

The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

CONCERNING THE LITURGY

Welcome to St. Peter's Church. Today's liturgy is in two parts. The Liturgy of the Palms celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week of his Passion. After we hear Luke's account of that event, we give thanks over the branches that we carry. A procession then moves into the church building with festive songs of "Hosanna in the highest!"

The second part of today's liturgy changes from triumph to tragedy as it focuses on the suffering and death of Jesus. The account of the Lord's Passion from Luke's gospel often is read with individuals and congregation taking various parts so that we may have a fuller sense of sharing with him in his redemptive acts of dying and rising for our salvation.

The Old Testament reading is one of Isaiah's poems about the suffering servant of God whose suffering atones for the sin of the people. This passage and others like it are understood by Christians to foretell the suffering and death of Jesus.

The reading from Philippians is an early Christian hymn which announces that Jesus' Lordship is revealed not in the power of his divinity but in self-giving love to the point of dying for us, his beloved. This is the ultimate restoration from exile brought about by Jesus.

Today we enter into the celebration of the mighty acts of God which brought about that restoration. During this week, we will rediscover what God has done for us, rediscover the meaning of baptism, and rediscover the meaning of our sharing in Eucharist.

▲ Indicates the People stand, as able.

✙ Indicates the People may make the sign of the cross.

Please note that this service is being live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. You might be visible on the video feed.

Above from: *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

The liturgy begins outside on the patio. All are encouraged to join the procession.

▲ 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.**

▲ GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1–11

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

▲ THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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 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.**

Blessed palms are distributed at this time.

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

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

▲ **HANDBELL PEAL**

Processional in D Major

Kirtsy Mitchell

The procession forms and heads to the church.

The Crucifer, Choir, Altar Party, and People proceed directly to their seats.

Celebrant 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.**

harmony found in

▲ **HYMN IN PROCESSION**

The Hymnal 1982, # 154



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,



who in the Lord's Name come - est, the King and Bless-ed One.
and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584–1635), alt.; harm William Henry Monk (1823–1899)

▲ THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, the crowds acclaimed you as king yet later called for your death; your disciples followed you in life yet so many of them abandoned you at the last. Help us in our weakness to follow you on our journey through this sacred week, that we may keep our eyes fixed on your Passion and through it come to know the glory of the hope of the Resurrection, which you hold out to all who follow you, O Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9–16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

Refrain

Have mer - cy on me, O God.

The musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of a half note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, and a half note on F#4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed. **Refrain**

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.
I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot. **Refrain**

Continued on the next page

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.
 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
 I have said, “You are my God. **Refrain**

My times are in your hand; *
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
 and in your loving-kindness save me.” **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:5–11

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Jeffrey Ross, *Rector*

▲ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

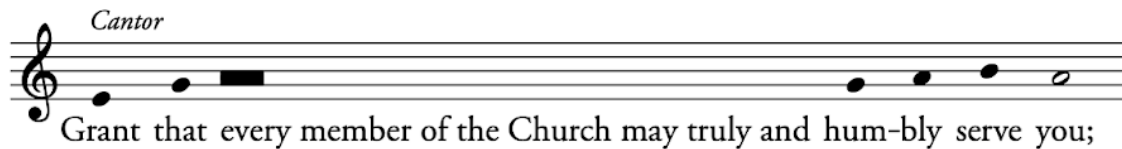
Form III

Cantor *People*



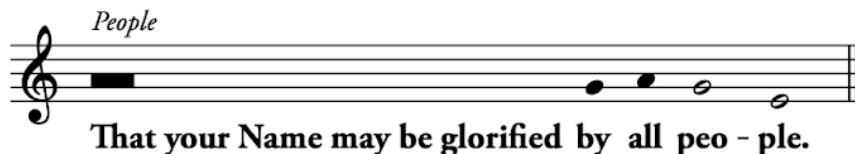
Fa-ther, we pray for your holy Cath-o - lic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Cantor



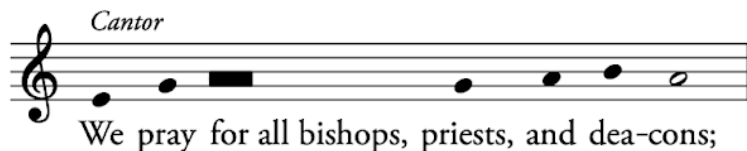
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and hum-bly serve you;

People



That your Name may be glorified by all peo - ple.

Cantor



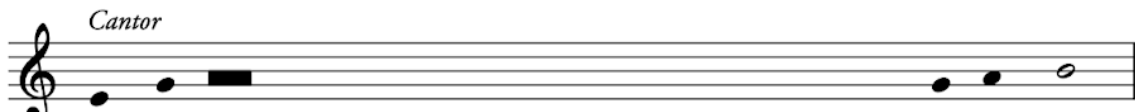
We pray for all bishops, priests, and dea-cons;

People




That they may be faithful ministers of your word and sac-ra-ments.

Cantor



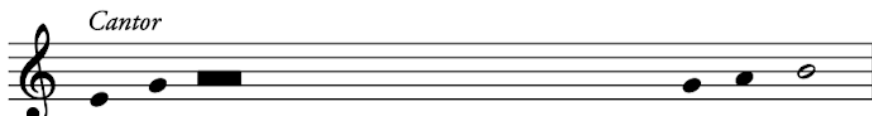
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People



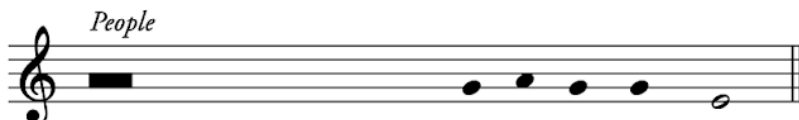
That there may be jus-tice and peace on earth.

Cantor



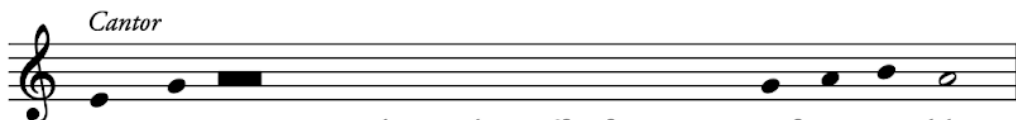
Give us grace to do your will in all that we un-der-take;

People



That our works may find fa-vor in your sight.

Cantor



Have com-compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trou-ble;

People



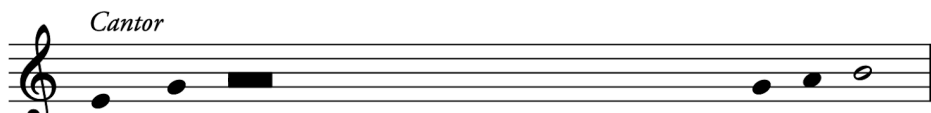
That they may be deliv-ered from their dis-tress.

Cantor *People*



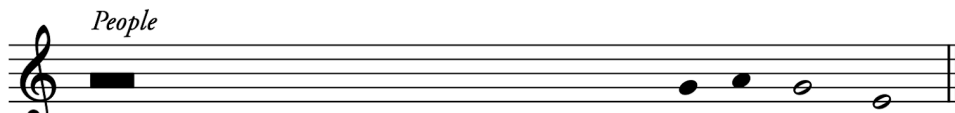
† Give to the depart-ed e-ter-nal rest; **Let light perpetual shine up-on them.**

Cantor




We praise you for your saints who have entered in-to joy;

People



May we also come to share in your hea-ven-ly king-dom.

Cantor



Let us pray for our own needs, and the needs of o - thers.

The People may add their own petitions.

Setting: Anaphoral chant;
adapt. Bruce E. Ford (1947–2025)

Celebrant Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ came to show us what it means to live out of love, and to reveal to us its price in this our broken world, strengthen us in our pilgrimage of life, that we may offer ourselves completely for others. Take from us all selfishness and the insecurity that leads us to attack others to feel safe ourselves, and make our hearts open, compassionate, and free, through the power of his sacred heart, the heart of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

▲ THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

Ride on, King Jesus,
ride on, the conquerin' king.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on.
No man can a-hinder thee.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse.
No man can a-hinder thee.
The ribber of Jordan he did cross.
No man can a-hinder thee.

I was but young when I begun.
No man can a-hinder thee.
But now my race is almost done.
No man can a-hinder thee.

Jesus is the first and he's the last.
Jesus is the Lord, Lord of Lord.
Jesus is the Prince, Prince of peace.
No man can a-hinder thee.

Helen Ralston, soloist ~ DJ Turnell, piano

–Traditional Spiritual

▲ PRESENTATION HYMN

Erbalt uns, Herr

O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed,
who art in three - fold Name a - dored from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer C

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 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**
Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People **By your will they were created and have their being.**
Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**
Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**
Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 -na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: *Mass in E*, Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960) © 1990 Morning Star Music Publishers.
 Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A-709423.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, 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, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion ✠ make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

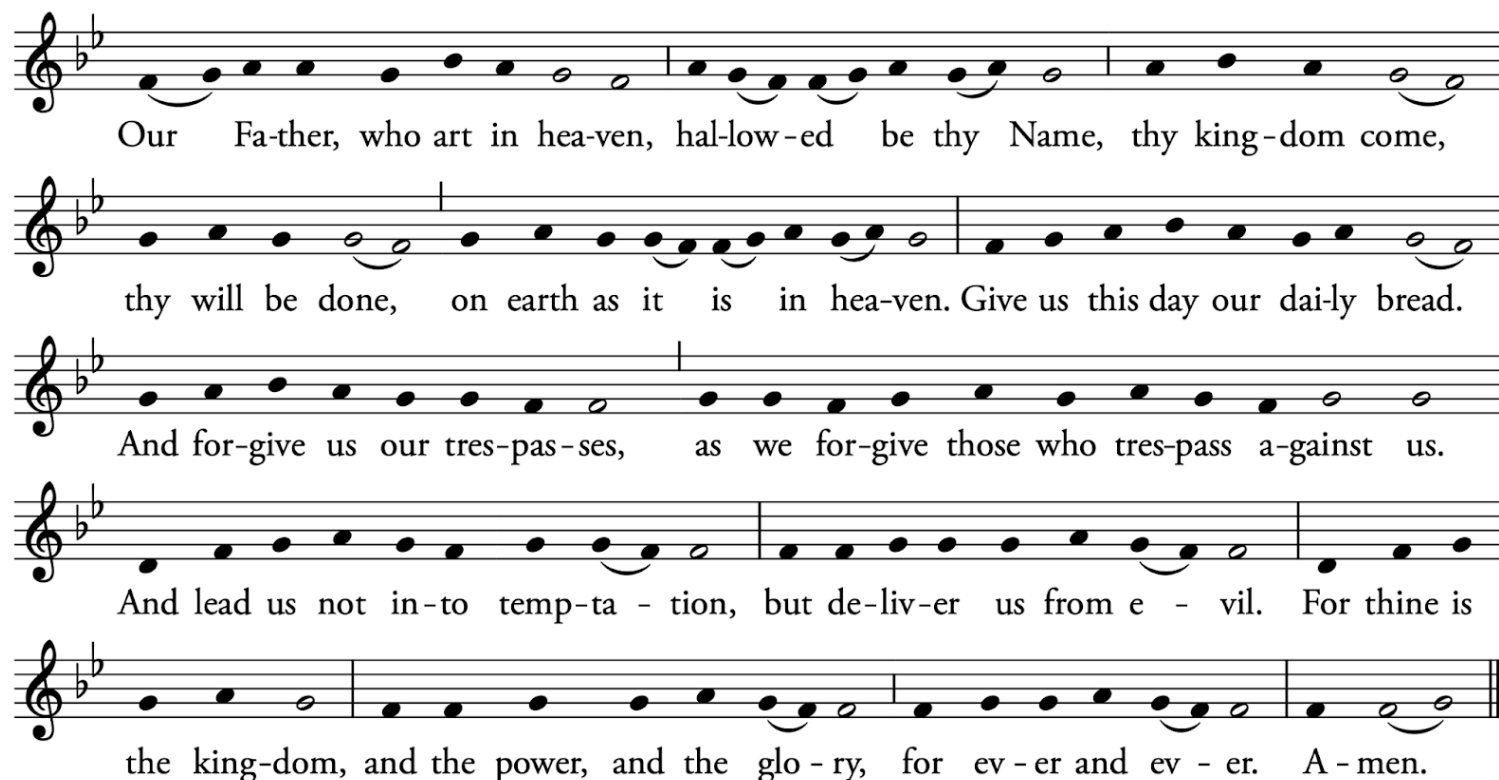
People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

▲ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Hymnal 1982, S 119



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name, thy king-dom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread.
And for-give us our tres-pas-ses, as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us.
And lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de-liv-er us from e - vil. For thine is
the king-dom, and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

▲ **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*The People are seated for the first portion of the Passion Gospel, standing where indicated on page 14.
The people are invited to shout the **bold** text in the reading.*

THE PASSION

Matthew 26:14–27:66

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent

blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.” After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, **“Let him be crucified!”** Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, **“Let him be crucified!”**

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

▲ *The People stand, as able.*

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief

priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

All pause for silent reflection.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The customary response after the Gospel is omitted.

Silence is kept while departing the church today.

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, clergy will not be greeting worshipers at the front door.

Prayer List: *(names usually stay on for about a month):* Sharon Bembry, Nancy Brown, Robert Bly, Barbara Cangiano, Fr. David Canan, Richard Carbonara, Fr. Tom Carlson, Pat Casadei, Robin Chambers, Owen Cheevers, Russ Consaul, Ginger Craft, Carol DeCatur, Angelique Devlin, Jody Ebert, Arline Fleisher, Anna Maria Francis, Pere Yvan Francois, Al Gensch, Paul Goebel, Anita Gossett, Charles Graham & Ray Myrtle, Gibson McDade, Bill Granger, Nancy Grasing, Norma Jane Henry, Bob, Vernon Huber, Brian Jenkins, Pastor Bob Kriesat, Keith Levan, John Martus, D & S, Helen Murphy, Fran, Kristen Nelson, Debbie Padgett, Ruby Peters, Tom Popovich, Steve Portalupi, Diane Potter, Janet Ross, Jay Rooney, Angie Rummel, Pat Schofield, Hugo Seta, Mary Shea, Debbie Simms, George Singer, Ronnie Smith, DJ Turnell, Rosemary Vasan, Patty Warden, ML, Tom Welch, Don Wessel, Louise White, Marianne Wiedmann, Sara Wilkinson, Jerry Williams, Joleen, Jaxon, Kyle, Genevieve, Connie, Rick, Steven, Tim **Deaths:**

The Bishop is Coming to St. Peter's on April 19!

Join us for Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations of Faith

Our Bishop Diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Brown, will visit St. Peter's on Sunday, April 19 to preside and preach at the 10:15 AM service. He will also preside over the sacrament of Confirmation and the Episcopal actions of Reception and Reaffirmation.

Through Baptism we are made a member of the household of God, forever bearing the mark of Christ. Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are means of recommitting ourselves to the promises made at Baptism. Through Confirmation or Reception, you may formally become a member of the Episcopal Church. In recent years, many members of St. Peter's who come from various Christian denominations have chosen to deepen their ties and commitment to the Episcopal Church in this way.

If you have already been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, you may wish to reaffirm your growth in faith and commitment to being a follower of Jesus Christ. This is especially meaningful if you have recently relocated to the area and become active in the church or have had an experience which draws you more deeply into prayer and relationship with God.

If you are considering the sacrament of Confirmation, or the actions of Reaffirmation and Reception, you will be asked to attend the program called "Welcome to the Episcopal Church" and otherwise prepare for this memorable and Spirit-filled day. Please contact The Rev. Kathy Andonian (kathya@stpeterslewes.com) for more information and to ask questions.

Volunteers Needed to help deliver flowers to people on our shut-in list. If you can help deliver a plant (or two) to a shut-in, please show up at the Rectory driveway (It's on Mulberry Street, across from the Parish Hall) at 10:30 am Monday morning, March 30th.

Attention ALL Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Please make sure to return your communion kit to church by Friday, March 27th. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross - April 3, 2026 - Downtown Lewes Please join Deacon Paula and Deacon Chris as they walk the Stations of the Cross beginning at 2:00pm on Good Friday. We invite you to walk together with us pausing to hear scripture and offer prayers. We will begin our journey at St. Peter's and return to St. Peter's. The walk will take approximately one hour. The course is friendly for all ages. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time together. Deacon Paula and Deacon Chris

CALENDAR

Morning Prayer is offered daily at 9 am on Facebook

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

8 am Holy Eucharist
 9³⁰ am Godly Play
 10¹⁵ am Holy Eucharist
 10¹⁵ am Godly Play Last Supper

Monday, March 30

10³⁰ am Shut-in Flower Delivery pickup
 11 am Yoga
 Noon Prayer Vigil for Peace
 1 pm Yoga
 4 pm Insight Meditation
 7 pm AA

Tuesday, March 31

Noon AA
 1 pm STaR Class
 5 pm Seder Meal-*Reservations Required*

Wednesday, April 1

9³⁰ am Clergy Bible Study
 10³⁰ am Centering Prayer
 3 pm Holy Eucharist @ The Moorings
 4 pm Holy Eucharist @ The Lodge
 5 pm Stephen Ministry
 7 pm Tenebrae - A Service of Shadows
 With Choral music

Wednesday, April 1 (continued)

7 pm AA

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

9³⁰ am Bible Study
 11 am Yoga
 7 pm Festal Choral Eucharist w/Foot washing and Stripping of the Altar

Thursday - Friday

8 pm - 8 am Overnight Vigil in the Garden

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

10³⁰ am Women's Spirituality
 Noon Good Friday Liturgy
 2 pm Walking Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday

9 am Spiritual Companion Group (offsite)
 7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 5 - Easter

8 am Festal Choral Holy Eucharist
 10¹⁵ am Festal Choral Holy Eucharist (C)
 10¹⁵ am Festal Holy Eucharist (PH)
 Easter Egg Hunt on St. Peter's Square follows the conclusion of the last service.

Today's Servants

Acolyte	Lector	Lay Eucharistic Minister	Ushers
Shelly Souder	Roo Brown	Jackie Ferris & Candy Williams	Brenda Mitchell & Gerald Adrian

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED The second most important hour of our week together at St. Peter's (after Holy Eucharist) is our fellowship/coffee hour. **Today's Host: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

Parish Nurses Due to the success of previous noncertification CPR, Choking, AED, and Narcan update. St. Peter's Nurses are sponsoring through Beebe's Community Outreach our second program Saturday April 11th in Parish Hall from 9-12. Class size is limited to 25. Please sign up by calling the Parish office at 302 645-8479. This Course is free and a great refresher no matter what age you are!

What is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a confidential, one-to-one Christian care program that provides emotional and spiritual support to people going through life's challenges – such as grief, illness, loneliness, divorce, job loss, or other difficulties. Trained Stephen Ministers are caring members of our congregation who walk alongside those in need, offering compassionate listening and prayer. This ministry reflects Christ's love by reminding individuals that they are not alone and that God cares deeply about them. If you or someone you know could benefit from Stephen Ministry, or if you feel called to serve as a Stephen Ministry we invite you to all the Church Office at (302)645-8479 to learn more.

St Peter's Readers are continuing to meet in person in the church conference room. Our meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 5 pm.

Upcoming Sessions:

- **April 19 5 pm** - Poetry Month- Bring your favorite new or old poem, collection of poems, or a poem of your own.

All readers welcomed. Come when you can, leave when you must.

St. Peter's Players to Regroup Last Summer/Early Autumn, the St. Peter's Players successfully mounted a Reader's Theatre production of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral." Anyone (whether you took part last year or not) who is interested in participating with the group this year, please come to an organizational meeting on Sunday, April 12 in the Parish Hall at 9:15 am (between the 8:00 am and 10:15 services.) Also please sign up on the Google form on the St. Peter's website. (The link will also be in the weekly email.)

Your Humble Organizers: Annie Freeman, Robert Gotwalt, Ray Whitney

Men's Breakfast Come join us on Saturday, April 11th at the Midway Cafe. located in the Midway shopping center (just a few doors down from the Movies at Midway). Separate checks will be available. These monthly get-togethers are held on the second Saturday of each month, September through June. All St. Peter's men are welcomed to join these informal gatherings, regardless of which worship services they may usually attend. The breakfasts afford us the opportunity to establish and/or renew acquaintances, especially as the parish continues to grow. **For further information and to RSVP (always helpful) contact Stu Brahs at sjbrahs@prodigy.net.** PLEASE RSVP SO WE CAN LET THE RESTAURANT KNOW HOW MANY THERE WILL BE!

The Women's Spirituality Group at St. Peter's generally meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. We meet in the new Seminar Room, located across from the restrooms in the Parish Hall building. On April 3 and 17, we will conclude our discussion of We Can Learn to Be Brave by Bishop Mariann Budde. This book has led to many powerful and inspiring conversations. For our meetings in May, June, and July, we will be discussing our next book selection, The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage by Drew Jackson and Richard Rohr. Discussion is facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Carol Flett and the Rev. Rebecca Brenner. Women are welcome to join any meeting and are asked to obtain their own copies of the books. If you have any questions, please contact revflett@gmail.com

St. Peter's Art Show Volunteer Opportunities The Art Show is currently seeking volunteers for certain key Traffic Control and Street Captain positions. These volunteers are crucial to keeping traffic flowing correctly as artists arrive early on Saturday morning, helping them unload and get set up efficiently, and ensuring that dismantling and traffic flow at the close of the Art Show run equally smoothly. There will be specific training sessions provided in June, so don't worry if you haven't done this before. The important requirements are energy, stamina and good vocal projection. Please contact Annie Freeman at abfenator@gmail.com to sign up. Sign ups for all other positions will start in mid-May.

CLERGY & PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Jeffrey Austin Ross, *Rector*

Kelley Mallon, *Parish Administrator*

Jessica Potter, *Family Ministry and Communications*

T. J. Thomas, *Minister of Music*

+

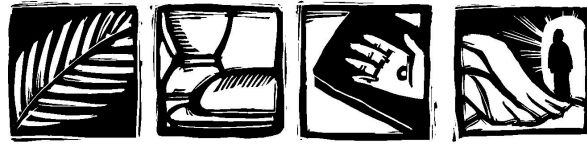
The Rev. Celeste Cox *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Deacon Paula Waite, *Chaplain to Beebe Hospital*

Rick Jarosh, *Sexton*

Helen Waite, *Garden Manager*

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, March 30th

Noon - Prayer Vigil for Peace

Tuesday, March 31st

6 pm - Seder Meal (Reservations Required)

Wednesday, April 1st

7 pm - Tenebrae - a Service of Shadows
with Choral Music

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7 pm - Worship for Maundy Thursday with foot washing (Service includes incense)

Maundy Thursday - Good Friday

8 pm to 9 am - Vigil in the Garden

Good Friday, April 3rd

Noon - Liturgy for Good Friday
2 pm - Walking the Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 4th

7 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter
(Service includes incense)

Easter Day - Sunday, April 5th

8 am - Festal Choral Eucharist in the Church
10:15 am - Festal Choral Eucharist in the Church
10:15 am - Festal Eucharist in the Parish Hall

Easter Egg hunt on St. Peter's square following the end of the last service.



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. Box 464

Lewes, DE 19958

(302) 645-8479 * www.stpeterslewes.org



Give online