

*Church of the Ascension*

*March 29, 2026*

Palm Sunday

10:30am

# Welcome to the Church of the Ascension

*We are pleased to have you worship with us.*

*By entering Church of the Ascension and by your presence here (indoors and outdoors), you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media for Church of the Ascension and the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. If you do not agree to the foregoing, please request to be seated in the no camera area.*

*The references on the right side of the bulletin are as follows:*

*BCP indicates the Book of Common Prayer.*

*EOW indicates Enriching our Worship, a supplemental liturgical material.*

*Hymn and "S" numbers indicate the Hymnal 1982*

*"S" indicates service music found at the front of the hymnal*

## Finding Your Way

**Elevator:** Under reconstruction.

**Restrooms:** *Upper Level* – Through the door to the left of the altar (NW), past the chapel, past the library, and to the right of the church office.

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If visiting or new please fill in, tear out,  
and drop in collection plate

Name

email address

Phone number

Mailing address



# *Church of the Ascension*

March 29, 2026

## **Palm Sunday**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am

Expansive language

*Please note that in our liturgy when we refer to God, we cannot adequately verbalize the magnitude and comprehensiveness of God's diversity and are always limited by our use of language. We acknowledge that although Jesus was born into history as a man, neither God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit were embodied with human sex. Although our language is often not all inclusive we believe God always is. God made human beings in God's own image with complexity and diversity. Thank you for sharing your diversity and complexity with us as we worship God together.*

*When the Voluntary begins, please maintain prayerful silence.*

Voluntary: variations on *Valet will ich der geben*

Lani Davis

## **The Liturgy of the Palms**

*Members of the worship party gather in the back of the nave for the Palm Sunday liturgy prayers and the blessing of the palms as the congregation turns and bears witness to the rite.*

*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.***

*Here is read: Matthew*

**21:1-11**

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you

will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”* The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*” And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

*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.***

*Celebrant*

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.***

*Refrain:*

*All glory, laud, and honor  
to thee, Redeemer, King!  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

*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)*

*2. The company of angels  
are praising thee on high;  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply. (Refrain)*

*3. The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present. (Refrain)*

*4. To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. (Refrain)*

*5. Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King. (Refrain)*

## The Liturgy of the Word

**Opening Salutation** *(The people standing)*

*BCP 355*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

## The Collect for Palm Sunday

*Celebrant* God 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.***

*People sit for the reading of the lessons*

### A Reading from Isaiah

50:4-9a

The LORD God gave me an educated tongue  
to know how to respond to the weary  
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.  
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,  
as educated people do.  
The LORD God opened my ear;  
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.  
Instead, I gave my body to attackers,  
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.  
I didn't hide my face  
from insults and spitting.  
The LORD God will help me;  
therefore, I haven't been insulted.  
Therefore, I set my face like flint,  
and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.  
The one who will declare me innocent is near.  
Who will argue with me?  
Let's stand up together.  
Who will bring judgment against me?  
Let him approach me.  
Look! The LORD God will help me.  
Who will condemn me?

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm: 31:9-16** (*said*)

**H**ave mercy on me, LORD, because I'm depressed.

My vision fails because of my grief,  
as do my spirit and my body.

<sup>10</sup> ***My life is consumed with sadness;  
my years are consumed with groaning.  
Strength fails me because of my suffering;  
my bones dry up.***

<sup>11</sup> I'm a joke to all my enemies,  
still worse to my neighbors.  
I scare my friends,  
and whoever sees me in the street runs away!

<sup>12</sup> ***I am forgotten, like I'm dead,  
completely out of mind;  
I am like a piece of pottery, destroyed.***

<sup>13</sup> Yes, I've heard all the gossiping,  
terror all around;  
so many gang up together against me,  
they plan to take my life!

<sup>14</sup> ***But me? I trust you, LORD!  
I affirm, "You are my God."***

<sup>15</sup> My future is in your hands.  
Don't hand me over to my enemies,  
to all who are out to get me!

<sup>16</sup> ***Shine your face on your servant;  
save me by your faithful love!***

**A Reading from Philippians**

**2:5-11**

**A**dopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

Though he was in the form of God,  
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.  
But he emptied himself  
by taking the form of a slave  
and by becoming like human beings.



In the Diocese of Ohio, we pray for St. Peter's Church, Lakewood,  
and for the formation of new Episcopal communities;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble  
(especially... *the names on the long-term prayer list are read*);

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest (especially... *the names of the recently  
deceased are read*);

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Celebrant says*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to  
do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace**

*All stand*

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

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

## For those celebrating birthdays

John Carlson

Chris Deibel

Claudia Esposito

Ramzi Gazala

Rosalie Ferline

Mary Staley

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Announcements

*The Celebrant asks visitors to fill out the information at the bottom of page 2, then highlights the announcements.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory Sentence

**Offertory Music:** In Remembrance

Buryl Red

In remembrance of Me eat this bread  
In remembrance of Me drink this wine  
In remembrance of Me pray for the time  
When God's own will is done

In remembrance of me heal the sick  
In remembrance of me feed the poor  
In remembrance of me open the door  
And let your brother in, let him in

Take eat and be comforted  
Drink and remember too  
That this is my body and precious blood  
Shed for you, shed for you

In remembrance of me search for truth  
In remembrance of me always love  
In remembrance of me don't look above

But in your heart, in your heart  
Look in your heart for God

Do this in remembrance of Me  
Do this in remembrance of Me  
In remembrance of Me

*All stand*

### **The Presentation of God's Tithes and Offerings**

*The gifts of the people are brought forward at this time, including bread, wine and alms, as the congregation sings the Presentation Hymn.*

**Presentation Hymn: The Doxology      Tune: *Herr Jesu Christ* (H310)**

*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 people remain standing*

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

*BCP 361*

*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.***

*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 and Benedictus**

**Rachmaninoff, arr. Tkach/Peterson**

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

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

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 (spoken)*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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

**The Lord's Prayer** (*spoken*)

*BCP 364*

*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

*A period of silence is kept*

### Fraction Anthem

S158

*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 Invitation to Communion

BCP 364

*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.

*All people are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children of all ages are included in this invitation.*

*The Celebrant invites those not receiving the sacrament to make a spiritual communion, led by the reader.*

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services*

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to*

*come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Communion Hymn: In Christ Alone    Stuart Townend/Keith Getty**

*1 In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*2. In Christ alone! Who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the love of God was satisfied-  
for every sin on Him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.*

*3. There in the ground His body lay.  
Light of the World by darkness slain:  
then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine-  
won with the precious blood of Christ.*

*4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry, to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.*

*No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I stand.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Postcommunion Prayer** *(said by all, standing)*

*BCP 366*

*Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **The Blessing**

### **The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew**

**6:14-27:66**

*The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts,  
led by a narrator who begins by saying: **The Passion of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Saint Matthew.***

*Narrator:* One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

*Judas:* "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

*Narrator:* They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

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

*Narrator:* He said,

*Jesus:* "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

*Narrator:* So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

*Jesus:* "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

*Narrator:* And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

*Disciples:* "Surely not I, Lord?"

*Narrator:* He answered,

*Jesus:* "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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:* Judas, who betrayed him, said,

*Judas:* "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

*Narrator:* He replied,

*Jesus:* "You have said so."

*Narrator:* While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

*Jesus:* "Take, eat; this is my body."

*Narrator:* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

*Jesus:* "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell

you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

*Narrator:* When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

*Jesus:* "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd, <sup>SEP</sup>and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

*Narrator:* Peter said to him,

*Peter:* "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

*Narrator:* Jesus said to him,

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

*Narrator:* Peter said to him,

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

*Narrator:* And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

*Jesus:* "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

*Narrator:* He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

*Jesus:* "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

*Narrator:* And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

*Jesus:* "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

*Narrator:* Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

*Jesus:* "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

*Narrator:* Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

*Jesus:* "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

*Narrator:* Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

*Jesus:* "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

*Narrator:* While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

*Judas:* "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

*Narrator:* At once he came up to Jesus and said,

*Judas:* "Greetings, Rabbi!"

*Narrator:* and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

*Jesus:* "Friend, do what you are here to do."

*Narrator:* Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

*Jesus:* "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

*Narrator:* At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

*Jesus:* "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

*Narrator:* Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

*Accusers:* "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

*Narrator:* The high priest stood up and said,

*High Priest:* "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

*Narrator:* But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

*High Priest:* "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

*Narrator:* Jesus said to him,

*Jesus:* "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man<sup>[1]</sup> seated at the right hand of Power<sup>[2]</sup> and coming on the clouds of heaven."

*Narrator:* Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

*High Priest:* "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

*Narrator:* They answered,

*Chief Priests:* "He deserves death."

*Narrator:* Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

*Chief Priests:* "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

*Narrator:* Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

*Servant Girl:* "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

*Narrator:* But he denied it before all of them, saying,

*Peter:* "I do not know what you are talking about."

*Narrator:* When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

*Servant Girl:* This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

*Narrator:* Again he denied it with an oath,

*Peter:* "I do not know the man."

*Narrator:* After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

*Bystander:* Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

*Narrator:* Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

*Peter:* "I do not know the man!"

*Narrator:* At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

*Jesus:* "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

*Narrator:* And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

*Judas:* "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

*Narrator:* But they said,

*Chief Priests:* "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

*Narrator:* Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

*Chief Priests:* "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

*Narrator:* After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

*Pilate:* "Are you the King of the Jews?"

*Narrator:* Jesus said,

*Jesus:* "You say so."

*Narrator:* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

*Pilate:* "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

*Narrator:* But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

*Pilate:* "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

*Narrator:* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

*Pilate's Wife:* "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

*Narrator:* Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

*Pilate:* "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

*Narrator:* And they said,

***Congregation: "Barabbas."***

*Narrator:* Pilate said to them,

*Pilate:* "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

*Narrator:* All of them said,

***Congregation: "Let him be crucified!"***

*Narrator:* Then he asked,

*Pilate:* "Why, what evil has he done?"

*Narrator:* But they shouted all the more,

***Congregation: "Let him be crucified!"***

*Narrator:* So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

*Pilate:* "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

*Narrator:* Then the people as a whole answered,

***Congregation: "His blood be on us and on our children!"***

*Narrator:* So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

*Soldiers:* "Hail, King of the Jews!"

*Narrator:* They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)*

*Narrator:* As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

*Bystanders:* "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

*Narrator:* In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

*Chief Priests:* "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

*Narrator:* The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*Jesus:* "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

*Narrator:* that is,

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

*Narrator:* When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*Bystanders:* "This man is calling for Elijah."

*Narrator:* At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

*Bystanders:* "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

*Narrator:* Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

*Centurion:* "Truly this man was God's Son!"

*Narrator:* Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the Sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

*Chief Priests:* "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' And the last deception would be worse than the first."

*Narrator:* Pilate said to them,

*Pilate:* "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

*Narrator:* So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*The Altar Party Leaves in silence and The Congregation leaves in silence.*

† † †

**We hope you will join us in Ascension Hall for some refreshments and conversation. Ascension Hall is located on this level through the chapel and at the end of the hallway.**



## The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rev. Peter Faass  
Music Director and Organist: Jon Peterson  
Choir Director: Margie Hildebrandt  
Acolytes: Derek Lewallen, Jan Bednarski  
Readers: Alex DeJesus and Ann Beyer  
Spiritual Eucharist Reader: Alex DeJesus  
Chalice Bearers: Derek Lewallen, Jan Bednarski  
Ushers: Jeff Sommer and Bob Hankey  
Videographer: Dave Campion  
Graphics & Post-production: Bill Rice



## Readers for the Passion:

*Narrator:* Keira Dodd  
*Judas:* Rev. Peter Faass  
*Disciples:* John Carlson  
*Jesus:* Gigi Evans  
*Peter:* Derek Lewallen  
*Accusers:* Joe Sgambellone  
*High Priest:* Joe Crichton  
*Chief Priests:* Cara Clemens  
*Servant Girl:* Jan Bednarski  
*Bystander:* Ray Pratt  
*Pilate:* Aaron Beatty  
*Pilate's Wife:* Corky Thacker  
*Soldiers:* Alex DeJesus  
*Centurion:* Cherie Paisley

Lesson readings from the Common English Bible (CEB)

© 2011, Common English Bible

S158 Music: Healey Willan © 1928 Oxford University Press.

Glory be to God Music: S. Rachmaninoff, arr. Peter Tkach

© 1951 Neil A. Kjos Music Company

All Glory, Laud and Honor Music: Lani Smith © 1983 Lorenz Publishing Co,

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In Christ Alone Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

© 2001 Thankyou Music, admin. By Capitol CMG Publishing

In Remembrance Music: Buryl Red

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**Please keep these people in your prayers  
today and all week long:**

**Our Spiritual Leaders:**

+ Sean -our Presiding Bishop; +Anne -our Bishop;  
Clarke -our seminarian

**Those for whom prayers have been requested:**

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Abbie & her unborn child | Joyce Knapp            |
| Shirley Campion          | June Madden            |
| Doug Damron              | Linda Moore            |
| Ray D'Arcy               | Penelope Neujahr       |
| Robert Dibb              | Gil Newlands           |
| Kaisu Donovan            | Corey Niebes           |
| Jack Doyle               | Michael Redmond        |
| Barbara Faux             | Pat Romano             |
| Spencer Faux             | Miriam Schantz         |
| Stephanie Foster         | Wendie Semple          |
| Ella Jane Fowerbaugh     | Daniel Smith           |
| Hope Hungerford          | Madelaine Tammoney     |
| Boots Johnston           | Corky Thacker          |
| Emily Junkans            | Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert |

**Those We Know in the Military**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Wiley Goins  | Burton McCarthy |
| Lauren Hober | Jason Strater   |
| Sydney Kline |                 |

## The Departed

Kathy Barbato  
Lisa Davidson  
Virginia Dodd

Sandy Reagan  
Ralph Romanelli  
Diane Welfley

## The Weekly Prayer List

The weekly prayer list is used for those who need extra prayers due to illness or a particular challenge or hardship.

## Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

*or*



Use your smart phone to scan the code above or visit [ascension-lakewood.org](https://ascension-lakewood.org) where you can make a one-time donation or set up continuing donations.

Please join us in helping to keep  
The Church of the Ascension strong  
and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

## Holy Week Services

|                                 |                         |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Maundy Thursday service         | April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , | 7:30pm  |
| Night Watch                     | April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , | 9:00pm  |
| Good Friday                     | April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , | 7:30pm  |
| Easter Vigil, Trinity Cathedral | April 4 <sup>th</sup> , | 8:00pm  |
| Easter Sunday, one service      | April 5 <sup>th</sup> , | 10:30am |

## Keep Watch and Pray

We will have a prayer vigil in the Chapel at the Altar of Repose, after the Maundy Thursday service, until midnight.

If you are able to take part, please sign up in the office, to indicate which time slot you will take.

## The Great Vigil of Easter at Trinity Cathedral

All are invited to join our bishop for the Easter Vigil at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, at 8:00pm Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday we will have the children's Easter egg hunt following the service. We are asking for people to donate their loose change and small wrapped candy in order to fill the eggs (silver coins only please). A collection box can be found at hospitality after the 10:30am service.

## **Altar Flowers for Easter**

We create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plants which adorn the altars and the chancel for Easter Day in memory or in honor of loved ones. Place your contributions in the envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with “Easter flowers” in the memo line or cash) and list those you want to remember on the form provided next to the box for the contributions. Or send your donation online and an email to [secretary@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:secretary@ascension-lakewood.org). The amount of each gift is determined by the donor.

The deadline for making gifts to the fund and placing names on the remembrance list is **March 29<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)**, which allows sufficient time for that list to be compiled for publication with the Easter service bulletins.

Following the 10:30 service on Easter Day the plants are distributed to parishioners who due to ill health or disability are unable to attend worship.

## **Elevator Update**

The installation of the new elevator will start in two weeks and will take four weeks. Completion will be in six weeks.

## The Good Friday Offering

March 17, 2026

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today at [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](http://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering).

I am in frequent touch with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who leads the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and I know how urgently he and his people need our support as they alleviate suffering and provide hope to God's people of all faiths. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey recently gave the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem \$1 million to support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian territories, and I am hoping that we can build on that extraordinary gift with this year's Good Friday Offering.

Your gift will support:

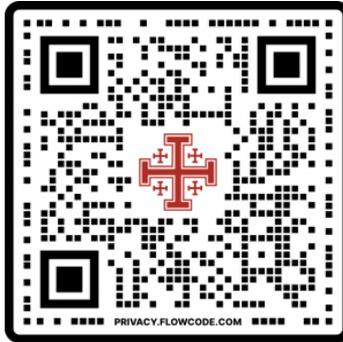
- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel-Hamas War amid bombardment, devastating shortages of food, water, and medicine, and extended power outages.
- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Episcopal Church supports just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land and around the world. While we pray and work for peace, our siblings in the Holy Land will continue to serve God’s people with hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Together, we can support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as it turns despair into hope for God’s people in the land where our faith was born.



The Most Rev. Sean Rowe  
Presiding Bishop  
The Episcopal Church



To make your gift today:

Online: [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](https://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering)

Send a check with “Good Friday Appeal” in the memo line to:

The Episcopal Church (DFMS)

P.O. Box 958983

St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

## Weekly Compline change

Today, **March 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will not hold the previously scheduled final Compline of Lent so that we may gather together as a wider church to participate in Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's online service "Lift Up Your Hearts: A Palm Sunday Vigil," to pray for the continued conversion of our hearts and for God's blessing on our witness during Holy Week.

The vigil, beginning at 8:00 p.m., will include a reflection from Presiding Bishop Rowe, special music, and readings by Episcopalians from all nine provinces of the church. We hope you will take part in this meaningful time of prayer as we enter into Holy Week together. You can register [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

## Bellwether Farm Summer Camp Registration Open

Can you believe our [first summer camp session](#) is only 130 days away? We truly hope you can [join us](#) for fantastic summer at Bellwether Farm. Here you will find [more information](#), as well as links to help guide you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

## CCD Registration Is Open

Click [here](#) to register for the College for Congregational Development at Bellwether Farm, **August 2-7**. Prepare to be immersed in a collaborative learning environment where we strategize how to grow into the faith communities God has gathered to love the world together. Price is \$850/person for a single room at Bellwether. Please reach out to [the Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus](#) if you anticipate needing a scholarship.

## ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

We're excited to gather again for **Ascension Night Out** as we celebrate the joy of the Easter season together!

After taking a break during Lent, it will be wonderful to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy some relaxed time with one another.

**When: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**

**Where:** Red Robin, 3190 W. 210th St., Fairview Park.

Thinking about coming for the first time? We'd love to have you there. It's always a great evening of good food and even better company.

Check out the menu at: <https://www.redrobin.com/menu>

**RSVP by Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> by**

calling the church office at 216-521-8727

or emailing [Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org).

We're really looking forward to spending this time together and hope you can join us!

### **Supply Priest Schedule through April**

Thru April 5<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Peter Faass

April 12<sup>th</sup>

Fr. John Keller

April 19<sup>th</sup>

Fr. John Keller

April 26<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Keith Owen

## **Office Hours**

Office Hours are: 9am – 1:30pm, Tuesday – Thursday

## **Noonday prayer**

**Tuesdays at 12:12pm via conference call**

**We will start prayer promptly at 12:12, and end just before 1pm.  
Please do not call in before 12:05pm.**

You can call in for all or part of the time.

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6300

Access code: 593523#

Use \*6 to mute and un-mute yourself when trying to talk.

We will use the Book of Common Prayer pp. 103-107.

## **Evening Prayer in Church**

Wednesdays, 7-7:30pm, in the nave.

## **Eucharistic Visit**

If you are unable to attend church and would like to request Holy Communion to be brought to you please call or email the Parish Administrator 216-521-8727 [Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org)

## **Information for live streamed worship.**

The service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am  
on The Church of the Ascension website:

<https://ascension-lakewood.org/>

and on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4rs872e2>.

Previous services and featured choir videos on YouTube  
at: <https://tinyurl.com/3c336j6n>.

## **Church of the Ascension**

13216 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
216.521.8727

[www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)  
[secretary@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:secretary@ascension-lakewood.org)