



GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 3, 2026

12:00 p.m.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1935 The Plaza

Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

518-346-6241; [office@st-stephens.church](mailto:office@st-stephens.church)

A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany

The Rt. Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop

The Rev. Lisa Busby, Rector

Susan Lohnas, Organist

Douglas Lohnas, Choir Director

If you or someone you know is in need, please call Mother Lisa at (518) 637-7736

*On this day the ministers enter in silence.*

*All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Celebrant stands and begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP p.276

Celebrant Blessed be our God.

People **For ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:13--53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,

and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him

—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of mortals—

so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.  
 When you make his life an offering for sin,  
 he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
 through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.  
 Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
 he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
 The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities.  
 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
 because he poured out himself to death,  
 and was numbered with the transgressors;  
 yet he bore the sin of many,  
 and made intercession for the transgressors.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM Psalm 69:1-23**

*Read responsively by whole verse.*

BCP p. 679

- 1 Save me, O God, \*  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.
- 2 **I am sinking in deep mire, \***  
**and there is no firm ground for my feet.**
- 3 I have come into deep waters, \*  
and the torrent washes over me.
- 4 **I have grown weary with my crying;**  
**my throat is inflamed; \***  
**my eyes have failed from looking for my God.**
- 5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs  
of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. \*  
Must I then give back what I never stole?
- 6 **O God, you know my foolishness, \***  
**and my faults are not hidden from you.**
- 7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord GOD of hosts; \*  
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.
- 8 **Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \***  
**and shame has covered my face.**
- 9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 **Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \***  
**the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.**
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 12 **I put on sack-cloth also, \***  
**and became a byword among them.**
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 14 **But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \***  
**at the time you have set, O LORD:**
- 15 "In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.

- 16 **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.**
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me."**
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 **Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.**
- 21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; \*  
my adversaries are all in your sight."
- 22 **Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; \*  
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,  
for comforters, but I could find no one.**
- 23 They gave me gall to eat, \*  
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

**SECOND READING** A Reading from the letter to the church in Ephesus. Ephesians 1:3-14  
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

Hymnal #171

**THE PASSION GOSPEL**

John 19:1-42

*The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) all stand.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews.

Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment."

So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Lisa Busby

## SEQUENCE ANTHEM

*The Old Rugged Cross*  
Douglas & Susan Lohnas

George Bennard (1873-1958)

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers

and the people whom they serve

For Jeremiah, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, who by the grace of their eternal covenant with God were delivered from bondage into freedom;

For their continued faithfulness;

For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;

For their safety from all malice and harm

For their liberation from all forms of antisemitism and hatred

For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.

That unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians, in obedience to God's will.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* O God of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted all peoples as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born. Bless the children of your covenant, so that together we may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not embraced God's redemptive love.

For those who have never heard the word of salvation

For those who have lost their faith

For those hardened by sin or indifference

For the contemptuous and the scornful

For those who are persecutors of Christ's disciples

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **ENTRANCE OF THE CROSS**

BCP p. 281

*A wooden cross is now brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.*

#### **VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

***because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,***

***because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

*The people are invited to come forward to the cross for silent prayer.*

#### **HYMN AT THE VENERATION**

Hymnal #172

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BCP p. 282

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **FINAL PRAYER**

BCP p. 282

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Ministers and people depart in silence.*

*If you choose to walk the Stations of the Cross following today's service,  
please remain in silence as you read and pray.  
The readings for the stations are found on the table at the back of the church.*

*The Triduum Liturgy continues at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 pm.*

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### TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant	The Rev. Lisa Busby
Altar Guild	Carolyn Morin
Usher:	Douglas Lohnas
Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
Acolyte;	George Woodzell
Lector:	Douglas Lohnas
Intercessor:	Allison de Kanel

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**Good Friday Offering:** For 104 years, the Good Friday Offering has supported the ministry of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This Lent, the need is almost unfathomable, and the Presiding Bishop has asked us to join him in making a generous gift at [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](http://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering).

We do not know what the political future of the Holy Land will be; but whatever that future, our siblings in Christ in The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East will continue to serve God's people through their congregations, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These vital ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Your gift to the Good Friday Offering will support ministry at al-Alhi Hospital in Gaza, which has continued to provide essential health care services despite the violence of war; St. George's in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center; an eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen; and the powerful Christian presence of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria, and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

It is easy to feel powerless in the face of the human suffering we have witnessed in the Holy Land, but with a gift to the Good Friday Offering, we can help The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East turn despair into hope for thousands of God's people across their region.

*Please consider making an offering to the  
Anglican Communion Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East using the QR  
code provided or by leaving your donation in the offering plate as you exit..*

