



WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

THE PALM SUNDAY

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Saturday, 12 April, 5PM & Sunday, 13 April, 10am 2025



(People go to their seats in the church with fronds/palms. Ministers gather in the middle of the center aisle. Please stand as you are able)

Presider Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an donkey. Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. Your throne is the throne of God, it endures forever; and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter. You have loved righteousness and hated evil: therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

People **Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you**

Presider Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing - by works of love and self-examination - for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love so that we may share in his risen life.

(The people hold up their palm fronds while the following prayer is said)

Presider God our Savior, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah only days later to suffer and to die, let these palms 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 with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **AMEN.**

Palm Procession Lesson: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (19:28-40)

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it."

Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

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

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

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

Palm Procession—Gather Hymnal #425 Hosanna (see below & pg. 4)
(The altar party follow the crucifer around the congregation seats in the church singing the song. Anyone from the congregation can join in the procession and also walk and sing with the altar party)

Refrain



Verses



More —>



fol - lowed him. "This is he who comes to save,
 cov - ered him. "Ho - san - na to the cho - sen One!
 rides once more. Sing ho - san - nas, shout his name,
 Sa - tan's hour. Grasp - ing not Di - vin - i - ty he
 sav - ing love. Bless - ed, rich in mer - cy be
 ho - li - ness, comes to be our sav - ing Lord;
 ter - nal love, help us praise the bless - ed One,



he our ran - som from the grave."
 Blessed is he, God's on - ly Son!
 to the world God's love pro - claim.
 wins our free - dom on a tree.
 he who sets all peo - ple free.
 in his name be God a - dored.
 praise un - til our life is done.

Presider: Let us pray. *(Please remain standing for the prayer)*

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

(Please be seated for the lessons)

The Psalm: Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
 his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
 "His mercy endures for ever."
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
 I will enter them;
 I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
 he who is righteous may enter."

- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of 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 awakens--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**

2nd Lesson: A reading from Paul's letter to the 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.

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

Gospel Lesson: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (18: 1 to 19:42):

See Additional Booklet—Please read aloud all the “crowd” parts

Prayers of the People

Leader We pray for the church, that we may welcome those with heavy hearts,
offer the prayers of thanksgiving which become our daily bread, forgive one
another, and repent of our society’s injustices.

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: We pray for all those in authority and all the nations of the world, that
our lust for power may be left at the foot of the cross, rendering our own
misguided ambitions as ash in light of the abundant God who showers joy
and thanksgiving on all of creation.

Lord. have mercy.

Leader: We pray for the good of the whole world, for the flourishing of those in
need, for the wealthy to give away more and live with less, for generosity of
love to be present in all of God’s people, that the whole world would turn
toward gratitude and away from covetousness.

Lord. have mercy.

Leader: We pray for those around us, that in dying to ourselves, we might live
for one another, loving those around us more sincerely, loving friend and
stranger out of the heart of thanksgiving we find in our faith.

Lord. have mercy.

Leader: We pray for all suffering, for humankind and all of creation, for illness
and for the sin-sickness from which only God can give us relief, that we may
be called into caring for the suffering around us and inside of ourselves, with

gratitude that God abides with us to help us heal and thrive.

Lord. have mercy.

Leader: We pray for all who have died in the assurance of the resurrection, whose spirits join with us as we anticipate the rise to new life, and for all the saints who have modeled perseverance for us as fellow pilgrims in the wilderness, journeying toward Easter with gratitude as the light for our path.

Lord. have mercy.

Leader: We pray for the reminder of your eternal loving-kindness that we receive in gratitude, when we acknowledge the riches of your grace, when we count the blessings you bestow on us, and when we experience your providence in our lives.

Lord. have mercy.

Presider: God of all mercy, we thank you that you hear our prayers. May we bless you, Lord, for all your benefits, your forgiveness of our sins, your healing of all our infirmities, and your ever-present saving grace. Send us, we pray, into the world to love others out of thankfulness for your love for us, that we may follow in Christ's commandment to love you, Lord, and love one another. **Amen.**

Presider Christ is our peace. We meet in his name and share in his peace.
The peace of the Lord always be with you

All And also with you. *(The people exchange signs of peace)*

Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an Offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Music: "Somebody's Knockin at your Door"

G #394

The Holy Eucharist—BCP Form I

Presider The Lord be with you

People And also with you

Presider Lift up your hearts

People We lift them up to the Lord

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give him thanks and praise

Presider continues:

Indeed it is right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and

in all places give you thanks and praise, 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Sanctus: 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.**

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets, and at the end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to the giving up of his life.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and said this blessing: “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.”

Then he broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, and gave thanks saying, “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”

And then he 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.”

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son:

ALL: By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them (+) by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Through the benediction of your Holy Spirit (+) make us a living sacrifice of praise.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Presider: And now as Jesus 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread: (S-163)



(Presider breaks the bread. A period of silence follows)

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are welcome and invited to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. To dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. To eat the bread and then sip wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer not to have the wine, that is also acceptable. If you are not ready to receive communion with us, we invite you to come forward and cross you arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead).

Communion music : "Take up your Cross"

G#690

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayers, Travelers, and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

**All 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.**

Benediction:

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **AMEN.**

Closing Song : “To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord”

(see insert below & next page)

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “*Sheep May Safely Graze*”, JS Bach, arr Egon Petri

285 To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1. To mock your reign, O dear - est Lord,
2. In mock ac - claim, O gra - cious Lord,
3. A scep - tered reed, O pa - tient Lord,

they made a crown of thorns; set you with taunts a -
they snatched a pur - ple cloak; your pas - sion turned, for
they thrust in - to your hand, and act - ed out their

Sunday join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall



long that road from which no one re - turns.
all they cared, in - to a sol - dier's joke.
grim cha - rade to its ap - point - ed end.



They could not know, as we do now, how glor - ious is that
They could not know, as we do now, that though we mer - it
They could not know, as we do now, though em - pires rise and



crown; blame, fall, that you your thorns will king - dom would your robe shall flower up - of not



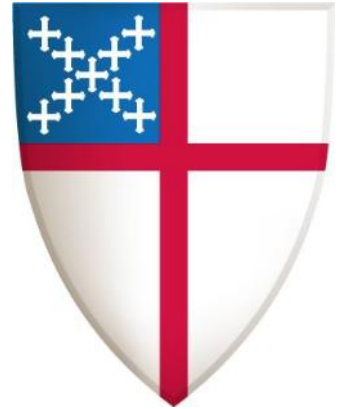
on your brow, your sor - rows heal our own.
mer - cy throw a - round our na - ked shame.
cease to grow till love em - brac - es all.



Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check ☐ here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)			
Hm: _____		Cell _____	
Email: _____		Anv. Date _____	
Adrs: _____		BrthDate _____	
City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____			