

**The Sixth Sunday in Lent**

# **Palm Sunday**

**April 13, 2025**



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

1935 The Plaza

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**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**The Sunday of the Passion,**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**April 13, 2025**

**The Prelude**

*Festival March on "St. Theodulph"*

Teschner/Hughes

*Immediately following the Prelude, the congregation is invited to gather in Begley Hall for the Blessing of the Palms. A Greeter will deliver palms once they are blessed to those remaining in the Church*

**The Liturgy of the Palms**

*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.

*People:* **Amen.**

**The Reading:**

Luke 19:28-40

*Lector:* A reading from the gospel of Luke.

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

*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 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*People:* **Hosanna in the highest.**

### **The Procession**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in peace.  
*People:* **In the name of Christ. Amen**

*The procession of people going from Begley Hall will carry palms and recite Psalm 118 as they walk from Begley Hall to the front of the church via the Garner Avenue side.*

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

*All:*

**1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.**

**2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
"His mercy endures for ever."**

**19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

**20 "This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."**

**21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.**

**22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

**23 This is the LORD's doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**24 On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! \*  
LORD, send us now success.**

**26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

**27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

**28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

**29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.**

*When the procession nears the front door*

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* **Amen.**

## The Entrance Rite

Processional Hymn

Hymnal #154

### The Word of God

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Collect of the Day

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*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant:* 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

### The Lessons

The First Lesson

Isaiah 50:4-9a

*Lector :* A reading from the book of Isaiah:  
The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Psalm

Psalm 31:9-16

- Lector:* 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 Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

*Lector:* A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #158

*Celebrant:* The Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

*The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts, led by a narrator. The lines of the "Disciples" will be read by all women in the congregation; those of the "Soldiers" by all men in the congregation; and those of the "Assembly" by everyone in the congregation. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at the place called The Skull, all are invited to stands.*

- Narrator:* When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,
- JESUS:* "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
- Narrator:* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,
- JESUS:* "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
- Narrator:* Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
- JESUS:* "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- Narrator:* And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
- JESUS:* "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"
- Narrator:* Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,
- JESUS:* "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.
- "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
- Narrator:* And he said to him,
- PETER:* "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"
- Narrator:* Jesus said,
- JESUS:* "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."
- Narrator:* He said to them,
- JESUS:* "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"
- Narrator:* They said,
- DISCIPLES:* **"No, not a thing."**
- Narrator:* He said to them,
- JESUS:* "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."
- Narrator:* They said,
- DISCIPLES:* **"Lord, look, here are two swords."**

*Narrator:* He replied,

*JESUS:* "It is enough."

*Narrator:* He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

*JESUS:* "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

*Narrator:* Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

*JESUS:* "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

*Narrator:* Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

*JESUS:* "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

*Narrator:* While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

*JESUS:* "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

*Narrator:* When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

*DISCIPLES:* **"Lord, should we strike with the sword?"**

*Narrator:* Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

*JESUS:* "No more of this!"

*Narrator:* And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

*JESUS:* "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

*Narrator:* Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

*SERVANT 1:* "This man also was with him."

*Narrator:* But he denied it, saying,

*PETER:* "Woman, I do not know him."

*Narrator:* A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

*ACCUSER 1:* "You also are one of them."

*Narrator:* But Peter said,

*PETER:* "Man, I am not!"

*Narrator:* Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

*ACCUSER 2:* "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

*Narrator:* But Peter said,

*PETER:* "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

*Narrator:* At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also

blindfolded him and kept asking him,

**SOLDIERS:** **"Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"**

*Narrator:* They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"If you are the Messiah, tell us."**

*Narrator:* He replied,

**JESUS:** "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

*Narrator:* All of them asked,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"Are you, then, the Son of God?"**

*Narrator:* He said to them,

**JESUS:** "You say that I am."

*Narrator:* Then they said,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"**

*Narrator:* Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."**

*Narrator:* Then Pilate asked him,

**PILATE:** "Are you the king of the Jews?"

*Narrator:* He answered,

**JESUS:** "You say so."

*Narrator:* Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

**PILATE:** "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."

*Narrator:* But they were insistent and said,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."**

*Narrator:* When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

**PILATE:** "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

*Narrator:* Then they all shouted out together,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"**

*Narrator:* (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again;



but they kept shouting,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"Crucify, crucify him!"**

*Narrator:* A third time he said to them,

*PILATE:* "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

*Narrator:* But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

*JESUS:* "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

*(At the mention of the place called **the Skull**, all should stand, as able.)*

*Narrator:* Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called **The Skull**, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

*JESUS:* "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

*Narrator:* And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

**ASSEMBLY:** **"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"**

*Narrator:* The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

**SOLDIERS:** **"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"**

*Narrator:* There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

*CRIMINAL 1:* "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

*NARRATOR:* But the other rebuked him, saying,

*CRIMINAL 2:* "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

*Narrator:* Then he said,

*CRIMINAL 2:* "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

*Narrator:* He replied,

*JESUS:* "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*Narrator:* It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

*JESUS:* "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

*Narrator:* Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

*CENTURION:* "Certainly this man was innocent."

*Narrator:* And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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## Sermon

The Rev. Jane Brady-Close

## Prayers of the People

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*Intercessor:* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church in the world. Especially for The Church of England in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, and for the Anglican Communion for the discernment of the Crown Nomination Committee.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Jane Brady-Close, our Celebrant today, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those on our church family prayer list and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Give life and health to our church and community, and call and inspire the priest who will serve as our Rector.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

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

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

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory Anthem**

*Panis Angelicus*

*arr. Robinson*

### **The Doxology**

V.3, Hymnal #380

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

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*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* 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:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Hymnal S-114

**All:** **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.**

*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father 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 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All:* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

*People:* **AMEN.**

### The Lord's Prayer

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

*All:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today 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

Page #364

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### The Fraction Anthem (*Agnus Dei*)

Hymnal S-158

*All:* **Oh, Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.**

**Oh, Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.**

**Oh, Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sins of the world,  
Grant us thy peace.**

**The Invitation**

Page #364

*Celebrant:* 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.

*Celebrant/Minister:* The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

**Communion Hymn**

Hymnal #339

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Page #365

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.  
*All:* **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 Concluding Rite**

**The Prayer over the People**

*Celebrant:* 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 suf-  
fer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Recessional Hymn**

*(Choir Only on 1st Verse)*

Hymnal #160

**The Dismissal:**

Page #366

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs*

Handel

\* \* \* \* \*

**Our Intercessions  
for the week of April 13, 2025**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Mtr. Jane Brady-Close our Celebrant.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Diana Belardo, Linda, Ann M., Joyce C., Billy K., Lee H., Millie G., Doreen M., Leslie, and Jean V.

For all those abused as young people while under the care of church and other institutions, that they will find justice and healing.

For those who have died: Katherine Webber.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Announcements

April 13, 2025

<b>Serving Today:</b>	Celebrant	Mtr. Jane Brady-Close
	Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin Basil Dewdney
	Greeters:	Vicki Hoshko Marilyn Humphrey
	Crucifer:	George Woodzell
	Eucharistic Ministers:	Basil Dewdney George Woodzell
	Lector:	Linda Emaelaf
	Intercessor:	Don Csaposs
	Counter:	Richey Woodzell
	Coffee Hour:	

**Today we welcome back** Mtr. Jane Brady-Close as our guest Celebrant and Preacher.

**The Pussy Willows on the altar** are a Lenten gift of Vicki Hoshko in memory of Marti Spang.

**Today's Offertory Anthem** *Panis Angelicus* combines the prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) with the music of Cesar Franck (1822-1880). Franck was of Belgian descent but lived most of his life in Paris. At the Paris Conservatory he studied piano and later became a church organist and composer. A translation of the Latin text by Russell Robinson is:

*Bread of heaven that becomes the bread for all of mankind,  
The bread of life is a wonderful gift.  
It nourishes even the poorest of the poor and all servants of the Lord.*

**Episcopal Relief & Development:** This is the last week for our fundraiser for Episcopal Relief & Development during Lent. You may use the envelopes in the pews or make contributions online at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org). See the display in the nave extension; you can use their "Hope Chests" for collecting change. And check the bulletin board opposite the parish library for updates.

**Family Promise Presentation:** On Sunday April 27, Mary Giordano, Executive Director of Family Promise of the Capital Region (FPCR), will speak during coffee hour about their ministry to homeless families and how we might be involved. We will meet in the Youth Lounge.

**Food Pantry donations:** Please contribute soap, body wash and menstrual supplies during April.

**Schenectady CROP Walk for the Hungry** is Sunday, May 4. Registration will begin at noon, and the Opening Ceremony will start at 1 pm, with the Walk to follow. This year we will be walking from St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish School, 1801 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12309. Sign up in the nave extension to walk and take a sponsor envelope. If you can't participate in the walk, please sponsor St. Stephen's team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/st-stephens-episcopal-church-3>.

**Altar Flower Sign Up:** The sign up sheet for providing flowers for the alter for the coming summer and fall seasons is on the table in the nave extension. Please take a moment sign up

**Safe Church:** The deadline for finishing the Praesidium Modules is the first weekend in May, for all those involved in St. Stephen's ministries. If you have questions, ask Doreen May.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, 4/17, 7:30 p.m.:** Maundy Thursday service.

**Friday, 4/18:** Good Friday service.

**Sunday, 4/20:** 9:30 a.m.: Easter Sunday service.

**Monday, 4/21, 7:00 p.m.:** Worship Committee meeting

**Sunday, 4/27, 11:00 a.m.:** Pastoral Care Committee meeting.

**Sunday, 5/4:** Deadline for completion of Praesidium Safe Church modules.

**Monday, 5/12, 7:00 p.m.:** Vestry meeting.

**Tuesday, 5/13, 1:00 p.m.:** Book Club meeting.

## Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

George Woodzell, Senior Warden  
Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden  
Susan Lohnas, Organist  
Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir  
Jon Ewbank, Office Manager  
Denise Crates, Treasurer  
Theresa Fay, Clerk

## Vestry

Ruth Basantes      Denise Crates  
Basil Dewdney      Linda Emaelaf  
Vicki Hoshko      Stan Jakubowski  
Deborah O'Connor      Jean Stefanski

On the front cover; “Roundel with Entry into Jerusalem”

A 15th century stained German glass window roundel.  
From the collection of the Metropolitan Museum Art, New York, NY.  
On view at The Met Cloisters.