

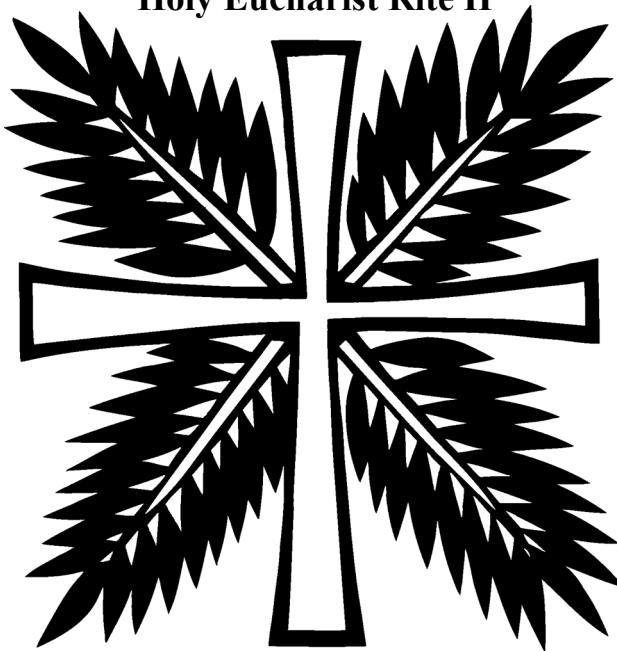
# ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## **PALM SUNDAY WITH PASSION READING**

March 24, 2024

10:30 AM

**Holy Eucharist Rite II**



*The Rev Mark W. McDonald, Rector*

2525 Seagler Road, Houston, TX 77042-3119

Telephone: 713-781-1330

Email: [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

[www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

[www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org)

*The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop*

# Welcome

*You've found home.*

A church home, where whatever your background, however you see God today, no matter how challenging your journey is right now, you belong here. At Ascension Episcopal Church, we strive to be a welcoming and safe place for all people to belong. We hope you encounter the radical love of God and the love of His church community right here.

We're a multi-generational spiritual center, with grandparents, parents, singles, teens and children living out the central invitation from Jesus to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World. We smile a lot around here, and it's authentic!

We believe that people desire relationships over religion; our Sunday services are engaging and hope-filled. And, I believe that fun and church worship are not mutually exclusive. Love and joy are the byproducts of life with God and with each other. Come see and experience the beauty and love of Christ with us.

Welcome home!



The Rev. Mark W. McDonald

---

## JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY.

We offer two services; our **8:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite I Traditional Eucharist Service, without music and our **10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite II Contemporary Eucharist Service with organ and choral music.

Our **NURSERY** is available from 9:30 to noon on Sunday mornings. The safeguarded staff maintains a healthy and safe environment for your children.

From 9:30am to 10:15am, join us in person in the Church Library for **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** or Upstairs for **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**,

**Voices of small children are always welcome.  
Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.**

# The Liturgy of the Palms

## OPENING ANTHEM (BCP p. 270)

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

*People Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING: Mark 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>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.

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS: BCP p. 271

*The Celebrant then says the following blessing*

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 our 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.*

## SECOND ANTHEM (BCP p. 271)

*The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said*

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

People *Hosanna in the highest.*

## THE PROCESSION (BCP p. 271)

*During the procession, all hold branches in their hands.*

Priest Let us go forth in peace.

People *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

## PROCESSION HYMN 154

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Refrain* *All glory, laud, and honor*

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 Word of God

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 272)

Celebrant      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

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader          The Word of the Lord.

People          *Thanks be to God.*

*Silence may follow.*

## PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

*Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse at the asterisk. \**

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; \*  
*my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.*

<sup>10</sup>For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; \*  
*my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.*

<sup>11</sup>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.*

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

<sup>13</sup>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.*

<sup>14</sup>But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. \*  
*I have said, "You are my God.*

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

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

## SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
 and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

People            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN 168

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

*All stand.*

*O sacred head, sore wounded* (PASSION CHORALE)



1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;  
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;  
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:  
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.  
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?  
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:  
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!  
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.  
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.

## THE PASSION GOSPEL: Mark 14:1--15:47

*The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion.  
At the verse which mentions the arrival at The Skull (Golgotha), all stand.*

*The Congregation reads the responses of the*

***ACCUSERS, CHIEF PRIESTS, DISCIPLES,  
BYSTANDERS, CROWD, and SOLDIERS***

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

***CHIEF PRIESTS: "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."***

NARRATOR: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

***DISCIPLES: "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."***

NARRATOR: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

***DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"***

NARRATOR: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,



JESUS: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

NARRATOR: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

NARRATOR: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

***DISCIPLES: "Surely, not I?"***

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: "Take; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: But he said vehemently,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And all of them said the same.  
They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: "Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

**ACCUSERS:** *"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"*

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

**ACCUSERS:** *"Prophecy!"*

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: "This man is one of them."

NARRATOR: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

**BYSTANDERS:** *"Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."*

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he broke down and wept.]

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

**CROWD:** *"Crucify him!"*

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

**CROWD:** *"Crucify him!"*

NARRATOR: 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,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: 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.

*(At the mention of Golgotha, all stand as able.)*

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,

**BYSTANDERS:** *"Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"*

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

**CHIEF PRIESTS:** *"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."*

NARRATOR: 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,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**BYSTANDERS: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."**

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

**BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."**

NARRATOR: 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,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: 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 SERMON- THE REV. MARK W. MCDONALD+ (BCP p. 358)**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM I (BCP p. 383)**

*Stand or kneel.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Andy, our Bishop, Hector, our Bishop Assistant, Mark, our Rector, for the Church of the Province of West Africa in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for St. Peter's of Brenham, St. Philip's of Hearne, and St. Thomas' of College Station in the Diocese of Texas Cycle of Prayer, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Joe, our President, Greg our Governor, John our mayor, and for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the city of Houston, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, we especially pray for Vinnie, Phyllis, Todd, Dion, Jim, John, Albert, Cory, Todd, Stephanie, John, Ellen, Greg, Jack, Lucia, Jean, Bobby, Lance, Katy, Don, David, Lucia, Angela, Pat, Olive, Carissa, Laura, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Tim, Mary, David, Ann, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

*(Prayers are offered at this time, followed by silence)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives. Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy*

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*To thee, O Lord our God.*

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*All stand.*

Celebrant      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People          *And also with you.*

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prayers for Birthdays & Anniversaries and those who are Traveling**

*If you are a visitor or guest, please scan the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin and give us your contact information. Let us connect with you!*

# **The Holy Communion**

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

by Lloyd Larson

*Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord!*

# **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP pg. 361

*The People remain standing.*

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

People          *And also with you.*

Celebrant      Lift up your hearts.

People          *We lift them to the Lord.*



Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

*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:

## SANCTUS S 128

*Holy, holy, holy*

MATHAIS

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The People stand or kneel.*

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.*

*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,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)**

*People and Celebrant*

*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, forever and ever. Amen.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

### FRACTION ANTHEM S 164

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

SCHUBERT/PROULX

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

### INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

*The Celebrant says*

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

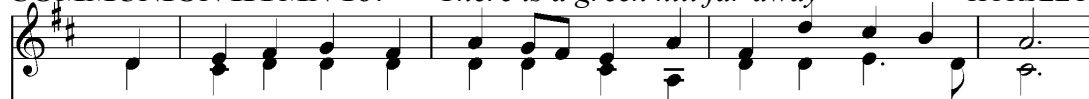
### AT THE COMMUNION

- *All baptized Christian welcome to receive communion.*
- *To receive communion, place your right hand inside of your left to receive the bread.*
- *To receive a gluten free wafer please place your palms together.*
- *You may then either drink from the cup or dip the bread into the wine.*
- *If you wish to receive just a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest.*

# COMMUNION HYMN 167

*There is a green hill far away*

HORSLEY



1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a ci - ty wall,  
 2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,  
 \*3 He died that we might be for - given, he died to make us good,  
 \*4 There was no o - ther good e - nough to pay the price of sin,  
 5 O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,



1 where our dear Lord was cru - ci - fied who died to save us all.  
 2 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.  
 3 that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his pre - cious blood.  
 4 he on - ly could un - lock the gate of heaven and let us in.  
 5 and trust in his re - deem - ing blood, and try his works to do.

# COMMUNION HYMN 474

*When I survey the wondrous cross*

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.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*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.*

## BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

*The Priest blesses the people.*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN 458

*My song is love unknown*

LOVE UNKNOWN



The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn, the second system contains the next three lines, and the third system contains the final three lines. The lyrics are as follows:

1 My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but  
\* 3 Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing, re -  
1 to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O  
2 men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know. But  
3 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then  
1 who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
2 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.  
3 "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
7 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

## DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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

## POSTLUDE

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*  
*Timothy Sloan, Trombone*

arr. by Phil Lehenbauer

## THANK YOU!!

The Wednesday Lent Soup Suppers came to a close this past Wednesday. We would like to thank the Choir, Terry Kahn, The Schwabrow Family, the Altar Guild, and the 8 o'clockers for the delicious array of soups! We would also like to thank Robert Downs, Todd Breton, Carroll Prasad, Toyin Agboola, and Joey Serralta for their testimonials; it takes a lot of courage to tell your story. We are grateful for your share!



## *Holy Week*

*Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>,* <sup>NR</sup>

6:30pm Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

*Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>,*

12:00pm Ecumenical Worship Service led by the  
WHAM churches, here at Ascension. <sup>N</sup>

6:30pm Evening Service, here at Ascension. <sup>NR</sup>

*(All Ascension services will be livestreamed; links will be emailed and posted on the website.)*

## POST SERVICE COFFEE ON EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is one of our biggest days of Celebration! Rather than require one team to handle such a large task, we ask for a little bit from everyone. The tables will be set up outside, under the bell and the children will be hunting eggs. Please drop off your contribution of a meat/cheese tray, fruit/veggie tray, crackers, cookies, or other fun snacks.

## FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

One of Ascension's unique traditions is the flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday. We set up an empty, ribbon woven cross, and as people enter they press a flower into the woven ribbons creating a beautiful tapestry of flowers. The tradition started with parishioners bringing flowers from their own gardens, of all colors, shapes and sizes. Ascension provides a few flowers, but we would love for you to bring flowers from your garden to contribute to this wonderful occasion.

## EASTER MUSIC AND LILY DEADLINE IS MARCH 25TH



### DONATE A LILY

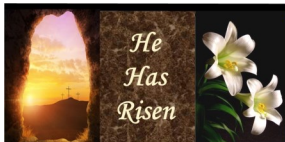
Come Easter, the Altar will be overflowing with beautiful Easter lilies. Please donate a lily and write your special dedication in the flower book or send it [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org). Cost is \$25. Thank you.



## EASTER MUSIC NEEDS UNDERWRITERS



Thank you for helping to underwrite the Easter Musicians. As with the Easter Lilies, donations may be dedicated in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, etc., and will be acknowledged in the Easter orders of service. Please email them to church office ([office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)).



# *Easter Sunday*

## *March 31<sup>st</sup>,*

*Flowering of the cross at both services*

**8:00 am** Rite I Worship with Communion <sup>NR</sup>

**10:30 am** Rite II Worship with Communion  
and Easter Music Ensemble <sup>N</sup>

Join us after the 10:30am worship,  
on the school playground for an **EGG HUNT**

## **Calendar and Event Schedule**

- March 25 - Lily/Musician Dedications are due
- March 24- Palm Sunday , 8 & 10:30
- March 28- Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm
- March 29- Good Friday Ecumenical Service, noon  
Good Friday, 6:30pm
- March 31- Easter Sunday
- April 6 - Lunch with Friends
- April 20 -- Second Annual Yard Sale



### **Welcome Visitors**

Please take a moment to let us know who you are!! Scan the QR code to the left and fill out the form. This will allow us to connect with you and get to know you and your family.

### **Giving**

A quick and easy way to give to the church!! If you would like to give your pledge, make a donation, contribute to specialty music or flower campaigns, or any other reason, simply scan the QR code to the right, make your contribution, and leave a message as to what it is for.



***Can't wait to celebrate  
Easter with you!***