

# The Sunday of The Passion: Palm Sunday, Year A

Sunday, March 29, 2026



St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Simsbury, CT  
*Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.*



*Celebrant* 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.**

THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:1-11*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

**When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."**

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the reading, the palms are blessed in this way:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Following the cross, the people will process from the Parish Hall  
into the church, waving palm branches.*

#### HYMN

*All glory, laud and honor*

H82 154

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living 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.**

*Please be seated.*

READING: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Lord GOD has given me  
 the tongue of a teacher,  
 that I may know how to sustain  
 the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--  
 wakens my ear  
 to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
 and I was not rebellious,  
 I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,  
 and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

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."

READING: *Philippians 2:5-11*

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own  
advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

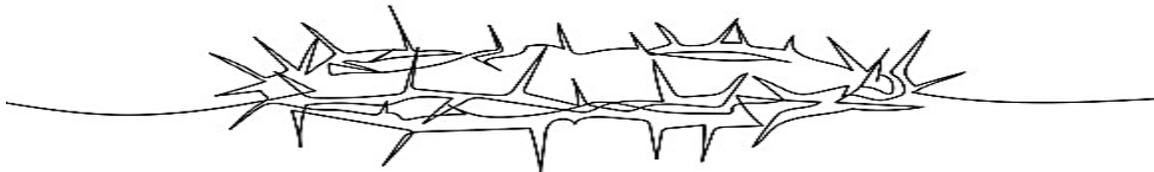
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated for the reading of the Passion Gospel.*

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (21:1-11) (*see insert*)

*At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha all stand.*



SERMON

*The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Mike, Val, Meredith H., Jon, Tom M.; and anyone you name now, silently or aloud. *(The People may add their own petitions).*

*Silence*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*(The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

*Silence*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*(The People may add their own petitions)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Instrumental*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Alban and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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 INVITATION

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

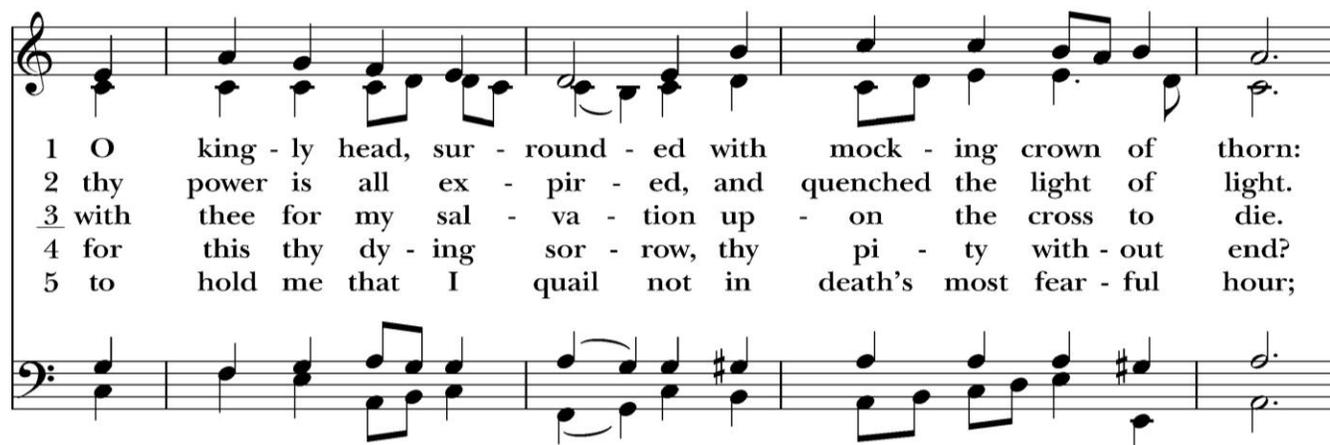
*Anyone of any age and tradition is invited to receive Holy Communion, and no one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away. To receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, approach the altar and cross your arms over your chest.*

*To receive Holy Communion, you may stand or kneel at the altar rail; or stand in the space between the altar rails, in front of the altar. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let someone know and we will be honored to bring it to you. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know at the altar.*

*Remember, that communion "in one kind" (bread only) is a sufficient manifestation of the sacrament. If you'd like, you can simply hold the cup while the chalice bearer offers the words of reception, without drinking from the chalice.*



1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;  
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;  
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,  
 \*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 \*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,



1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:  
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.  
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.  
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?  
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;



1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?  
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:  
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,  
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,  
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife



1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!  
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.  
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.  
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.  
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Bow down before the Lord.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN *Standing or seated\**

*Would you share Christ's passion*

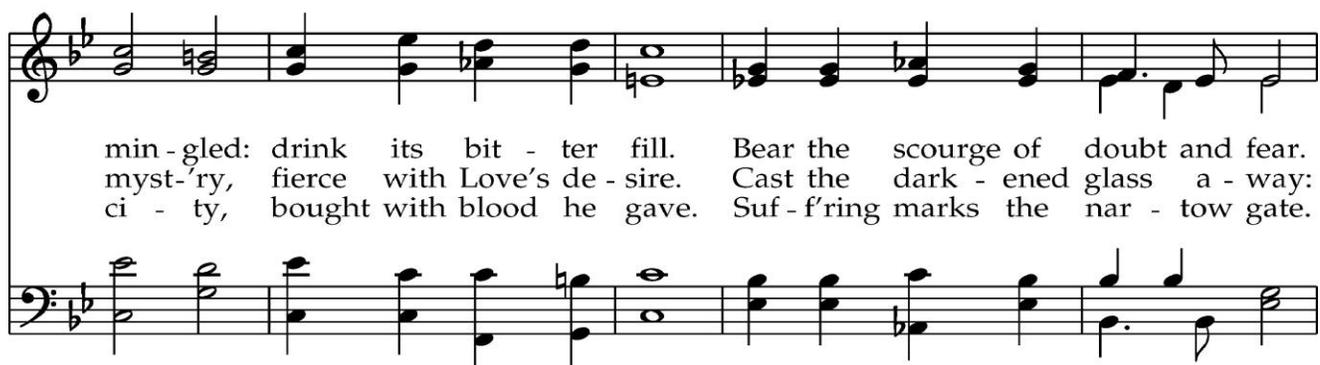
*VF 42*



1 Would you share Christ's pas - sion? Take your cross and fol - low;  
2 Would you know Christ's mean - ing, daz - zling in its ra - diance?  
3 Would you join Christ's tri - umph, o - ver death vic - to - rious,



climb Gol - ga - tha's hill. Taste the cup of sor - row, wine and gall com -  
Lie down in the fire. Brave the flames of Wis - dom, sear - ing with their  
ris - ing from the grave? Pain and grief are fore - courts of the heav'n-ly



min - gled: drink its bit - ter fill. Bear the scourge of doubt and fear.  
myst - ry, fierce with Love's de - sire. Cast the dark - ened glass a - way:  
ci - ty, bought with blood he gave. Suf - f'ring marks the nar - tow gate.

Though a jeer-ing crowd de - ride you, he will walk be - side you.  
 O - pen to a bril - liant burn - ing. Seek and find true learn - ing.  
 Yet, though tri - als throned to greet you, none shall now de - feat you!

## THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Our service comes from The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and we make use of all hymnal resources approved by The Episcopal Church. Everything you need to worship fully today can be found in the bulletin.*

### **\*A note about standing, kneeling, sitting rubrics**

*One of the spaces that has received more attention during the pandemic is around ableism. Our society, in large part, functions as though everyone has nearly full use of their bodies. Where a “standing” rubric might have been added alone, we’re adding “seated”, as well, as an invitation for you to listen and respond to the needs of your own body. You are invited to remember that our bodies are created by God and intended for worship, just like our voices. How ever you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!*