

## *Palm - Passion Sunday*



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

*March 29, 2026*

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*The service begins outside.*

### LITURGY OF THE PALMS

#### **Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Blessed is the One 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 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.**

### **The Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

*Celebrant* The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, O God.**

*Celebrant* When they 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,

*People* **"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

*Celebrant* 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."

*Celebrant* The gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Blessing of the Palms**

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to 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. 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People* **Hosanna in the highest!**

*Palms are distributed.*

## The Procession

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in peace  
*People* In the name of Christ. Amen.

*All are encouraged to join the procession of the palms, as we follow the crucifer, waving our palms as we sing and process. Those at their seats are invited to wave their palms as they sing the hymn.*

## Processional Hymn: #154 All Glory, Laud and Honor

*The Hymnal 1982*

*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.

*The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.*

## Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*People* Hosanna in the highest!

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* God 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, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## Choral Introit

"Hosanna" by Franz Schubert

*Hosanna to the son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
King of Israel, Hosanna is the highest!*

## Children's Greeting

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

## THE LESSONS

### First Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

*Mike Perfetti*

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.

*Lector* Word of God, word of life.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Hymn, #156

Ride on, ride on in majesty

*The Hymnal 1982*

### The Gospel: Matthew 26:17-27:1-2; 11-66

*Celebrant* The holy gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, O God.**

*Celebrant* Please be seated for the reading of the gospel.

*Gospel text can be found on pg. 12*

*Celebrant* The gospel of the Lord.

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

## Anthem

"Out of the Deep" by John Rutter (Psalm 130)

*Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord hear my voice.  
O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.  
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?  
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be fear'd.  
I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for him, and in his word is my trust.  
My soul flee-eth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say.  
O Israel, trust in the Lord, with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous  
redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.  
Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord hear my voice*

## Homily

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

## Prayers of the People

*Peter Sillin*

*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, O God.

*Silence for reflection*

*Leader* For all people in their daily life and work;  
*People* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Leader* For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Thomas, our Bishop; and Amanda, our Rector;  
**For all who serve God in the Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially those on our St. Bart's prayer list:

**Virginia & Jamil; Jenny & Matt; Sasha; Paige; Nathaniel; Haskell; Don; Gregory; Andy; Molly; Nova; Steven; Jenn; Vance; Ted; Matt & Shannon; Lem; Carol; Beverly; Ben; Morgan; Benson; Hana; Celeste; Hans; Pam; Hurshell; Melanie; Susan; Sue; Brooke; Elizabeth; Danny; Peter; Nate; Lin; and Caroline.**

For those on our hearts and minds whose names we lift before you now, either aloud or silently. (*Pause for intercessions*)

Hear us, O Christ;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We remember those we name before you now, either aloud or silently.  
*(Pause for intercessions).*

Let your loving-kindness be upon them, O God;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We thank you, O God, for all the blessings of this life.

*Pause for intercessions of thanksgiving.*

We will exalt you, O God our Sovereign;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

### Concluding Collect

*Celebrant* Holy God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*Please greet one another with a sign of peace.*

### Announcements

*Anne Jacobs*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant* The scriptures say: "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." (*Ephesians 5:2*) Therefore, let us, now, share the blessings of our lives to the glory of God.

### Offertory Hymn, #158

Ah, holy Jesus

*The Hymnal 1982*

### Offertory Prayer

*Intern* Let us pray.

*People* **All that we have is yours, O God, give us also grateful hearts. Amen.**

### Blessing of the Diapers Collected for St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People*           **We lift them to our God.**  
*Celebrant*       Let us give thanks to the Holy One.  
*People*           **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*       All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

**Sanctus, #736**

*Hymnal 1940*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and  
 earth are full of thy glo-ry: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. A - men.

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*Celebrant*       Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have healed our brokenness, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to

you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*People*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*

*People*

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### The Fraction

*Celebrant*

*People*

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

**Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

### The Invitation

*Celebrant*

*People*

Come! For all is now ready: the gifts of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### Holy Communion

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward down the center aisle to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearers will follow the Priest with the chalice of wine. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing*

*of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.*

**Music at Communion, #169**    O Sacred Head

*The Hymnal 1982*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*Intern*            Let us pray together: Loving God,  
*People*            **we give you thanks**  
                      **for restoring us in your image**  
                      **and nourishing us with spiritual food**  
                      **in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**  
**Now send us forth**  
**a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;**  
**that we may proclaim your love to the world**  
**and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Blessing**

*Celebrant*        Holy eternal Majesty,  
                      Holy incarnate Word,  
                      Holy abiding Spirit,  
                      Bless you for evermore.  
*People*            **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn, #458**            My song is love unknown

*The Hymnal 1982*

**An Invitation to Holy Week: "Song of the Winding Sheet" by Jan Richardson**

*Mike Perfetti*

We never would have wished it to come to this, yet we call these moments holy as we hold you. Holy the tending, holy the winding, holy the leaving as in the living.  Holy the silence, holy the stillness, holy the turning and returning to earth.  Blessed is the One who came	in the name, blessed is the One who laid himself down,  blessed is the One emptied for us, blessed is the One wearing the shroud.  Holy the waiting, holy the grieving, holy the shadows and gathering night.  Holy the darkness, holy the hours, holy the hope turning toward light.
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*There is no dismissal this morning. Palm-Passion Sunday is the start of Holy Week and at St. Bart's we view this week and its special services as one, week-long service. As you leave this place, you are still "worshipping" as you say your daily prayers and go about the journey with Christ to the cross.*

**Postlude**

"O Sacred Head" by J.S. Bach (cello)

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## RESOURCES

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Communion Liturgy: Enriching our Worship; "Song of the Winding Sheet" by Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*; Cover Image: "Palm Sunday" by Jen Norton

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Music</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Musicians</b>	The St. Bart's Choir
<b>Special Musician</b>	Fred Edelen (cello)
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Peter Sillin
<b>Nonvested Chalice Bearer</b>	Anne Jacobs
<b>Lector</b>	Mike Perfetti
<b>Ushers</b>	Basil Souder, Mary Strnad
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth LaSalle
<b>Flower Arranger</b>	Imelda Schaefer
<b>A/V</b>	Joe Michaud
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Barbara Barhydt
<b>Counters</b>	Dennis Fitzgibbons, Pam Hobson
<b>Snow Removal</b>	Peter Sillin
<b>VPOW</b>	Anne Jacobs
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Barbara Barhydt & Carol Hayes

### **A note on antisemitism during Holy Week from Rev. Amanda**

Holy Week is, for Christians across the globe, the time of year when we journey with Jesus both toward the cross on Good Friday as well as toward God’s great redeeming act of love on Resurrection Sunday. Our guides in this journey are the storytellers of our scriptures, most notably our gospel authors Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These gospel depictions of Jesus’ arrest, trial, death, and resurrection have been the inspiration for films, music, and works of art, they have also been the foundation for antisemitism in the Church. The Episcopal Church notes:

We acknowledge that unjust stereotyping of Jews by Christians persists, continuing to harm Jewish people in the present day—as it has for centuries. We acknowledge that anti-Judaism is expressed in a wide array of present practices of The Episcopal Church: our liturgical texts, interpretation of scriptures, preaching, devotional practices, poetry, iconography, hymnody, academic writing, pastoral advice, and educational resources.<sup>1</sup>

To interrupt that cycle of harm, our Worship & Music Committee has utilized canonically authorized, edited versions of some of these texts. However, minor changes to the text cannot correct centuries of interpretation and I invite you to consider how you might increase your awareness of this issue and how you could interrupt the stereotyping, condemning, and demeaning ways our Jewish siblings are held in Christian spaces and thought. Let us not forget that it was not a people who condemned Jesus and crucified him on the cross, it was an authoritarian empire.

<sup>1</sup>“Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church (2021)

The Gospel: Matthew 26:17-27:1-2; 11-66

- Narrator* On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
- Disciples* **“Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”**
- Narrator* He said,
- Jesus* “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.’”
- Narrator* 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 disciples, and while they were eating he said,
- Jesus* “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”
- Narrator* And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,
- Disciples* **“Surely not I, Lord?”**
- Narrator* He answered,
- Jesus* “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.”
- Narrator* Judas, who betrayed him, said,
- Judas* “Surely not I, Rabbi?”
- Narrator* He replied,
- Jesus* “You have said so.”
- Narrator* While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,
- Jesus* “Take, eat; this is my body.”
- Narrator* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,
- Jesus* “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.”

*Narrator* When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,

*Jesus* “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,  
‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’  
“But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

*Narrator* Peter said to him,

*Peter* “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

*Narrator* Jesus said to him,

*Jesus* “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

*Narrator* Peter said to him,

*Peter* “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

*Narrator* And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

*Jesus* “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

*Narrator* He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

*Jesus* “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”

*Narrator* And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

*Jesus* “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.”

*Narrator* Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,

*Jesus* “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.”

*Narrator* Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

*Jesus* "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

*Narrator* 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,

*Jesus* "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

*Narrator* 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,

*Judas* "Greetings, Rabbi!"

*Narrator* and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

*Jesus* "Friend, do what you are here to do."

*Narrator* 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,

*Jesus* "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die 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?"

*Narrator* At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

*Jesus* "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? 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."

*Narrator* Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where 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,

*High Voices* "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "

*Narrator* The high priest stood up and said,

*Low Voices* “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

*Narrator* But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

*Low Voices* “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

*Narrator* Jesus said to him,

*Jesus* “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.”

*Narrator* Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

*Low Voices* “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What do you think?”

*Narrator* They answered,

*High Voices* “He deserves death.”

*Narrator* Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, saying,

*Low Voices* “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

*Narrator* Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said,

*High Voices* “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

*Narrator* But he denied it before all of them, saying,

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

*Narrator* When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

*High Voices* “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”

*Narrator* Again he denied it with an oath,

*Peter* “I do not know the man.”

*Narrator* After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

*Low Voices* “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

*Narrator* Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

*Peter* “I do not know the man!”

*Narrator* 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.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

*Pilate* “Are you the king of the Jews?”

*Narrator* Jesus said,

*Jesus* “You say so.”

*Narrator* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

*Pilate* “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”

*Narrator* 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,

*Pilate* “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

*Narrator* 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,

*Pilate* “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

*Narrator* And they said,

*All* **“Barabbas.”**

*Narrator* Pilate said to them,

*Pilate* “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

*Narrator* All of them said,

*All* **“Let him be crucified!”**

*Narrator* Then he asked,

*Pilate* “Why, what evil has he done?”

*Narrator* But they shouted all the more,

*All* **“Let him be crucified!”**

*Narrator* 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,

*Pilate* “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

*Narrator* Then the people as a whole answered,

*All* **“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

*Narrator* 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,

*Low Voices* “Hail, King of the Jews!”

*Narrator* 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.

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 rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

*High Voices* "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."

*Narrator* In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

*Low Voices* "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.' "

*Narrator* The rebels 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,

*Jesus* "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

*Narrator* that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*High Voices* "This man is calling for Elijah."

*Narrator* 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,

*Low Voices* "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

*Narrator* Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

*Narrator* 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,

*All* "Truly this man was God's Son!"

*Narrator* Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to 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 also was himself 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 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,

*Low Voices* “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.”

*Narrator* Pilate said to them,

*Pilate* “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

*Narrator* So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

READERS: Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson, Maria Guarino, Benedict Zimmerman, Mike Perfetti



# 2026 Holy Week Schedule

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## **PALM-PASSION SUNDAY MARCH 29, 9:30 AM**

Holy Week begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where palms were laid before him on the road. Join St. Bart's for a Holy Eucharist service where we journey with Jesus into Jerusalem and then contemplate, together, the story of Jesus' Passion -- the story of his trial and crucifixion.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2, 5:30 PM**

Maundy Thursday commemorates the night when Jesus gave his great commandment -- that we love one another -- and instituted the Lord's Supper (Communion). Come and celebrate with us as we remember these gifts of grace.

## **GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3, 5:30 PM**

This is the evening we remember Jesus' trial and death on the cross. This will be a contemplative service of scripture, music, and poetry.

## **EASTER VIGIL APRIL 4, 7 PM ST. LUKE'S CATHEDRAL**

The community of St. Bart's will be joining the wider Episcopal and ecumenical communities of Portland for a shared Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of St. Luke (State St., Portland). Let us come together as a community of believers to tell, once again, the stories of our faith and to anticipate the joy of Easter morning.

## **EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5, 8:15 & 10 AM**

Jesus is risen! Join our community for a festive Eucharist to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The 10 am service will feature a sung liturgy accompanied by the organ and St. Bart's Choir. There will be no choir at the 8:15 am service.



**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**  
[www.stbartsyarmouth.org](http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org)