

**St. James Episcopal Church
Batavia, New York**

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday



**March 28, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Service of Palms, God's Word and Spiritual Communion**

*You are an important part of the St. James Community.
Even though we pray in our homes separated by distance, we know that we
are united in love.*

Liturgy of The Palms

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

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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.**

The Reading

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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please hold your palm, or a sprig, branch or leaf up.

Blessing of the Palms

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

<p style="text-align: center;">Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King! to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.</p> <p>1. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. (Refrain)</p>	<p>2. The company of angels are praising thee on high; and we with all creation in chorus make reply. (Refrain)</p> <p>5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. (Refrain)</p>
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Liturgy of The Word

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

BCP p. 219

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 First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16

BCP p. 623

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.

**For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute
me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Invitation into Holy Week

In his Letter to the people of Philippi, St. Paul says:

"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."

Jesus did not become human for his own glory, but rather to empty himself and take on humanity—in all of its messiness and brokenness. Jesus became human and walked the road to his cross so that he could walk with us in whatever we face.

Holy Week is a path that we are called to walk. Jesus wants to walk with you, beside you, sometimes tugging you along, and when necessary, carrying you. As we undertake our walk into

Holy Week, we might feel certain and hopeful, or we might feel out of control or alone, our lives may be at a time of peace or a time of crisis. Whatever our walk, God is with us. We, most certainly, are not alone. Let us together walk forward into Holy Week, blessed with the presence of God among us and our prayers and concern for each other.

Before we hear the story of our Lord's passion and death, let us observe a moment of silence.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

(15:1-47)

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).

Please stand if you are able.

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP pg 304

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

During this season of Lent, we reflect inwards to find and name those things that cause us to separate from the spirit of love, then move towards repentance and healing through prayers, confession and fasting, and finally to wholeness which comes from knowing that we are resurrection people and becoming who we are meant to be.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The world is in pain and it's people are suffering with a disease not only of body, but of mind and spirit as well. We pray for the people whose names the world knows, whose stories are told daily in the news.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who continue to fight for the freedom and rights of others especially. **Mitch, Eric, David, Paul, Brandon, Michael, Alex, Chad, Jim, Devyn and Trevor** and for those essential workers who sacrifice to make the lives of others better.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As we struggle to stay positive during this time of isolation, change, and fear... blanket us with the healing power of your love so we can find ways to be grateful for the lessons learned during this time. Remove our fear of change and replace it with the spirit of a renewed life.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us patience to wait our turn and to continue to love the other by following guidelines and mandates that we might not agree with. Fill us with your spirit so that we find joy in the present, while keeping our eyes focused on the future of the church when we will be able to gather as a community once again.

God in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We offer prayers for those who are in need of physical healing or suffer in places of the heart that only you can know. We especially hold up. **Tim, Carolyn, Douglas, Aiden, Gabriella, Carla, Venus, Beth Ann, Cathy, Wendy, Evan, Travis, Pat, Nicholas, Bob, Brian, Barb, Rita, Garth, Jessica, Mark, Steve, Bill, Joanne, Donna, Richie, Kim, Matt, Mary, Ed, Daphne and Charlene.** Are there others you would like to include? *pause.*

God in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Jesus, we place at your feet, those things that pull at our hearts, as we recognize and acknowledge actions that have caused pain and sorrow to our brothers and sisters.

Open our eyes to the injustice we can change in our neighborhoods and continue to give us ears to hear your call to the church to become the beloved community.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As we gain insights into ourselves during this Lenten journey, teach us to love as you love us, forgive as you forgive, and show grace as you show grace. Guide us as we find ways to reflect your gospel message in the world, emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

The deacon bids us to confession:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Presider says:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

If you like, please un-mute for the Peace.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please greet each other at home and on your screens, with a sign of God's peace.

Moments of Joy

This is an opportunity to share a brief moment of joy from the past week...*something for which you give thanks to God. (Please remember to re-mute your microphone.)*

Offertory

Walk in love as Christ loves us and gives himself for us, inviting us into his love.

Doxology (spoken)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

If you have a consecrated host, please consume it at this time.

As we spend a moment in silence, you may wish to cup your hands as though you were going to receive communion and place them over your heart for a moment. Breathe in God's goodness and love. Breathe out your anxieties and concerns. Imagine placing all of your love for God, and for the world God created into your hands, and then offer your love back to God by holding your hands out & saying...

Dearest Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament, and that you fill us at all times with your holy, healing, and life-giving Presence. I love you above all else, and my desire is to always welcome you into my soul. Help me to know your Presence spiritually in my heart. I embrace you, knowing that you are already here, and I unite myself wholly with you. Never let me feel separated from you or from your love. Amen.

We will observe a moment of silence.

Post Spiritual Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for calling us together and for sustaining us with this spiritual meal. This time that we share today is sacred, and in this sacredness we have shared a mystery. May we in every place and time recognize the sacredness of life, and may we accept the mystery as we accept your love — with joyful faith and eternal hope; in Christ's name. Amen.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

BCP pg. 365

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

A Happy Birthday!
Elizabeth Colantonio, 3/30
David King, 4/1

Readers on March 28th:

1st Lesson and Psalm: Bette Rung

2nd Lesson: Donna Kauffman

Prayers of the People: Cathy and Wayne Judkins



“A Field of Thanks”

Flags will Fly to Honor Local Heroes

Two official ceremonies and an array of 3’x5’ American flags, each individualized with a hero’s information, **will honor Veterans, Military, First Responders, Front-Line and Essential Workers** who have continued to serve in the face of Covid 19.

Patrons may purchase-flags which will be flown in a free-access tribute from 8am-6pm, June 6th - June 13th on the front lawn of St. James Episcopal Church which has graciously donated the use of their grounds.

All proceeds beyond costs will be donated to “WNY Heroes” and “Meals on Wheels”

The Opening Ceremony (June 6th at 1pm) will include remarks by assemblyman Steve Hawley and CSM William R Joyce, retired, trumpet salute, and live choral music under the direction of Mr. Dillon Hirsch. Anyone community member wishing to sing should contact the church at 585 343-6802. Covid guidelines will be followed.

The Closing Ceremony (June 13th 5:00 pm) will feature a formal flag folding, reading of heroes’ names, and presentation of individual flags to Patrons.

Flags will be on sale until May 7th.

Anyone wishing to purchase a flag package to be displayed in honor of a local hero or to donate:

Please mail this completed form and **\$50 check** made out to “**St. James ECW**” to:
Atten: Joanne Fleming c/o St. James Episcopal Church

405 E. Main St.

Batavia, NY 14020 **by May 7th.**

The Flag package (includes a 3’x5’ flag, 6’pole, mounting, and Ceremonial honors)

First/ Last Name _____

phone or e-mail _____

Hero’s name _____

A “hero volunteer” will contact you for more **hero** information.

For more information please e-mail musdmark@aol.com

Or call 585 547-2372 W-F Noon-2pm 3/18/21 - 5/7/21

Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

Palm Sunday, March 28th

10 am, St. James Zoom Service, followed by "Coffee Hour" Fellowship Time and Our Faith Discussion class at 11:15.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988?pwd=WHVvMUtXbTRITTFcSTA2bnhLUHRaZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 1085 7988, Passcode: church

To call in with voice only:

1-646-558-8656, meeting code 898 108 57988#

Passcode *470351#

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

7 pm, St. James Zoom Service of Spiritual Communion

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83445232221?pwd=akxSUGU2SzhjMDIDTWNMMWhEV1I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 834 4523 2221, Passcode: church

To call in with voice only:

1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 834 452 32221# Passcode: *826819#

8 pm to Friday 8 am, Diocesan Vigil via Zoom

Good Friday, April 2nd

8 am to 3 pm, Diocesan Good Friday Vigil, via zoom.

Noon, Good Friday Liturgy lead by the Bishop, via zoom.

7 pm, St. James Zoom Service, centering on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88362235977?pwd=YTBuTmhQdFJMVVNZbVF4NGF5eWMrdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 6223 5977, Passcode: church

To call in with voice only:

1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 883 622 35977# Passcode: *490003#

Holy Saturday, April 3rd

10 am, Mo. Cathy Dempsey-Sims is offering by Zoom the traditional BCP service.

Easter Day, April 4th

10 am, In-Person Service of Holy Eucharist at St. James

11:30 am, Zoom service (the zoom link is the same as Palm Sunday.)

Links to the Diocesan services will be posted when they are available.

St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

**Check out our website and Facebook for
online worship opportunities**

Everyone is Welcome!

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector rector.stjames@outlook.com
The Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker, dllart@aol.com

Choir Director: Dillon Hirsch,
Organist: David Lange
Administrator: Barbara King,
Bookkeeper: Sherry Garigen

Wardens:

Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jmaneider@outlook.com
Judy Essig, (585) 820-2615, jessig@gvbooces.org

Vestry:

Amy Celentano, Phillip Colantonio, Bonnie Dvoroznak,
Dorian Ely, Elizabeth Findlay, Jolene Folger,
Barbara King, Dean Perry, Bill Sofia
Clerk of the Vestry: Cathy Judkins
Treasurer: Rick Iannello

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Like us on Facebook at St. James Episcopal Church Batavia