

The Episcopal  
**Church of the Ascension**

Your Village Church since 1885

*Our Vision: we serve Christ today  
for those who will come to know and serve Christ tomorrow.*

# The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

## March 24, 2024

### THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Ten-fifteen in the morning

#### Opening Anthem

*Cantor or Celebrant*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord;

*People*

Peace in heaven and glory in the high - est.

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.**

#### A Lesson Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

#### The Blessing over the Branches

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.**

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.**

*The Psalms are blessed and then distributed to the people. The procession begins after the following responsory.*

*Cantor or Celebrant*

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

*People*

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Deacon*

Let us go forth in peace.

*People*

In the name of Christ. A - men.

## The Procession

*The following hymn will be sung by the choir and people as they process to the church. The congregation will enter the church, go on to the pews and remain standing.*

*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.*

*The congregation may be seated while the choir sings the following anthem.*

### A Palm Sunday Antiphon

*music: David C. Morgan*

*text: Matthew 21:9*

*Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Thou that sittest in the highest heav'ns.  
Hosanna in excelsis Deo!*

*In the vestibule, the procession of ministers pauses while the Celebrant prays the following Collect.*

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.*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

Hymns and "S" numbers are found in the blue Hymnal, while all other page numbers refer to the red Prayer Book.

## The Word of God

The People stand and sing

**Hymn 156**

THE KING'S MAJESTY

1 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the  
2 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and  
5 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly

1 tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his  
2 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be -  
3 ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and won - dering  
4 fierc - est strife is nigh; the Fa - ther on his sap - phire  
5 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mor - tal

1 road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
2 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
3 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
4 throne ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.  
5 pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

## The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book page # 272

The Celebrant says to the people The Lord be with you      People **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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

## The Lessons

Prayer Book page # 357

The people sit. Two Lessons, as appointed, are read. After each Reading, the Reader may say

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

**A Reading from the book of Isaiah (50:4-9a)**

**The Gradual Psalm 31:9-16**      The congregation is invited to sing the psalm with the choir .

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; \*

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; \*

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

11 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.

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

13 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.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. \* I have said, "You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand; \* rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \* and in your loving-kindness save me."

### *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (2:5-11)*

*The People stand and sing*

#### **The Sequence Hymn, No 171**

PETRA

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
3 Cal-vary's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,

your Re-deem-er's con-flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete;

turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - fer-ing, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.  
"It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

*Following the Sequence Hymn, the congregation is seated and remains so during the first portion of the Passion narrative. All stand at the verse telling of the arrival at the place of The Skull. The congregation is invited to speak the part of the crowd, as indicated in bold in the text.*

### *The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "**Crucify him!**" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "**Crucify him!**" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they

put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "**Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!**" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

## The Homily

*The Very Rev'd Canon Michael Bamberger*

## The Prayers of the People

*Leader* As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere.

For the holy catholic church throughout the world, that it may share in our Lord's passion in this holy week. Hear us, O God, *People* **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; John our Bishop, Michael, our Rector; and for all servants of Christ. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For those who will be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit at the Great Vigil of Easter, that they may be forever joined to Christ. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For the spread of justice and peace in all nations, and especially for a lasting peace in the Holy Land, Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For all who are tempted, afflicted, oppressed or in need, especially those who suffer from physical or emotional abuse. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For those commended to our prayers, especially...for their deliverance from all illness, strife or need. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For all military personnel serving in Iraq and elsewhere, and especially those we know and love: and for all in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine who suffer from the violence of war. Hear us, O God,

**For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

We give thanks for those parishioners celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially..., and for our families, companions, and all those we love. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

For those who have found their rest in Christ, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that they may also find unending life in him. Hear us, O God, **For blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to bear the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place, and grant us strength for the journey of this week. Glory to you for ever.

## The Peace

Prayer Book page # 360

## The Holy Communion

Prayer Book page # 361

*The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. During the Offertory the following will be sung*

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*music: Gilbert Martin*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Altar. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed upon the Altar and sing the following*

*Refrain*  
Congregation

(Organ) All things come of Thee, O Lord,  
and of Thine own have we giv - en Thee. CHOIR:  
Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy  
and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual  
worship.  
(Organ) Congregation  
repeat Refrain

## The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Prayer Book page # 361

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings (Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-120")*

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 him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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:

*Celebrant and People (Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-124")*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

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

*The people remain standing, or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: 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:

*Celebrant and People* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** *(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-135”)*

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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 Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People and Celebrant* *(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-119”)*

**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 Breaking of the Bread

Prayer Book page # 364

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung*

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;** Therefore let us keep the feast. *(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-153”)*

*The following Fraction Anthem will be sung* *(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-161”)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. *And may add:* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

*All are welcome to come forward and receive of this sacrament of Christ’s Presence or receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing or not receive from the Cup, please indicate by crossing your arms before you. Gluten-free hosts are available – please inform the priest distributing communion if you would prefer to receive in this kind. Ascension has returned to receiving Communion in both kinds. Our parishioners have choices. One option is to continue to receive in one kind. A second option is to receive from the common cup. A third option will be for individuals and households to receive in a small chalice, which will have a small amount of consecrated wine poured into it from the common cruet. Folks may choose to bring from home a glass or cup that holds special significance or to use a small glass which we have available. Please note – the practice of Intinction (where a parishioner dips the bread in the wine) is not permitted under diocesan guidelines.*

*For those viewing on Facebook Live, here is the prayer for spiritual Communion –*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood — given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.**

**(From ELCA Bishop Ray Erwin)**



After Communion, the people stand and sing **Hymn No. 474**

ROCKINGHAM

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

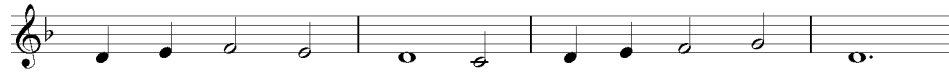
*Prayer Book page # 365*

*Celebrant and People*

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

The people then stand and sing **The Final Hymn No. 435**

KINGS WESTON



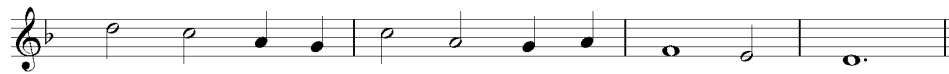
1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,  
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name  
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,  
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,  
 \*5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due  
 \*6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;  
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,  
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,  
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;  
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;  
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord  
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,  
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;  
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,  
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;  
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.  
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;  
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.  
 4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.  
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.  
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

*The Celebrant may bless the people.*

*The People are dismissed with these or similar words*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary:

*Once the procession has retired from the church, the People are invited to remain for the Voluntary or kneel in meditation. Following the Voluntary, the Angelus will be rung.*

*℣.* An angel of the LORD spoke to Mary, *℞.* And she was with child by the Holy Spirit.

Greetings, gracious Mary; the LORD is with you: you are a favored woman, and favored is your son, Jesus.\* Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the time of our death.

*℣.* See the handmaid of the LORD. *℞.* May it be done to me according to your word.

Greetings, gracious Mary; ....

*℣.* And the Word was made flesh. *℞.* And dwelt among us.

Greetings, gracious Mary; .....

*℣.* Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. *℞.* That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O LORD, you made known to us the incarnation of your Son, the Christ, by the message of an angel: pour your grace into our hearts, that we may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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*Please join us in the Parish Hall for coffee hour.*

## Announcements for The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

**ASCENSION WELCOMES CHILDREN** – There are toys in the “Prayground” towards the back of the church and in the side chapel for small children in need of distraction, and a rocking chair for those in need of consolation. And sometimes parents and kids need to feel free to step outside and take a breather! All children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

**IF YOU ARE VISITING US TODAY**, we welcome you in the Name of Christ and invite all persons to share in the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood. Holy Baptism is the way we acknowledge our fellowship and communion in Christ's Church. If you are interested in being baptized or talking about your baptism, please speak to the Rector – Canon Bamberger.

**THE TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP** will gather together at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Corfu Restaurant, located at 48 West Sierra Madre Blvd., here in town. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at [ray@madre.net](mailto:ray@madre.net) or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

**BETWEEN THE MASSES** - The adult discussion group is not meeting today or on Easter Sunday.

**THE WATCH AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE.** The vigil will continue from the conclusion of Maundy Thursday Mass until 10:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the Watch will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden.

**ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD IS COLLECTING FOR EASTER FLOWERS:** Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to the Church of the Ascension and turned today for donations to be noted in the Easter bulletin.

**SIMILARLY, OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to The Church of the Ascension (with the notation “Music Fund”) and turned in today for donations to be noted in the Easter bulletin.

### Holy Week Service Schedule

Wednesday in Holy Week	Tenebrae	7:00 p.m.
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Mass	7:00 a.m. and 7 p.m.
	<i>The Watch at the Altar of Repose begins after the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Maundy Thursday.</i>	
<b>Good Friday</b>	Stations of the Cross - Outdoors	12 noon
	Liturgy	7:00 p.m.
<b>Easter</b>	The Great Vigil of Easter and Solemn Mass	6:00 a.m.
	Easter Brunch	8:00 a.m.
	Festival High Mass	10:15 a.m.

### LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: The Vigil -

Genesis 1:1-2:4a [The Story of Creation]  
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 [Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea]  
Ezekiel 36:24-28 [A new heart and a new spirit]  
Ezekiel 37:1-14 [The valley of dry bones]  
Zephaniah 3:14-20 [The gathering of God's people]

### At The Eucharist -

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

## What We're About

On behalf of our church family, we welcome you in the name of Jesus. Ascension is a special church in the midst of the unique community of Sierra Madre in Southern California.

Sierra Madre is in many respects a village in the midst of a major metropolitan area. While Ascension is the village church, our people come both from "town" and beyond. We are blessed with a beautiful historic building and setting, a vibrant tradition of worship and ministry, an open and inclusive spirit, and most of all, a healthy congregation of younger and older people, single folks and families and even the occasional pet – indeed a rich blend.

Established in 1885, Ascension has a rich history. A wood frame building erected in 1886 was demolished by a windstorm the next year. A new stone building was begun shortly thereafter and continues in use. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The church building suffered major damage in the 1991 Sierra Madre Earthquake, and repairs were completed in the following year. The church celebrated its first 125 years a few years ago and has moved into its second century with vigor, enthusiasm and a growing and dedicated congregation from around the San Gabriel Valley area.

We believe God is calling all people into community where we can worship, discover, and use the gifts with which God has endowed us and find healing, spiritual nourishment, and companions in ministry. At Ascension, people truly care for one another in the abundance of Christ's grace, love and mercy. In this spirit, we would love to get to know you.

**LEADERSHIP:** *Rector:* The Very Reverend Canon Michael A. Bamberger, M. Div.;

*Assisting the Rector:* The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecienski

*Parish Administrator:* Ms. Kim Lumino; *Director of Music and Organist:* Mr. Robert Williamson; *Administrative Coordinator:* Mrs. Jean Rowe; *Altar Guild Director:* Mrs. Lynne Holl; *Senior Warden:* Mr. Gordon Tomaske; *Junior Warden:* Mr. Cameron Cox; *Treasurer:* Mr. Eric Mulfinger;

### **The Episcopal Church of the Ascension**

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Telephone: (626) 355-1133 (626) 355-8919

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 2:00

[www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com)