

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms begins in the courtyard
BCP 270

Hymn
Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
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.*

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark (11:1-9)

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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.

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

The Processional

<i>Deacon</i>	Let us go forth in peace.
<i>People</i>	In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Liturgy of the Palms begins in the courtyard

BCP 270

Hymn #154

<i>Celebrant</i>		<i>Bless the Lord who forgives all of our sins.</i>
<i>People</i>		<i>His mercy endures forever.</i>

Collect *Book of Common Prayer, P. 219**

Lessons Lectionary Year B

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 31:9-16 *read responsively*

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.



Epistle: *Philippians 2:5-11*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. 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 Golgotha, all stand.

Sermon *Deacon James*

Prayers of the People People respond with: "Lord, have mercy"

The Peace *Greet one another in the name of Christ.*

 Welcome and Announcements

 Blessing of Birthdays BCP 830

 Blessing of Anniversaries

Offertory *At the Cross* Lani Smith

[THE HOLY COMMUNION]

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A ;* BCP 361

 Sanctus *S128*

 Lord's Prayer

 Breaking of the Bread/Fraction Anthem *S165*

Communion Hymns #158, 164

Eucharistic Visitors *As Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth
the congregation responds: "We who are many are one Body,
because we all share one bread and one cup."*

Post-Communion Prayer and Prayer by Deacon BCP 366

Processional Out Hymn #168

Dismissal

**The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the red book in the pew*

HOLY WEEK

Today's celebration begins Holy Week. There are a variety of services throughout the week:

Tenebrae (Wed, 3/27, 7 p.m.),

Maundy Thursday (3/28, 7 p.m.),

Altar of Repose Night Watch (Thurs, 3/28, until noon on Good Friday)

Good Friday (3/29, Stations of the Cross at noon; The Liturgy for Good Friday at 3 p.m.)

SIGN UP FOR ALL NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL

This Thursday, we have an all night prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus. After the Maundy Thursday service, sacraments are placed in our small chapel. We encourage you to sign up for a one-hour time of prayer. The vigil begins at 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 and ends at noon on Good Friday. The church will provide security throughout the night. To sign up please find the sheet in the narthex.

EASTER SERVICES

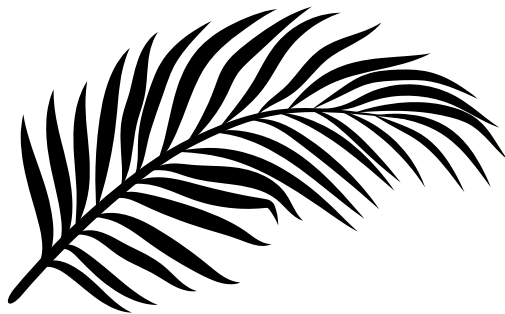
The Great Vigil at Easter - Saturday, March 30, 8:00 p.m.

(Please note, there will be incense at this service).

Easter Sunday - March 31

8:00 a.m. & 10:30a.m.

Egg Hunt 9:45am and Reception 9am between the two services, Music at 10:30.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin - *Interim Rector*

The Rev. James Tyree - *Deacon*

Melody Palm - *Interim Organist/Choirmaster*

405.321-3020 staff@episcopalnorman.org

www.episcopalnorman.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS PALM SUNDAY

THERE WILL BE NO ADULT SS PALM SUNDAY SO THAT OUR RECTOR SEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE RELATED TO SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS AND THE PROFILE CAN OCCUR. WE WILL NOT MEET EASTER SUNDAY SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP TIME AND EASTER EGG HUNT.

A special thanks for Chuck Bacon and his leading those gathered at our Wednesday night Eucharist in St. Patrick's Breastplate.

We are thankful for our Altar Guild.

Carol Upp, Nancy Sonleitner, Jane Purcell, Macalan Taylor, Greg Taylor, Becky Smith, Chuck Palm, Elizabeth Ryan

COMPLETED SURVEYS ARE TO BE RETURNED TODAY. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO COMPLETED THEM.

Vestry Highlights from March meeting

- At the March meeting of the vestry, updates were given by these Rector Search Sub-Committees: self study and parish profile, small group profile and listening sessions, website committee, and compensation committee.
- On April 15, the parish profile will be complete and shared, and the rector search committee will be named.
- The vestry participated in a small group listening session the final part of this meeting.

Thank you to all of today's readers of The Passion Narrative.

As part of the search process for the new Rector, members of the St. John's Vestry are conducting listening sessions with the various groups that regularly meet as a part of the life of our parish. There will also be two open sessions available to anyone who wants to join. These will be Sunday, March 24 following both the 8am and 10:30am services in the Parish Hall. These listening sessions will be a chance to share what makes St. John's a special place, what your dreams are for our community, what our parish needs from the new Rector and our lay leadership. See you there!



Ever-loving God, who gives us hope and all good gifts, and shows us the way, with your wisdom watch over St. John's now, and guide the discernment of all your beloved who will choose a rector for this parish, so that we may

welcome a faithful pastor who will care for our beloved community and strengthen our ministries as the Body of Christ, to this church, to our neighbors near and far, to the care of your creation, and to strangers and seekers who hunger and thirst for You. We praise and thank you, our blessed counselor. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

🎵 Coming Soon...

Today Palm Sunday 8am & 10:30am
3/27 Tenebrae 7pm
3/28 Maundy Thursday 7pm
3/28 Altar of Repose Vigil 9pm-12pm
3/29 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12pm
3/29 Good Friday Liturgy 3pm
3/29 Office Closed for Good Friday
3/30 The Great Vigil of Easter 8pm
3/31 Easter Sunday 8am & 10:30 (music\baptism @ 1030)
3/31 Easter Reception 9am
3/31 St John's Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am

LILIES FOR EASTER

You may choose to honor a loved one or give thanks to God with a donation for lilies to adorn the altar at our Easter services.

Donations need to be received by **March 27th** to be included in the Easter Service Bulletins. Please include the information indicated below.

Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church. Donations and dedication information may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to:

St. John's Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy St.

Norman, OK 73069

Donations can be made online at:

or



<https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopa87669/-/form/give/EasterLilly>

INCLUDE WITH YOUR DONATION

Name of Donor:

In Memory of:

Or, in Thanksgiving for:



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday

The Collect:

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*

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ 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. ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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; ⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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."

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel:

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

[14 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; ²for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

³ 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. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and 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?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” ²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For 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.”

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly 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.”

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” ³⁰Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴³ 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. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴Peter 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. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸“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.’” ⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” ⁶¹But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶²Jesus said, “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.’”

⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.” ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.

⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.]

15 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. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ 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. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In 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. ³²Let 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.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
³⁴ 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?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ 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." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ 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!"

[⁴⁰ 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.
⁴¹ 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.]

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ 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. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ 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. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.]

Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to receive communion.

You may receive the bread into your hand, consume it and then guide the cup to your lips. If you do not wish to receive from the cup, consume the bread and cross your hands over your chest. For a blessing only, you may cross your hands over your chest. Children may receive communion; there is no minimum age. Gluten-free hosts are available. (“GF” stickers to indicate preference are in the narthex).

Please notify ushers for assistance.

Eucharistic Visitors

As Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth, the priest says: “In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.”

The congregation responds: “We who are many are one Body, because we all share one bread and one cup.”

St. John’s Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin *Interim Rector*

The Rev. James Tyree *Deacon*

Melody Palm *Interim Organist & Choir Director*