

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

9:30 am, Rite I

Welcome to St. Francis. Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE PALMS

All gather at the end of the street in front of the Rectory to process up to the Lych Gate or you may also join the procession at the Lych Gate. The Liturgy of the Palms will begin at the Lych Gate.

The Celebrant begins the liturgy, saying

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

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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 reading from the Gospel of Mark.

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.

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.**

Celebrant: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest! Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worshipers follow the procession into the church.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Hymnal p. 154



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

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: Valet will ich dir geben, melody Melchoir Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

GOSPEL SQUAD DISMISSAL

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit for lessons.

THE FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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?

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated to read the Psalm.

PSALM 31: 9-16

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."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2: 5-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

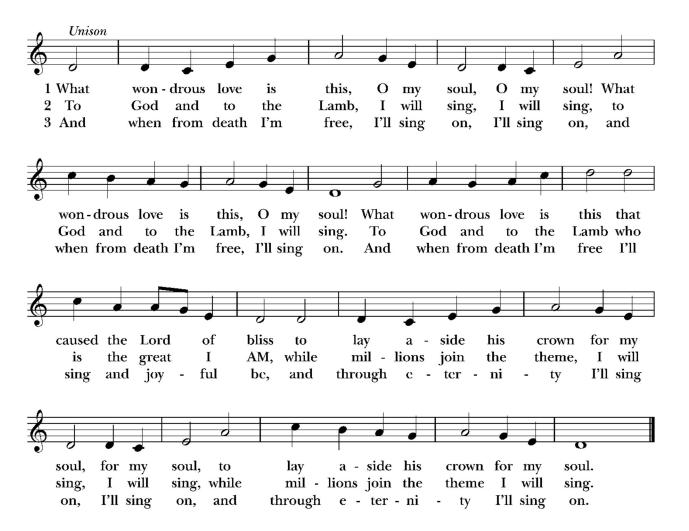
The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

What wondrous love is this

Hymnal p. 439



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (Insert)

Mark 14:1-15:47

THE HOMILY Silence may be kept after the homily.

Rev. Toni Belhu

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Jose our Bishop and Toni our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Today we pray especially for Josephine, Oscar, James, John, Ruth, Bobby, Helen, June, Wesley, Debbie, Charles, Sandra, Sally, Jerri, Lyn, Jeanne, Lucinda, Mel, Lynn, Kensley, Malisha, Madison, Jim, Shirley, John, Billy, Beverly, Robin, Ricky, Mary, Shirley, Haden, Tony, Debbie, Chris, June, Gillian, Fran, Jack, and all those on our long-term prayer list. Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Tammy Edwards** (25), **Caroline Melton** (26), **Judi Gustafson** (26), **Scott Sprouse** (27).

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Nicholas, Nathan, Peter, Joseph, Tony, Christian, Brendan, Will, Tom, Christopher, Nick, Chase. We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for pray for peace in the Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Francis of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

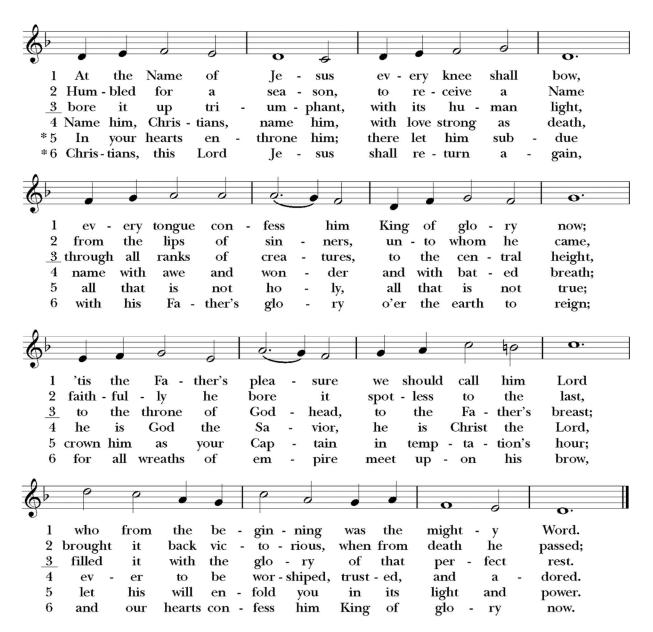
THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

All stand, as able

THE OFFERTORY HYMN At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow Hymnal p. 435



Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt.

Music: King's Weston, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology. THE DOXOLOGY

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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharist Prayer I

The people remain standing.

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.

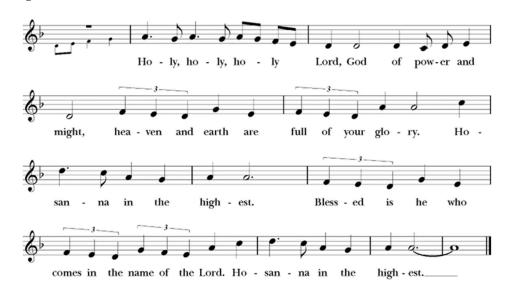
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

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

SANCTUS (S-129) Celebrant and People



The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with 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,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.

During communion, members of our congregation will join together in our choir loft to lead the congregation in singing the communion hymns.



Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from Chansons populaires des Provinces de France, 1860; harm. after The English Hymnal, 1906



Words: A. Katherine Hankey (1831-1911). Music: William G. Fisher (1835-1912).



Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925). Music: *Jesus, meine Zuversicht*, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. after *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, 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 BLESSING



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Rockingham, from Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, ca. 1780; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807)

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

2024 Holy Week Schedule

March 28th

5:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at St. Gabriel's7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at St. Francis8:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil at St. Francis

March 29th

12:00 pm - Community Good Friday Service at St. Francis 6:00 pm - Good Friday Service at St. Francis

March 30

9:00 am - Holy Saturday Service at St. Francis 2:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt in Rectory Yard

March 31st

7:00 am - Community Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast (In Cemetery)

No Christian Formation

9:00 am Service of Light at St. Francis

9:30 am - Easter Sunday Service at St. Francis

11:00 am - Easter Sunday Service at St. Gabriel's

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: James, Dickinson, Burtches, Zoey, Addison, Keith, Brenda, Tony, Judy, Ricky, Billy, Mary, Greg, Max, Johny, Layla Rose, Ramona, Edwin, Sherry, Mark, the Aytes family, Elora.

Worship Leaders 9:30 am

Usher – Harold Morgan
Greeter – Bud Quinley
1st Lesson – Gordon Scott
2nd Lesson – Gillian Pickard
Chalicist – Walt Joyce
Acolyte – Robin DeLorenzo
Vestry Lock Up – Anne Stanley
Camera – Rob McDaniel
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Stacy Guarriello
Fellowship – Barbara Locricchio, Fran
Lockwood

Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am

Usher – Terra Putnam
Greeter – Ann Stanley
1st Lesson – Doug Tribou
2nd Lesson – Lucinda Humphries
Chalicist – Rob McDaniel
Acolyte – Anthony Guarriello
Vestry Lock Up – Anne Stanley
Camera – Stephanie Williams
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Judi Gustafson
Fellowship – Linda Tribou

Saint Francis Episcopal Church

408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-3888

Rector: The Rev. Toni Belhu

Email: rector@stfrancisrutherfordton.org-

Cell Phone: 704-215-1882

Parish Administrator: Kathryn McGowan

Email:

administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick

www.stfrancisrutherfordton.org

www.facebook.com/stfrancisrutherfordton