

March 28, 2021

11:00 am

Palm Sunday
The Holy Eucharist Rite II



St. John the Evangelist
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16 W 3rd St., Essington, Pa 19029

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

The Reverend Jessie Thompson, Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Jessie's St. Johns office hours are on **TUESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS**.

Her Sabbath is on Fridays.

Pastoral Emergencies 206.719.4646 Email: revjessiethompson@gmail.com

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.

Mark 11:1-11

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.

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give 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.**

Procession *All glory, laud and honor*

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Gradual Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

Please read responsively by half verse.

- 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."

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Ride on, ride on in majesty*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The customary responses are omitted before and after the Gospel. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha all stand.

Mark 15:1-39

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, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 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, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 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, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" 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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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 Simon 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. 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, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "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." 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, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 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 he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Sermon

The Rev. Jessie Thompson

A Time of Reflection and Silence Follows.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

We pray to you, Good and Gracious God, by lifting up to you our heartfelt prayers. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Throughout time and trial, you have led us through the wilderness on paths long and toilsome. Together, we follow you to the dark hour when you will be betrayed and broken. As our faces are turned to the cross, strengthen our wearied souls that we might continue with faithful footsteps and follow the course that you have set. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

On this day, you begin marching toward your death, a death to which we have been sealed in our baptisms. Together, we are preparing to take the plunge into the darkness of that cold and lonely tomb. What will we find there? Is there truth to be found in the darkness of this week? Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

We gather to begin holy week, a week, though dark and dismal, that is nevertheless a preparation for resurrection - a resurrection to which we have been sealed in our baptisms. Together, we are preparing to be renewed by the light of the empty tomb. What will we find there? What truths will be discovered in the light of Easter morning? Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

As we march together to Jerusalem, through Gethsemane, and to the hill of the cross, we bring with us the concerns that are on our hearts this day. Be with those who cannot need the hope of the resurrection. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Be with those who have lost loved ones, those who will struggle to sing "alleluia" later this week. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Be with those who are seeking affordable housing and affordable healthcare in difficult economic times. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Be with those without a voice, that their voices may be freed to proclaim your praise. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Be with those who are approaching their own death, that they may be comforted by the truth of the resurrection. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Be with every one of us as we seek to prepare for your resurrection by following you to your death. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Help us to rest in the comforting truth that in life and in death we belong to you. Give us strength. Give us courage. Give us hope for that which you promise us - everlasting life. Answer us, Lord.

Become our salvation.

Written by Stephen M. Fearing

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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.**

The Absolution

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord, staying in your pew and making a bow or gesture of peace towards others, or in comments section of our worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to extend your worship in fulfilling your pledges through our online platform or mailing them in.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Palm Branches

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE.

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People say together

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People say together

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

All are welcome. Wait for the ushers to dismiss your row through the center aisle, keeping six feet distance between non-family members (markers on ground), sanitizing your hands as you walk to the aisle. Keeping your mask on, receive the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. At this time, the wine will not be offered, though receiving the Host is full and complete Communion. Walk to the side where there is an X on the floor. Move your mask away from your mouth to receive the Host. Return mask to covering position before turning around and heading back to your pew via the side aisle. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the priest know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, you may come to the priest with your arms crossed over your chest. If mobility issues prohibit you from walking up to the altar, please alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

All **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.**

BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people.

***“May God’s Blessings surround you each day
As you trust Him and walk in His way,
May His presence within, guard and keep you from sin,
Go in Peace, Go in Joy, Go in Love.”***

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Prepare ye the way of the Lord*

Once the service is concluded, please be sure to exit the church promptly to allow for those who worshipped at home to process through the church to receive palm branches and Eucharist. Thank you.



MARCH 31—WEDNESDAY at 7PM

READING OF THE PASSION

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR A READING OF THE PASSION

TOGETHER –A powerful tradition we started last year!

Laptops/computers with cameras & microphones,

tablets/smartphones

click:<https://zoom.us/j/99629016232?pwd=L0RZMnExYVJBSXZSRUNKL3B0M2VZUT09>

Meeting ID: 996 2901 6232 Passcode: 114398

By phone: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 996 2901 6232 Passcode: 114398



April 1—MAUNDY THURSDAY at 6PM

○ **6PM—Limited in-person worship service. It will be Live Streamed on St. John’s Facebook, so join us!**

▪ **Must sign up to attend (include ALL names attending):**

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjohns)

[stjohns](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjohns)

- **If you cannot join us this evening, you are invited to a 12NOON—Limited in-person worship service at St. James.**

○ **Must sign up to attend (include ALL names attending):**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjames>

April 1-2—THURSDAY-FRIDAY (7PM-8AM)

OVERNIGHT PRAYER VIGIL “IN THE GARDEN”

- **Sign up in our online ‘Prayer Room’ for an hour to stay up and pray with Jesus as he asked his friends to stay up and pray with him on the night he was betrayed. Our specific ‘prayer room’ can be found here:**
<https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/2803f6>
- **Light a virtual candle online in solidarity with those praying around the world. Online: <https://gratefulness.org/light-a-candle/> and then click “Begin” for a mediation that leads towards lighting your candle.**



April 2—GOOD FRIDAY at 12NOON

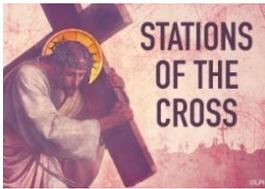
- **12NOON**—Limited in-person worship service. It will be Live Streamed on St. John’s Facebook, so join us!

- Must sign up to attend (include ALL names attending):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjohns>

- **1-2PM**—Non-service attenders are invited to walk through the church in silence, to sit and pray for a moment, and to venerate the cross.

- If you cannot join us in the day, you are invited to a **6PM**—Limited in-person worship service at St. James.

- Must sign up to attend (include ALL names attending):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjames>



- Take time today to slow down, to turn off your TVs, email, and put your phone down. Let go of your “to-do” list and make it a point to give up “accomplishing” or “producing” anything today. Sit in silence and allow yourself to meditate on the Passion of Christ. Allow yourself

15 minutes of prayer and silence.

- When ready, pray through the Stations of the Cross. There are several online resources that you can use to assist you:

- <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>

- <https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fe48fa52fb8> (for children)

- <https://media.loyolapress.com/assets/lent/stations-eng/stations-eng.html> (for children)

- <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>

- Make or find crosses and place them in your windows for your neighbors to see.



April 3—EASTER VIGIL

Spend time creating “Alleluia” signs and butterflies! It’s time to get them ready for tomorrow morning.

Find an Easter Vigil service online (Google “Episcopal Easter Vigil Service”) or read through the service in your Book of Common Prayer (beginning on page 285). Turn down the lights at home and light candles as you worship and pray. Get ready to shout the “A-word!”



April 4—EASTER SUNDAY!

- Dress up in your “Easter fancies” and put all of your “Alleluia!” signs and butterflies up in your windows and on your front doors!! Take pictures of them and post

on Facebook!

- **11AM**—Limited in-person worship service. It will be Live Streamed on St. John’s Facebook, so join us!
 - Must sign up to attend (include ALL names attending):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ADAB2AA6FF2-stjohns>

(Contact Rev. Jessie or a Vestry member to assist you signing up if you have difficulties.)

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

Covenant for Regathering

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Pennsylvania for participation in the life of my congregation according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people, I will...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

Many thanks to the Diocese of Maryland for this template.