Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church

Houston, Texas

Bringing the peace of Jesus to the whole world

The Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Baptism
8:00 am
April 12, 2026

6221 Main Street | Houston, Texas 77030 | 713.529.6196

PalmerChurch.org

Welcome to Palmer, during this Easter Season!

We are a community of Christians worshiping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this morning. Scan the QR code to the left or visit palmerchurch.org/connect to fill out a welcome card or a request for prayer.

Receiving Holy Communion

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should join in the line on the left side of the church and let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God's grace today.

Receiving a Blessing

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

Seeking Baptism

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please speak with a member of the clergy listed below or someone at the Welcome Table after this hour of worship. It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

Medical Center Guests

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston by stopping at the Welcome Table by the front doors of the church or contacting Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org.

Caring for the Wellness of our Parish and Community

We strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccinations and boosters. Masking is optional.

Clergy and Liturgical Church Staff

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Rev'd Allen M. Junek, *Associate Rector*

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life*

The Rev'd Mary Reddick, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Beth Anne Nelson, *The Diocese of Texas Missioner to Rice University*

Roger Hutchison, *Director of Family Ministries and Digital Storytelling*

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Laura Smith, *Associate Organist*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, *Children's Choirs*

Free parking is available every Sunday across Cambridge Street from the church in the Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza parking garage (6400 Fannin Street), with entrances on both Fannin Street and Main Street. Palmer has purchased this convenient parking and absorbed the cost to provide it to parishioners and guests. Simply bring the ticket you receive when entering the parking garage to the Welcome Table by the front entrance of the church. Then validate your parking ticket by using a machine located on that table. If you do not receive a parking ticket, or happen to misplace your ticket, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine as you exit. Upon exiting the parking garage, if the ticket machine indicates that you owe a fee, press the cancel button, and then insert your validated parking ticket into the machine. The gate will go up right away. Again, if you need assistance, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine.

Our Mission

To know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ through deep understanding of our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors, in a joyfully engaged and welcoming community, dedicated to thoughtful and focused service, and inspired by worship that renews curiosity about all of creation.

Our Values And Guiding Principles

Liturgical Excellence

We believe in sharing God's unconditional love in Jesus, which we call grace, with all who come through our church doors. The beauty and power of our liturgy drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition are the beginning, not the end, of our weekly Christian journey. Like a flourishing tree, they root us in the past, shelter us in the present, and reach out to the future with the strength and confidence of God's promises to all.

Joyful Companionship

We believe spending time together and connecting across the generations fosters our spiritual growth. Palmers accompany each other on our pilgrimage with God, toward God. We are an ever-growing household, for the youngest child and each of us through the end of life, built with grace, love, acceptance, laughter, tears, service, singing, and Jesus as our cornerstone.

Bold Curiosity

We believe the gift of inquiry, curiosity, and profound conversation leads to a greater understanding of our place in God's creation and our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus is experienced in our worship and also through artistic expression, intellectual generosity, and spiritual teaching.

Spiritual Sanctuary

We believe God loves each of us, no exceptions. As human beings created in God's image, we should have a place where the love of Jesus is made real, a place where we can experience the celebration of who we are and an acceptance of where we are on life's journey. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith and a beacon of hope for those seeking spiritual refuge.

Loving Service

We believe following Jesus, as we are called to do, involves caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves, joining in God's mission to connect with and work alongside an extraordinary array of people, institutions, and communities, and bearing witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us.

The Word of God

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.
But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Gospel Reading John 20:19-31

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life*

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Celebrant says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents

I present Michael Tyshko to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented, the Celebrant asks the parents or grandparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for those who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A person appointed leads the following petitions.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then immerses, or pours water upon the person, saying

Michael, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying

Michael, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Then the Celebrant, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the newly baptized, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

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

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with this or another sentence of Scripture.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things.

Revelation 4:11

Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate on the table in front of the chancel steps. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at ***palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code****.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or remain standing.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church, may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we, in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant Our Father,
People **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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,
People **we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Priest gives the blessing

Now unto the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of divine glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Together, we pray

Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen
James Armstrong
Georgia Barton
Kim Bavousett
Roger Beebe
Viola Cleo Bradshaw
Leigh Anderson Burdette
Jeff Carowitz
Katie Courtney
Mike Collins
Dan Cromack
Richard Fay
David Furr
Michael Gamboa
Brandon Hertz
Patricia Hinojosa
Holman Family
Sandy Harrison
Steve Howard
Connie Hulin
Linda Ittner
The Lang Family
Jim Lober
Jo Lyday
Shirley Matthews
Don May
Terri McCauley
Penny Meitz
Graham Norwood
The Rev'd Liz Parker
Jane Richardson
Bill Robertson
Don Robinson
The Ross Family
Roxane Short
The Smith Family
Stephanie
Linda Sylvan
The Thomas Family
Bill Tilney
Eleanor Viebig
Fran Wallis
Shannon Westin
Daniel Allen White
David Ashley White
The Williams Family
Tonya Williams
Lewis Williams
Marie Woodward
Audrey Worthing
Donna Yacoe
George Whittenburg
Beth
Victoria Junek
Bob Watson
Sheila Ryan
Joe Gonzales
Luisa Tse Wing
Becky Vowell
David and Nancy Webb
Alexander Webb
Matt Carillo

Names remain on the list for two Sundays unless the request is renewed by contacting one of the coordinators of our Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Davies at rmmdavies@cebridge.net for Palmers or Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org for non-Palmers.

Please pray for expectant households or families with newborns:

Ashley Elizabeth and Cory Condrey
Ashley and Stephen Zatcof
The Stiver Family
Matt and Alex Carillo

Those expecting a child by birth or adoption are encouraged to contact Roger Hutchison at cym@palmerchurch.org.

Please pray for those in the armed forces:

Evan Adams
Nathan Adam
Michael Anderson
Gaston Baza
Travis Chambers
Owen Green
John Harrison
Connor Hurt
Jarrett Johnson
Christopher Kent
James King
Mike Martinez
Nate Miller
Andrew Nesom
Harrison Power
Jim Rosenbach
Adam Salvati
Alex Swartz
Matthew Van Arsdale
Ashley Waddle
Alex Walker
Taylor Wilby

If you would like to make a special flower dedication please visit palmerchurch.org/give/flowerfund or fill out a flower envelope located in the narthex or bell tower entrance.