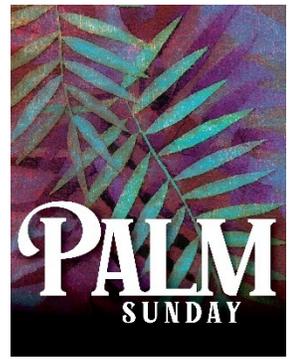




The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
Epiphany Parish
March 29, 2026 – 10:00am
Rite II



We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another and to include all people through our fellowship, education & outreach.

The Prelude

The Liturgy of the Palms

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Celebrant from the narthex: 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.

Matthew 21:1-11

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."

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 God 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 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

The Procession

Opening Hymn H#154 All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!

The Word of God

Officiant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

The Collect of the Day (in Unison)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First 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.

People Thanks be to God.

The 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."

The Gradual Hymn

H#244 Come, pure hearts

The Passion Gospel (see booklet)

The Homily

Rev. Christen H. Mills

The Nicene Creed

p358

The Prayers of the People Form III	p387
The Confession	p360
The Peace	
The Welcome & Announcements	
The Offertory Hymn	H#458 My song is love unknown
The Doxology	H#380(verse 3)



The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A	p361
The Sanctus	S-125
The Lord's Prayer	p364
The Breaking of the Bread	p364
The Communion Hymn	H#341 For the bread which you have broken
The Post Communion Prayer	p365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn **H#172, Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Choir will sing Verses 1 and 4 and then the Congregation sings Verses 3 and 4

The Dismissal

Please leave in Silence and join us downstairs for coffee hour

A Liturgical Note from The Rev. Christen Mills:

As we enter into the holy story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, we must remember that this event occurred in a specific time and political situation. When the text refers to 'the chief priests and leaders of the people' or 'the Jews', they speak of specific groups of individuals who were associated with systems of oppression in the Roman Empire. The authors never intended for these leaders to represent Jewish people as a whole and certainly did not intend them to represent Jewish people today. Rather, they refer to specific political tensions and conflicts within the Jewish community of which Jesus was a part.

We also need to remember that these texts have inappropriately been used to justify the persecution of Jews throughout history. As followers of Christ who stood up against the oppression of the Roman Empire, let us pray for forgiveness for the wrongs that have been justified using our sacred stories, and recommit ourselves to standing up against oppression, prejudice, and violence wherever they may be found.

Invitation for Spiritual Communion— *This prayer is a personal prayer that you can say when you desire communion but are unable to receive the sacrament.* Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. *Amen.*

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