

*Welcome to*

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Committed to living a faith journey that is  
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



**The Sunday of the Passion**  
**Palm Sunday**  
March 24, 2024 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

## *Our Worship Team*

### *Those Who Serve Today*

*Celebrant/Preacher:* The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

*Deacon:* The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Rebecca Nelson

*MC (Minister of Ceremonies):* Beth Elwood (C)

*Lectors:* Bob Gorczyca & Stacey Bagnasco

*Narrator:* The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

*Chief Priest:* Andee Zetterbaum

*Bystander 1:* Candice Gale

*Bystander 2:* Christina Soria

*Jesus:* Bob Gorczyca

*Disciple:* Margaret Meyers

*Peter:* John Ledbetter

*Jusas:* Charlene Martin

*Witness:* Fran Bott

*High Priest:* Beth Elwood

*Council:*

*Servant:* Hennie Van Konynenburg

*Pilate:* Stacey Bagnasco

***Crowd: Congregation***

*Soldier:* TBA

*Passer-by:* TBA

*Scribe:* TBA

*Centurion:* TBA

*Camera Acolyte:* Carlo Bagnasco (GF)

*Crucifer:* Cheryl Nix (C)

*Ushers:* Brad Huffman & David Diekman

*Sound:* Dick Williams

*Altar Guild:* Bunmi Olowoyeye/Stuart Krengel/Cheryl Nix

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Beth Elwood/Andee Zetterbaum

*Designer Guild:* Janie Williams & Allison Williams

*Nursery Care:* None until further notice

*Sunday School:* Janie Williams

*Coffee Hour:* Kathy Girard & Katie Howard

*Counters:* Sharon Farnsworth & TBA

# The Liturgy of the Palms

*Weather permitting, service begins outside, west entrance on patio.  
Palms will be on a table to be blessed and  
made available to pick up at the appropriate time in the service.*

*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.

## A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

Dcn Tom Hampson

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.

*(Mark 11:1-11a)*

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* *Thanks be to God.*

# Blessing over the Branches

BCP p. 271

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

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

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of 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 Ushers, Acolyte & Crucifer to pass out palm branches to the congregation.*

# The Procession

BCP p. 271

*Deacon* Let us go forth in peace.

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

*The Congregation follows the altar party in procession around the church ending at the front (South Door).*

# Processional Hymn

*All glory, laud, and honor*

Hymnal #154

*Wave palm branches.*

*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.*

*The procession stops at the West patio door.*

*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.

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.

While singing the following hymn, the people process in to the pews followed by the Altar Party and remain standing.

## Hymn

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle

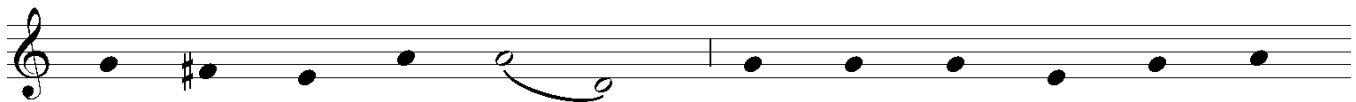
Hymnal 166



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; of the might - y con - flict  
2 Thir - ty years a - mong us dwell - ing, his ap - point - ed time ful -  
3 He en - dures the nails, the spit - ting, vin - e - gar, and spear, and  
4 Faith - ful cross! a - bove all o - ther, one and on - ly no - ble  
5 Bend thy boughs, O tree of glo - ry! Thy re - lax - ing sin - ews  
\*6 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or to the



1 sing; tell the tri - umph of the vic - tim, to his  
2 filled, born for this, he meets his pas - sion, this the  
3 reed; from that ho - ly bo - dy bro - ken blood and  
4 tree! None in fo - liage, none in blos - som, none in  
5 bend; for a - while the an - cient ri - gor that thy  
6 Son, praise and hon - or to the Spi - rit, ev - er



1 cross thy tri - bute bring. Je - sus Christ, the world's Re -  
2 Sa - vior free - ly willed: on the cross the Lamb is  
3 wa - ter forth pro - ceed: earth, and stars, and sky, and  
4 fruit thy peer may be: sweet - est wood and sweet - est  
5 birth be - stowed, sus - pend; and the King of heaven - ly  
6 Three and ev - er One: one in might and one in



1 deem - er from that cross now reigns as King.  
2 lift - ed, where his pre - cious blood is spilled.  
3 o - cean, by that flood from stain are freed.  
4 i - ron! sweet - est weight is hung on thee.  
5 beau - ty gent - ly on thine arms ex - tend.  
6 glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 219

*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.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah** *All are seated.*

Bob Gorczyca

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?

*Isaiah 50:4-9a*

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

## **Psalm 31:9-16**

Bob Gorczyca

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."

*All are seated.*

## **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians** Stacey Bagnasco

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. *Philippians 2:5-11*

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sequence Hymn**

*Ah Holy Jesus*

Hymnal 158

*(seated)*

## **The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark**

*(14:1-15:47)*

*Narrator:* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

*Chief Priest:* Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

*Narrator:* While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his



head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

*Bystander 1:* Why was the ointment wasted in this way?

*Bystander 2:* For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.

*Narrator:* And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

*Jesus:* Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

*Narrator:* Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

*Disciple:* Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

*Narrator:* So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

*Jesus:* Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

*Narrator:* So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

*Jesus:* Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

*Narrator:* They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

*Disciple:* Surely, not I?

*Narrator:* Jesus said to them,

*Jesus:* It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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:* 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; this is my body.

*Narrator:* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

*Jesus:* This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

*Narrator:* When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

*Jesus:* You will all become deserters; for it is written,  
‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’  
But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

*Narrator:* Peter said to him,

*Peter:* Even though all become deserters, I will not.

*Narrator:* Jesus said to him,

*Jesus:* Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

*Narrator:* But he said vehemently,

*Peter:* Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

*Narrator:* And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

*Jesus:* Sit here while I pray.

*Narrator:* Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

*Jesus:* I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

*Narrator:* And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

*Jesus:* Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

*Narrator:* Jesus came and found the disciples sleeping; and he said to Peter,

*Jesus:* Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

*Narrator:* And again Jesus went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found the disciples sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

Jesus came a third time and said to them,

*Jesus:* Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

*Narrator:* Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

*Judas:* The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

*Narrator:* So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

*Judas:* Rabbi!

*Narrator:* and kissed him. Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

*Jesus:* Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

*Narrator:* All of Jesus' followers deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. The crowd caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed Jesus at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against Jesus, saying,

*Witness:* We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."

*Narrator:* But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

*High Priest:* Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

*Narrator:* But Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

*High Priest:* Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

*Narrator:* Jesus said,

*Jesus:* I am; and “you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,” and “coming with the clouds of heaven.”

*Narrator:* Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

*High Priest:* Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

*Narrator:* The whole council condemned Jesus as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

*Council:* Prophecy!

*Narrator:* The guards also took Jesus over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

*Servant:* You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

*Narrator:* But he denied it, saying,

*Peter:* I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

*Narrator:* And Peter went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

*Servant:* This man is one of them.

*Narrator:* But again Peter denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

*Bystander 1:* Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

*Narrator:* But Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath,

*Peter:* I do not know this man you are talking about.

*Narrator:* At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

*Jesus:* Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

*Narrator:* And he broke down and wept.

*Narrator:* 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?

*Narrator:* Jesus answered him,

*Jesus:* You say so.

*Narrator:* 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.

*Narrator:* But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival Pilate 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?

*Narrator:* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate 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?

*Narrator:* They shouted back,

***Congregation:* Crucify him!**

*Narrator:* Pilate asked them,

*Pilate:* Why, what evil has he done?

*Narrator:* But they shouted all the more,

***Congregation:* Crucify him!**

*Narrator:* So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led Jesus 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,

*Soldier:* Hail, King of the Jews!

*Narrator:* 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.

The soldiers compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry Jesus' cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then the soldiers brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

***All stand.***

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And the soldiers crucified Jesus, 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 Jesus. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with Jesus they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided Jesus, shaking their heads and saying,

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

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

*Chief Priest:* He saved others; he cannot save himself.

*Scribe:* Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

*Narrator:* 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?

*Narrator:* which means,

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

*Narrator:* When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*Bystander 1:* Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

*Narrator:* And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

*Bystander 2:* Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

*Narrator:* Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

***Silence may be kept.***

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

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

*Centurion:* Truly this man was God's Son!



*Narrator:* There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, 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 Jesus were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus had been dead for some time. When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought 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. Joseph then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

*Silence*

*The Nicene Creed is omitted on this day.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*The leader and people pray responsively, standing.*

Jesus comes to us humbly, riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of peace. Let us pray, saying: God, hear our prayer. That Christians hear and share the word of God as true disciples, we pray:

**God, hear our prayer.**

That all the ends of the earth receive the words of the king of peace, we pray:

**God, hear our prayer.**

That all leaders of the church especially David, our Bishop, Besty, our Priest and Tom, our Deacon (*local intercessions*) and of the state, prefer humble service to empty power, we pray:

**God, hear our prayer.**

That those who see the cross starkly revealed in their lives draw strength from the name above every other name, we pray:

**God, hear our prayer.**

That we who hope to greet Jesus when he comes again be ready and joyful, we pray:

**God, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds this concluding collect.*

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.**

## **Confession of Sin** *Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant continues,*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

# The Peace

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

*People:* And also with you.

## Announcements

### Thanksgiving Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

BCP 830

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Table

### Offertory Anthem

*Antiphonal Hosanna*

G. Alan Smith

### The Doxology

*Praise to God* (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

### The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (Standing)

Hymnal S120

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the

fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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:

**Sanctus** (*Celebrant and People*)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S124

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*

There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

*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.**

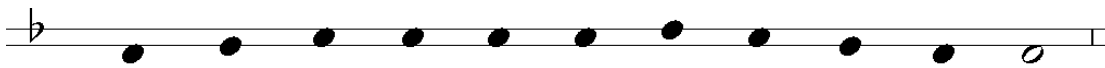
## The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)* BCP p. 364

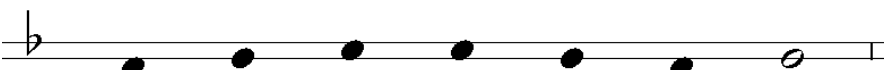
*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All:** 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

Hymnal S153

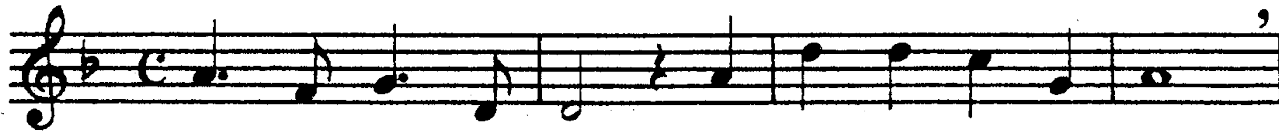
*Celebrant:*   
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*People:*   
There - fore let us keep the feast.

*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.

## Communion of the People

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please form two lines in the center aisle. There are two standing stations. Please come forward immediately to receive communion. Gluten free hosts are available. You may receive just the bread or the wine or both. We offer the chalice to drink from, but due to practical considerations, do not allow intinction (dipping) of the bread in the wine. Thank you for your understanding. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.*



Bless the Lord my soul, and bless his ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, he res - cues me from death.

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## Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

## Postcommunion Prayer *(standing)*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving 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

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 Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*The people leave in silence.*

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**You can also give through GIVELIFY app.** If you go to our website: [www.stjohnsoflodi.org](http://www.stjohnsoflodi.org) On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at: [the "App Store"](#) or ["Google Play"](#) Or scan this code:



## **Holy Week - March 24 - 31, 2024**

**Sunday, March 24**

9:30 am

**Palm & Passion Sunday**

Procession & Passion Reading

**Tuesday, March 26**

11:00 am

**Chrism Mass**

St. James Cathedral, Fresno

**Wednesday, March 27**

12:00 Noon

**Noon-Day Prayer**

Historical Chapel

**Thursday, March 28**

6:00 pm

7:00 pm to Midnight

**Maundy Thursday Foot washing**

Eucharist, Stripping of Altar

Garden of Gethsemane Watch

**Friday, March 29**

12 Noon

**Good Friday**

Passion & Prayers

\*As done in past years, Friday's Collection will go to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem.

**Saturday, March 30**

7:00 pm

**Easter Vigil**

Baptism

Historical Chapel

**Sunday, March 31**

9:30 am

**Easter Sunday**

Holy Eucharist, Children's Sermon, Reception & Children's Egg Hunt

**Monday, April 1**

**Office Closed**

Tuesday, April 2

Rev. Betsy and Dcn. Tom – Day Off

Wednesday, April 3

No Choir Practice

**Garden of Gethsemane Watch Thursday, March 28 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.** – After the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the church will be open all night for prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane created by the Designer Guild in the narthex. People are invited to sign up to pray one hour, reminiscent of Jesus’ invitation to “watch and pray.”

**Good Friday Collection Announcement** – Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. We will continue this tradition of our Good Friday’s collection going to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem. An offering will be taken, checks may be made payable to St. John’s.

**Love Lodi – Saturday, April 27:** This year Love Lodi is on April 27th. As in past years, we are recruiting a team from St. John’s to join in! To learn more about Love Lodi, see <https://lovelodi.org/>. We are encouraging folks to sign up for the library-related projects. Hope to see you there!

**Next Fun Bingo Game – Saturday, May 11!**- Keep an eye on the newsletters and ministry table for updates on the upcoming Bingo games at St. Johns.

**Back By Popular Demand! Ladies High Tea Event-** *Save the date of Saturday, June 8* at 12:00 noon for our popular Ladies High Tea!. We are looking for items for raffle prizes and baskets. If you can donate, please drop off the item in the office. Keep an eye out for more information in our newsletters, bulletins and the Ministry Table.

**Do you have Cats at home?** Remember during this Easter Season, that all lilies, including Easter lilies, are extremely toxic to cats. (Even if they just brush past one, then lick their fur, it can be fatal.) Please keep them completely out of reach and pass this warning onto your cat-owning friends and family.

**2024 Vestry Members** - Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden; Kelly Olds, Junior Warden; Fran Bott, Clerk; Members: Stacey Bagnasco, Beth Elwood, Bob Gorczyca, Charlene Martin, Christina Soria, Debby Weberski & Andee Zetterbaum

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

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