum* (the three sacred days): Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil on Saturday.

Today's liturgy is dramatic in predictable and unpredictable ways. We follow the usual sequence, beginning with a procession into the church with hymns and songs of praise, witnessing publicly to our faith through the ritual commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The service soon takes a dramatic turn as we switch from praise to condemnation. As we act out the terrible drama of Jesus' abandonment, torture and death, we are cast in a role: We are among those who contribute to his condemnation. And because we are implicated, the drama has the power impact each of us differently, unpredictably, year by year, as our lives are in constant transition. None of us is quite the same person as we were last year, while the sufferings and horrors of the world around us bear new faces.

— Author composite

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THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

The congregation is invited to gather in the Parish Hall, so that all who are able may go into the church in procession. Palm branches are distributed to all after the blessing over the branches.

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.
People Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 11:1-11

Deacon A reading from the Gospel of Mark. When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

BLESSING OVER 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.
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.

People

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.

The Procession begins. Please follow the crucifer through the Parish Hall to the West High Street entrance toward the main doors of the church. All join in singing this Psalm refrain as the procession continues

PSALM 118 Confitemini Domino

Please sing the refrain as indicated; the Choir sings the verses



Ho - san - na in the high-est.

- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the LORD. **Refrain**
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter." **Refrain**
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation. **Refrain**
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone. **Refrain**
- 23 This is the LORD's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes. **Refrain**
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **Refrain**
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
LORD, send us now success. **Refrain**
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD. **Refrain**

- 27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
 form a procession with branches
 up to the horns of the altar. **Refrain**
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
 you are my God, and I will exalt you." **Refrain**
- 29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
 his mercy endures for ever. **Refrain**

The Procession continues and all join in the following hymn

HYMN

ST. THEODULPH

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820; tr. John Mason Neale, alt.

Tune: Melchior Tescher, 1615, alt.

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 - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

*Celebrant
People
Celebrant*

And also with you.

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.

People

Amen.

Please be seated

Reader

LESSON

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 awakens—awakens 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.

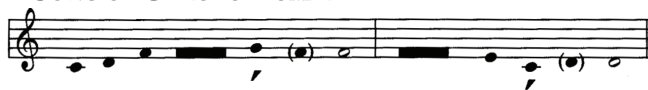
People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing

A SONG OF CHRIST'S HUMILITY

Tone II



Cantor

Though in the form of God, *

ALL

Christ Jesus did not cling to equali / ty *with* God,

2

But emptied himself, taking the form of a *servant*, *
and was born in / *human* likeness.

- 3 Being found in human form, he humbled *himself**
 and became obedient to death,
 even death / on *a* cross.
- 4 Therefore, God has highly *exalted* him *
 and given him the name above / every name,
- 5 That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall *bow*, *
 in heaven and on earth and un / der *the* earth.
- 6 And every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is *Lord*,*
 to the glory of / God *the* Father.

—Philippians 2:6-11

THE PASSION GOSPEL

Mark 15:1-47

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. You are invited to participate by joining in the parts printed in **bold**.*

Deacon The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Please be seated

Evangelist As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist Jesus answered him,

Jesus You say so.

Evangelist Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Evangelist But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Evangelist They shouted back,
Crowd **Crucify him!**

Evangelist Pilate asked them,
Pilate Why, what evil has he done?
Evangelist But they shouted all the more,
Crowd **Crucify him!**

Evangelist So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simone of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

Please stand

Evangelist And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd **Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!**

Evangelist In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Chief Priests He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Evangelist Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.
When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist Which means,

Jesus My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Evangelist When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd **Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**

Evangelist And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stock, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Evangelist Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Silence is kept for a space

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son!

Evangelist There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph brought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

A period of silence follows

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The response is Lord, have mercy. The prayer concludes: "...and all our life to Christ." Respond, To you, O Lord our God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MOTET

Henrique Carlos Correia

<i>O vos omnes,</i>	<i>[O all of you</i>
<i>qui transitis per viam,</i>	<i>who pass along this way,</i>
<i>attendite et videte</i>	<i>attend and see</i>
<i>si est dolor sicut dolor meus.</i>	<i>if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.]</i>
	<i>—Lamentations 1:-12</i>

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP, page 361

Sanctus

Hymnal 1982, S 124

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 364

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Martens



Cantor

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Refrain

Cantor

*Whoever believes in me shall not hunger or thirst, for the bread which I give for the life of the world is my flesh. **Refrain***

INVITATION

BCP, page 364

ANTHEM

John Stainer

*And they came to a place named Gethsemane,
and Jesus saith to His disciples:
'sit ye here, while I shall pray.'
'Could ye not watch with Me one brief hour?
Could ye not pity my sorest need?
Ah! if ye sleep while the tempests lower,
surely, My friends, I am lone indeed.'
Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish,
and bearing all the evil we have done,
Oh teach us how to love Thee for Thy love,
help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with Thee.*

—W.J. Sparrow Simpson

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 365

HYMN

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

Text: Paulus Gerhardt, 1656; tr. comp.; Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
 *4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 *5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
 4 Oh, make me thine for ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

VOLUNTARY *Prelude, 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen'*

Johannes Brahms



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2024

MARCH 24: THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION, PALM SUNDAY

8 am and 10:15 am:

Blessing of the Palms, the Reading of the St. Mark Passion, and Holy Eucharist

MARCH 25, 26, 27: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7 pm: Holy Eucharist in the Church

The Triduum

MARCH 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY

10 am: Holy Eucharist in the Church

7 pm: Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar,

and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Chapel of Repose

8:30 pm: Vigil for all parishioners in St. Mary's Chapel (until midnight)

Remember the words of our Lord, "Could ye not watch with me one brief hour?"

MARCH 29: GOOD FRIDAY

7 am: Liturgy of the Day and Reception of the Reserved Sacrament

7 pm: Meditations on the Seven Last Words

MARCH 30: HOLY SATURDAY

7 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter: Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Holy Communion

MARCH 31: EASTER DAY

8 am: Holy Eucharist with music

10:15: Festal Choral Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

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