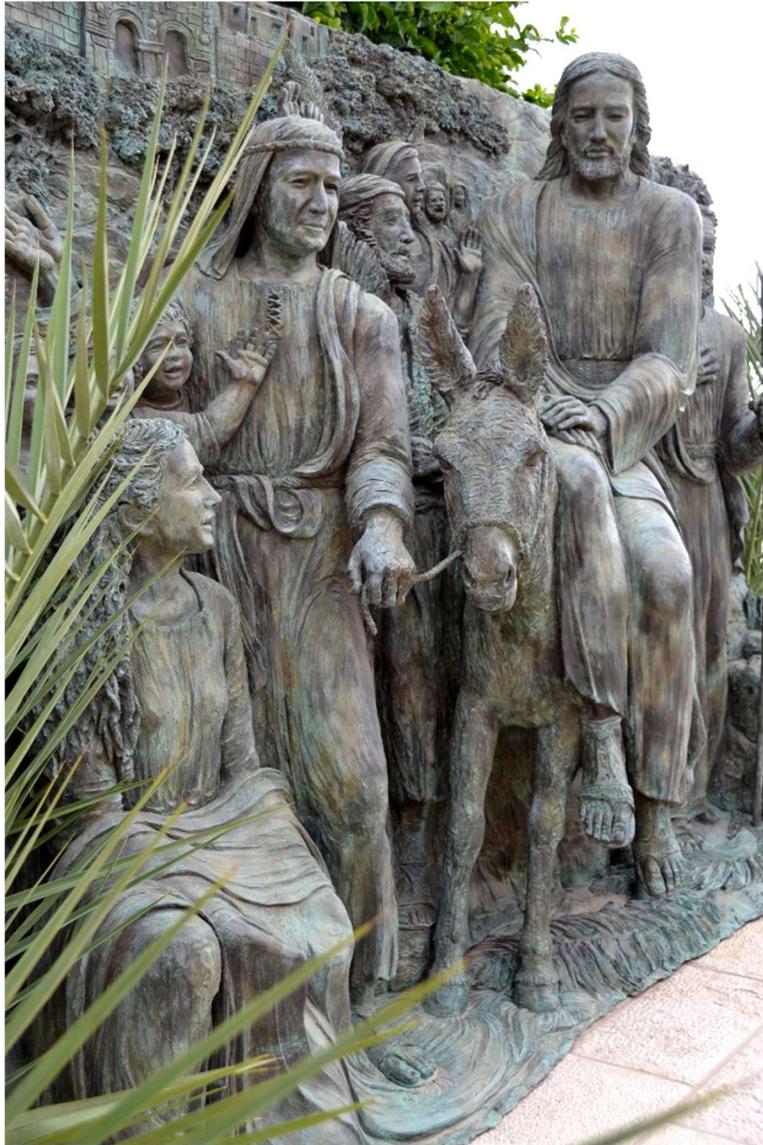


# The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday



*Courtyard Sculpture  
Church of Bethphage,  
Mount of Olives, Jerusalem*

**March 29, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

## The Liturgy of the Palms

*Earlier today, thousands of Christians crowded into the small courtyard and interior of this Church on the Mount of Olives to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, waving palm branches, singing, and praying as they descended the Mt. of Olives toward the Old City of Jerusalem. We join the faithful around the world and across two millennia who begin this day with celebration, even as it foreshadows a week that includes violence, fear, denial, and betrayal. Today we proclaim, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*

*As people arrive, they are invited to gather on the lawn and patio in front of the entrance (unless they physically need to be seated inside). The mood is festive. Palm crosses or branches of palm are distributed to the people before the service. At 10:30 the Liturgy begins outside.*

*Celebrant* Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People* **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Priest reads the following:* The Gospel according to St. Matthew (21:1-11)

*The People hold up their palm branches as the Celebrant says the following blessing*

The Lord be with you.

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

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

*People* **It is right to give God 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

*People* **Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Procession

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in peace.

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

*Following the Clergy, the people process into the church holding up their palm branches and singing the following hymn. The people remain standing in the pews throughout the hymn and opening collect.*

**Opening Hymn #154** All glory, laud, and honor *Valet will ich dir geben*

*Chorus:* All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer King!  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One.**

*Chorus*

**The company of angels is praising thee on high;  
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.**

*Chorus*

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.**

*Chorus*

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

*Chorus*

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.**

*Chorus*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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

**The Lessons***The people sit for the lessons and the Psalm.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson** - *After the lesson is read, the lector says, The Word of the Lord.*  
*The people respond, Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 31** – *The people recite the Psalm, responsively according to the bold type.*

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; \*  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; \***  
**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup> 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.
- <sup>12</sup> **I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \***  
**I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- <sup>13</sup> 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.
- <sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. \***  
**I have said, “You are my God.**
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> **Make your face to shine upon your servant, \***  
**and in your loving-kindness save me.”**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson** - *After the lesson is read, the lector says, The Word of the Lord.*  
*The people respond, Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn: # 160**

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow**

*Cross of Jesus*

## **The Passion Gospel**

*The congregation is seated*

*Celebrant* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew (26:14-27:66)

*The traditional spoken responses for the Gospel are omitted on Palm Sunday. The Celebrant will invite the congregation to stand at the verse which mentions The Skull.*

## **A Choral Meditation**

*The Celebrant will sing the first verse.*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

*The people are invited to respond in singing these verses.*

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

## **Litany of Penitence**

*We began our Lenten Journey with this Litany on Ash Wednesday.*

*The Priest and People together, kneeling:*

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*The Priest continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The Celebrant, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**      *The people stand.*

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

*People*      **And also with you.**

**The Offertory**

Offertory Anthem:                      Media Vita                      *arr. Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)*

Baritone soloist: Walker Menkus

*Men and Boys of the CEC Adult Choir & St. Dunstan Youth Choir*

Translation: *Media vita in morte suumus*

In the midst of life we are in death.

*Quem quærimus adiutorem nisi te Domine  
qui pro peccatis nostris*

What helper do we seek except you, O Lord  
Who (died) for our sins.

*Refrain: Sancte Deus, sancte fortis,  
sancte misericors Salvator,  
amarae morti ne tradas nos.  
In te speraverunt Patres nostri  
Speraverunt et liberasti eos.*

Holy God, holy and powerful  
Holy and merciful Saviour,  
Do not give us over to the harshness of death.  
In you, our fathers placed their hopes.  
They placed their hopes and you liberated them.

*When the offerings are brought forward, the people sing the Doxology.*

**O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
To thee be every prayer addressed,  
Who art in threefold Name adored,  
From age to age, the only Lord.**



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**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer A**

*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 361*

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*The celebrant gives thanks for the gifts of God, and the people respond with the hymn,*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***During Lent, it is customary for people to kneel for the remainder of this prayer. If it is not a hardship, please kneel. It is also acceptable to sit and “kneel in your heart.”***

*In the midst of the Great Thanksgiving after the Celebrant says, "Therefore, according to his command, O Father," the people join in declaring the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*At the conclusion of the prayer, the people respond, Amen.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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** *The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then the celebrant and people speak the Fraction Anthem:*

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### **The Distribution of Gifts**

*The celebrant then says the following invitation: The Gifts of God for the People of God.*

*The people come forward to receive Holy Communion. Those on the right side fill in the rail from right to left (back to front). Those on the left side also fill in the rail from right to left (front to back).*

### **Communion Hymn: # 474 When I survey the wondrous cross *Rockingham***

Communion Anthem      Stabat Mater      *Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710 – 1736)*

*Women and Girls of the CEC Adult Choir & St. Dunstan Youth Choir*

Translation:

*Stabat mater dolorosa  
juxta Crucem lacrimosa,  
dum pendebat Filius.*

At the Cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
close to her Son to the last.

**Postcommunion Thanksgiving Prayer***The Book of Common Prayer, p. 365*

*After Communion, the celebrant and people have been strengthened to stand and pray,*  
**Eternal God, heavenly Father,**  
**you have graciously accepted us as living members**  
**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,**  
**and you have fed us with spiritual food**  
**in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**  
**Send us now into the world in peace,**  
**and grant us strength and courage**  
**to love and serve you**  
**with gladness and singleness of heart;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Blessing***The celebrant blesses the people.***Closing Hymn: # 168**

O sacred head, sore wounded

*Herzlich tut mich verlangen***The Dismissal***The Book of Common Prayer, p. 366**Priest:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

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**Copyright Permissions****Media Vita** - Text: Gregorian chant from the 1300s Music: ©Michael McGlynn 1992**Stabat mater** - Words: Adapted from AMainz Gesangbuch, 1661. Translation by Edward Caswall, Lyra Catholica (1849) Choral Public Domain Library**Service Music:** From *Deutsche Messe*: Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

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## Holy Week Worship & Prayer

### **Wednesday, April 1**

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Historic Church

### **Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday**

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with foot washing - Main Church

### **Friday, April 3 - Good Friday**

12 p.m. Solemn Prayers, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament - Main Church

5 p.m. Youth Led Stations of the Cross - Main Church patio

### **Saturday, April 4 - Easter Vigil**

7:42 p.m. in the Main Church

### **Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday**

8 a.m. Historic Church

9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the Main Church

10:30 a.m. Main Church

**Want to try something new & different for Easter this year?**

Come to the Easter Vigil on Saturday at 7:42 p.m. (sunset) and take part in a service full of awe and wonder, amazing music and capped off with a reception of strawberries, chocolates, sparkling grape juice & champagne!



## Our Prayers

### Thanksgivings

*Please share with Fr. Furman any graduations, marriages, births, adoptions, or other special life events if you would like us to include them verbally in our thanksgivings during The Holy Eucharist.*

We give thanks for:

the birth of Brooks Christopher Huthwaite, grandson of Cindi and Chris Haviland

### Healing

*Please share your name with Fr. Furman if you are preparing for, or recovering from, surgery or other therapies and would like to be remembered verbally during The Holy Eucharist.*

We pray for all those who are sick or suffering, or in any need or trouble, including:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cathy Boyd                               | Jeffrey Smith, cousin of Kaitlyn Murray                 |
| Bonny Collins                            | Sharron Huza, friend of Kaitlyn Murray                  |
| Capers Cross                             | Brenda Beaudry, aunt of Dylan Murray                    |
| Charles Farmer                           | Yvonne Dickson, mother of John Dickson                  |
| Jack Jansta                              | Elee Bassett, friend of Jennie Scudder-Levin            |
| Carol McDonnell                          | Molly Begle, granddaughter of Caroline Gendelman        |
| Alex Mitchell                            | Anna Clifford, friend of the Buchanan family            |
| Peggy Nesmith                            | Carol Stephens, sister-in-law of Taylor & Judy Stephens |
| Margaret Passailaigue                    | Katy Jurkiw, daughter of Suzy & Allyn Jones             |
| Jeanne Robinson                          | Sarah Paxton, daughter of Ralph and Andrea Knupp        |
| Ed Wyatt                                 | Charlie & Malinda Tulloh, friends of Marianna MacIntyre |
| Keith Cox, relative of Anne Kilpatrick   | Nicole Foster, cousin of Cheri McCusker                 |
| Ted Smith, brother of Claire Burt        | Olivia Nachman, cousin of Natalie Bily                  |
| Sandy Hobbs, friend of Carolyn Moon      | Joe Padgam, son-in-law of Dan & Susan Sokoloski         |
| Carrie Davis, friend of Cheri McCusker   | Kayle Kelly, friend of Ilameta Moore                    |
| Jon Andrew Allan, father of Julie Allan  | Chuck Burks, friend of Carrie Dolin                     |
| Marty DeWitt, friend of Suzy Jones       | Jay Lanz, brother of Graham Lanz                        |
| Sherry Blatt Hooper, friend of Lee Early | Libby Hood, friend of Jo Hethcox                        |
|  | Reginald Foxx, brother of Ann Cheri Leach               |

### Repose

*Please share with Fr. Furman the names of any relatives or friends who have died, and we will include them in our verbal prayers for repose during The Holy Eucharist.*

We pray for those who have died, including:



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**Rector** - The Rev. Furman Buchanan: [rector@christepiscopalmtp.org](mailto:rector@christepiscopalmtp.org)

**Assoc. Rector for Children, Youth & Families** - The Rev. Dr. Brooks Boylan: [associate@christepiscopalmtp.org](mailto:associate@christepiscopalmtp.org)

**Director of Music/Organist** - Dr. Jo Hethcox: [choir@christepiscopalmtp.org](mailto:choir@christepiscopalmtp.org)