

**St. Charles Episcopal Church**  
**9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II**



April 13, 2025  
Palm Sunday

*Welcome! We are pleased you are joining us today. Please share this service with your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you, and God bless you for your faithfulness.*

## **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.

**People: Amen.**

## **First Reading**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

and the battle-bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Blessing of the Palms**

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.**

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.

**People: Amen.**

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

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

*The palms are now distributed to the people.*

**Hosanna**

Antonio Caldara (c.1670-1736)

*Sung by the Choir*

*Hosanna, sing glory to God in the highest evermore.*

*Sing glory to God, sing glory to God for evermore.*

*Awake my heart to sing thy praise,*

*Thou Prince of Life and Fount of Grace.*

*Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna evermore.*

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

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

*All process into the Sanctuary while singing the Processional Hymn.*

# The Procession

# Palm Sunday Processional



1. When they heard that Je - sus was com - ing,  
2. Spread their cloaks and branch - es be - fore him,  
3. Blest is he, like Da - vid be - fore him.  
4. Guid - ing cloud and pil - lar of fire,  
5. Vi - sion blest, and hope for the fu - ture,  
6. Won - drous bread and stream in the des - ert,  
7. Eye of God, who sees to the heart of us,  
8. Ris - ing sun, the light of the world,  
9. Friend in death, who weeps for our dy - ing,  
10. Friend in death, who wakes us to new life,



Sing ho - san - na to the cho - sen one!



All the peo - ple went out to meet him.  
Chil - dren sang, with palm branch - es wav - ing.  
Blest is he, God's bless - ing up - on him.  
Sa - tan's foe and friend of the sin - ner.  
God's be - lov - ed, ra - diant with glo - ry.  
Heav'n - ly food and God's liv - ing wa - ter.  
Heal - ing touch and sight for our blind - ness.  
Word of life, who gives us the Spir - it.  
Friend in death, who rolls back the stone for us.  
Friend in life: we sing glad ho - san - nas.



Sing ho - san - na to the cho - sen one!



Sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na,



sing ho - san - na to the cho - sen one!

When the procession has entered the church all sing:

## Hymn 154

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor


*Refrain*




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.




1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



*Repeat Refrain*



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



Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: Let us pray: 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.

**People: Amen.**

*The people sit.*

### **Second Reading**

**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.

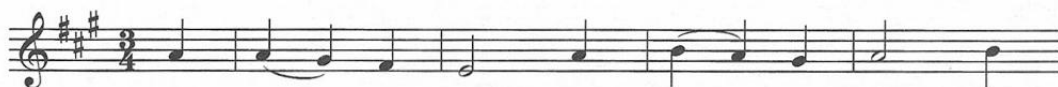
**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as they are able.*

**Sequence Hymn**

**Ride On, Ride On in Majesty**

*Wareham*



1. Ride on, — ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear  
 2. Ride on, — ride on in maj - es - ty! In  
 3. Ride on, — ride on in maj - es - ty! The  
 4. Ride on, — ride on in maj - es - ty! Your  
 5. Ride on, — ride on in maj - es - ty! In



all — the tribes — ho - san - na cry; O  
 low - ly pomp — ride on — to die. O  
 host — of an - gels in — the sky look  
 last — and fierc - est strife — is nigh. The  
 low - ly pomp — ride on — to die, bow



Sav - ior — meek, pur - sue your road with —  
 Christ, — your — tri - umphs now be - gin o'er —  
 down — with — sad and won - d'ring eyes to —  
 Fa - ther — on his sap - phire throne a -  
 your — meek — head to mor - tal pain, then —



palms — and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
 cap - tive death — and con - quered sin.  
 see — the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 waits — his own — a - noint - ed Son.  
 take, — O Christ, — your power — and reign.



Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

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,

"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 would shout out."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The people sit.*

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Fran Holliday

*A period of silence will be kept after the sermon.*

*The people stand as they are able for the reciting of the Nicene Creed.*

## **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.**

## **Prayers of the People (Form II)**

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

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Paula, our Bishop; for Fran, our priest; for Steve, our Deacon; for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the church.

*Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayer for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for all those in our community (*names*)

*Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the departed, especially (*names*).  
Let us pray for those who have died in our community and throughout the world.

*Silence*

Intercessor: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

Intercessor: We pray for our Search Committee and our parish as we seek a new rector, that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit.

*Silence*

Celebrant: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## Peace

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

**People: And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Hymn 168** (*sing stanzas 1-3*)

*Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

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.**

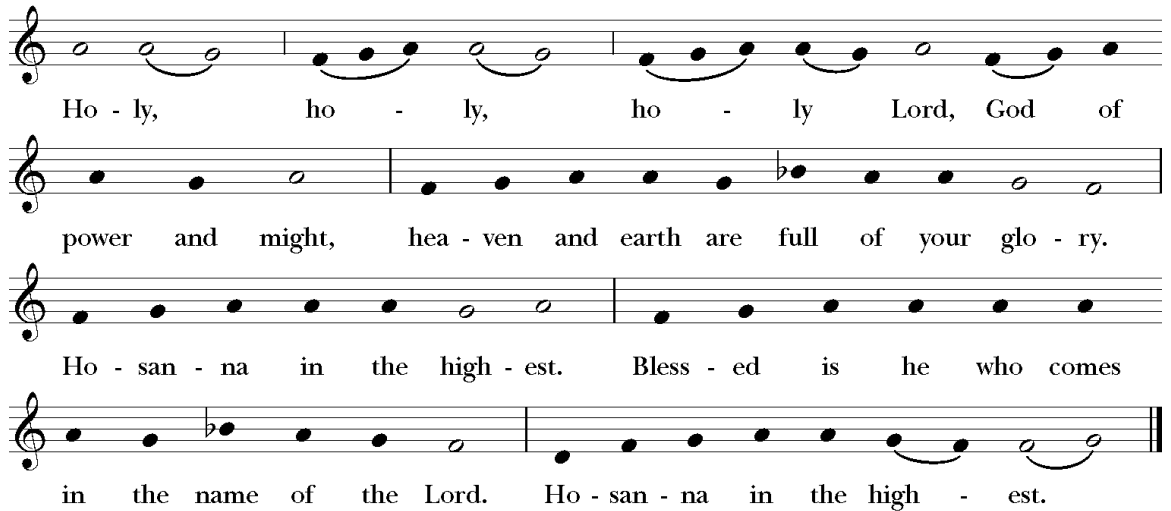
Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy S122

*plainsong*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
power and might, hea - ven 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 in the high - est.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

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

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

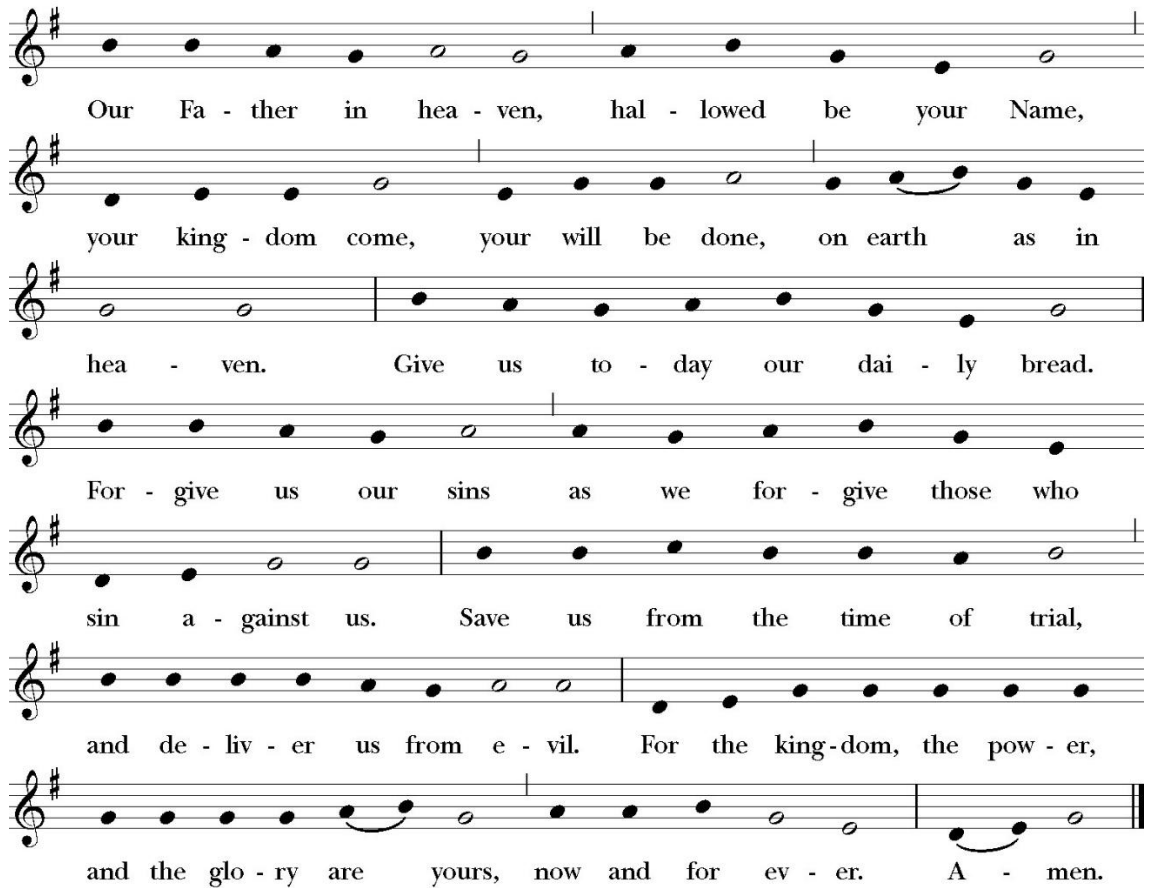
Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

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



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in  
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who  
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

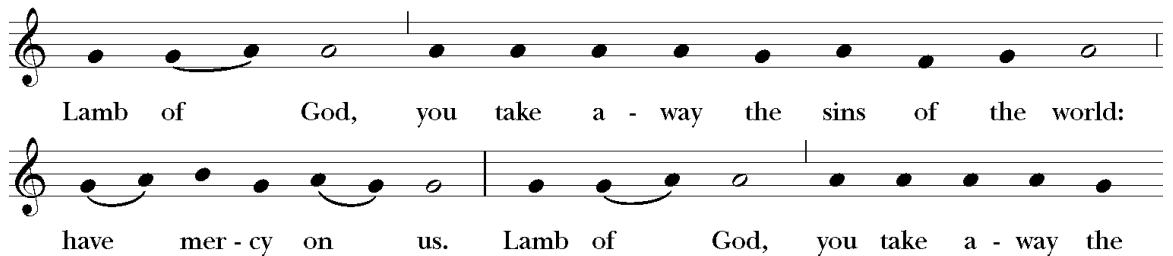
## Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated Bread. Silence is kept.*

### Fraction Anthem S160

### Lamb of God

*plainsong*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Communion

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

**Communion Anthem** *(sung by the Choir)*

**Behold the Lamb of God**

John Behnke (b. 1953)

**Communion Hymn 172**

**Were You there**

## Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**People:** Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*The people sit.*

## **The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: A Liturgical Interpretation**

*The Passion of our Lord is now recounted. Members of the congregation read the various narrative parts. Following the Passion reading, ministers and congregation exit the church in SILENCE.*

*Narrator:* It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. The religious leaders who collaborated with the Roman occupation were conspiring against Jesus. They had gathered in the palace of Caiaphas the High Priest. This man had received the High Priesthood at the hands of Valerius Gratus, the former Roman governor, and now retained the office under Pontius Pilate. They all were planning to arrest and destroy Jesus quietly so as to avoid popular revolt among the Jews. At this time Jesus was lodging at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. While he was there, a woman approached and anointed him with an alabaster jar of pure nard. When his disciples saw the act, they were outraged.

*A Disciple:* Why this waste?

*Judas:* Master, this costly ointment could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor, hungry, and homeless!

*Jesus:* The poor are always with you. Indeed I tell you that wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what this woman has done will be told in her memory.

*Narrator:* Then one of the Twelve named Judas Son of Simon the Iscariot went to the priests and asked:

*Judas:* You are afraid of the crowds, aren't you? What if I could deliver Jesus to you at night?

*Narrator:* When they heard the offer, they were glad and promised Judas thirty pieces of silver. From that hour he sought an opportunity to turn Jesus over, hoping that would incite a revolution against Rome. At the beginning of the feast, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples of Jesus approached him and asked:

*A Disciple:* Where do you wish us to prepare the Paschal meal?

*Jesus:* Go into the city, and you will see there a man carrying a water jar. He will show you a suitable place.

*Narrator:* The two did as Jesus commanded. They entered the city where they found the man with the water jar, who brought them to a large upper room. When evening had come, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were eating, he said:

*Jesus:* I tell you truly that one of you is going to betray me.

*Narrator:* The disciples were stunned with grief.

*Peter:* Surely not I!

*A Disciple:* Nor I!

*Judas:* You don't understand. That's not it!

*Jesus:* The betrayer is one of you dipping his hand in the dish with me. The Son of Man is fulfilling Scripture, but woe to that one through whom the Son of Man is betrayed.

*Narrator:* Then Judas slipped out into the night to put his plot into motion.

*Narrator:* As they were eating, Jesus took bread. After reciting the blessing, he broke it and gave it to his disciples.

*Jesus:* Take, eat; this is my body.

*Narrator:* Then taking the cup with the traditional blessing, he gave it to his disciples.

*Jesus:* This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many. I tell you in truth that I shall not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it fresh in the Kingdom of God.

*Narrator:* Then, having sung a hymn, they left the city for the Mount of Olives. As they walked, Jesus said to his disciples:

*Jesus:* You will desert me this very night. So it is written in the prophet Zechariah, "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."

*Peter:* Though all desert, I will remain by you.

*Jesus:* I tell you truly that this very night, before the cock crows twice, you shall deny me three times.

*Peter:* Even though I must die with you, I will never deny you.

*Narrator:* And so declared all the disciples. Jesus halted at an olive grove called Gethsemane. Then going apart with Peter, James, and John, he left them on watch and continued a little further alone. There he fell on his face in anguished prayer. Soon he returned to the three on watch and found them sleeping.

*Jesus:* Could you not watch with me for just one hour? Watch and pray that you are not put to the test; for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

*Narrator:* Again Jesus went apart in troubled prayer; and again he returned to find the disciples sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. A third time Jesus withdrew to pray, and a third time he found the disciples sleeping.

*Jesus:* Sleep on and finish your rest. Now is the time for the Son of Man to be delivered into the hands of sinners. Here comes my betrayer.

*Narrator:* Jesus had not finished speaking before Judas arrived with a group of Roman soldiers and other armed men from the Temple. Now Judas had arranged with the authorities for a sign and had said:

*Judas:* The man whom I kiss is the one you want.

*Narrator:* In accord with this arrangement Judas went directly to Jesus.

*Judas:* Greetings, Master.

*Narrator:* Then he gave him a kiss.

*Jesus:* Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

*Judas:* I am not here to betray you, but to help you!

*Narrator:* Immediately the soldiers laid hands on Jesus and held him fast. Then one of the disciples with Jesus drew a sword and cut off an ear from the slave of the High Priest.

*Jesus:* Sheathe your sword. All who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Do you not know that I can call upon God, who will respond at once with more than twelve legions of angels?

*Narrator:* Then, turning to the mob, Jesus continued:

*Jesus:* Have you come for me as against a rebel bandit with swords and clubs? Why did you not seize me in the Temple, where I sat teaching by day? Were you so afraid of the Jewish people that you must come for me by stealth? Nevertheless, your actions are fulfilling the words of the prophets.

*Narrator:* Then all of his disciples forsook him and fled. Those who had seized Jesus brought him to Caiaphas, the High Priest. Peter followed at a distance as far as the courtyard. There he sat with the attendants and warmed himself by the fire. The High Priest had gathered his whole council and they began to arrange the case against Jesus which they would present to Pontius Pilate, the governor. The charge was that Jesus claimed to be King of the Jews; and they brought in many false witnesses, but to no avail. Finally, two came forward.

*Witness 1:* We heard this man say, “I will tear down this temple with my hands and ...

*Witness 2:* ... And within three days build another not made with hands.”

*Narrator:* The testimony was evidence that Jesus claimed an authority over Temple affairs which traditionally belonged only to the rulers of Israel, and in those days Israel was ruled by Rome. Yet even these witnesses were unable to agree on their testimony. Finally Caiaphas stood up and examined Jesus directly.

*Caiaphas:* Have you no answer to these charges?

*Narrator:* Jesus remained silent and answered nothing. Then the High Priest put the question of kingship in terms of the royal titles, “Anointed,” and “Son of God.”

*Caiaphas:* Are you the Anointed One, the Son of the Blessed?

*Jesus:* I am, and you shall see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of power coming in the clouds of heaven.

*Caiaphas:* What need have we of witnesses? He has condemned himself!

*Narrator:* They all concurred that Jesus was indeed worthy of death. Then those holding Jesus began to spit on him. They covered his face and were striking him as they taunted him.

*Bystander 1:* O Anointed One...

*Bystander 2:* Prophecy who it is who is striking you!

*Narrator:* Now Peter was warming himself in the courtyard when a small slave girl entered. She confronted Peter and said:

*Slave Girl:* You also were with this Jesus the Nazarene.

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

*Narrator:* Peter went outside into the gateway. Meanwhile the cock crowed. The slave girl followed him out and said to the bystanders:

*Slave Girl:* This man is one of them.

*Narrator:* Again Peter denied knowing Jesus. After a little while the bystanders said directly to Peter:

*Bystander 1:* Surely you are one of them, for you speak with a Galilean accent.

*Narrator:* Then Peter began to swear with an oath:

*Peter:* I do not know this person of whom you are speaking!

*Narrator:* But the cock interrupted him as it crowed for the second time. Immediately Peter remembered how Jesus said to him: “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” He went out and wept bitterly. When morning arrived, all of the chief Priests, along with the other Roman collaborators, bound Jesus and delivered him over to Pontius Pilate. Jesus stood before the Roman governor as the accusers made their charge.

*Witness 1:* We found this man perverting our nation.

*Witness 2:* He was forbidding us to pay taxes to the Emperor and proclaiming himself as Anointed King.

*Pilate:* Are you the King of the Jews?

*Jesus:* You say so.

*Narrator:* The priests were accusing him of many things.

*Pilate:* Have you no answer to give? Look at how many accusations they are making!

*Narrator:* Jesus astonished Pilate by remaining silent. At that festival the governor used to release a prisoner, and some were urging Pilate to do so at this time. Now there was a notable rebel in prison with those who had committed murder during the insurrection. His name was Jesus Barabbas. Therefore, the priests arranged a demonstration to demand Barabbas.

*Pilate:* Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus the Anointed One?

*Crowd:* **Barabbas!**



*Pilate:* What shall I do then with Jesus the Anointed One?

*Crowd:* **Crucify him! Crucify him!**

*Pilate:* Are you certain of his guilt?

*Narrator:* The crowd took up the chant:

*Crowd:* **Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!**

*Pilate:* Shall I crucify your king?

*Crowd:* **We have no king but Caesar.**

*Narrator:* Then Pilate agreed to release Jesus Barabbas, but Jesus the Anointed King he handed over to his soldiers for scourging and crucifixion. When Judas saw that Jesus had refused to help himself, that the people had deserted him, Judas realized his own sin of pride and repented his betrayal. He went to the priests.

*Judas:* I have sinned in betraying God's Anointed One.

*Priest:* What is that to us? That is your affair.

*Narrator:* Judas threw down the thirty pieces of silver in the Temple and fled. His anger and shame blinded him to the purpose of God in the crisis, and he hanged himself. Picking up the silver pieces, the priest said:

*Priest:* It is unlawful to put this silver into the treasury, for it is blood money.

*Narrator:* Whereupon they used the money to buy the potter's field for the burial of strangers. Therefore, that field is known to this day as The Field of Blood. The soldiers led Jesus away within the governor's palace. There they assembled the whole battalion. They clothed Jesus in royal purple. They set a crown of thorns upon his head and shoved a reed between his fingers for a scepter. They began to mock him by kneeling before him.

*Crowd:* **Hail, King of the Jews!**

*Narrator:* They also spat upon him and smote him on the head with a stick. Then, after mocking him, they took away the purple, returned his own clothes, and brought him out to crucify him. On the road they met an African of Cyrene named Simon, coming in from the countryside. Him they compelled to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to a place called Golgatha, which means "skull."

### **ALL STAND**

*Narrator:* There they crucified him. It was nine in the morning. They offered him wine mingled with myrrh, but he refused it. His garments they divided among themselves, casting lots for them. Over his head they inscribed the charge against him, "The King of the Jews." Also there were two insurrectionists crucified with him, one on his right, and on to his left. Those who passed by were shaking their heads in derision.

*Bystander 1:* So, you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days!

*Bystander 2:* Save yourself! Come down from the cross!

*Narrator:* Likewise the priestly collaborators mocked him.

*Priest:* He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let the Anointed One, the King of Israel, come down from the cross that we may see and believe.

*Narrator:* Even the two crucified with him reviled him. Now from midday there was darkness over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At that hour Jesus cried in a loud voice:

*Jesus:* Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!

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

*Narrator:* One of the bystanders put a sponge full of vinegar on a stick and laid it to his lips.

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

*Narrator:* Then Jesus, having uttered a loud cry, breathed his last breath. Suddenly the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. Even the tombs of the dead were opened. Now, when the centurion on watch and the others who were with him saw all that was taking place, they were filled with awe.

*Centurion:* Truly this man was God's royal son!

*The ministers and congregation exit the church in SILENCE*



## Upcoming Events 2025:

- ❖ Thursday, April 17 – 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
- ❖ Friday, April 18 – Noon Stations of the Cross  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Solemn Service
- ❖ Sunday, April 20 – 9:30 a.m. Easter service with Eucharist



*St. Charles Episcopal Church*

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