



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL AND  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026  
**PALM SUNDAY**



*"Palm Sunday" by Peter Koenig, 20th Century*

**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. *Amen.*

**A Reading from the Gospel of 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.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*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 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.*

*The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said*

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

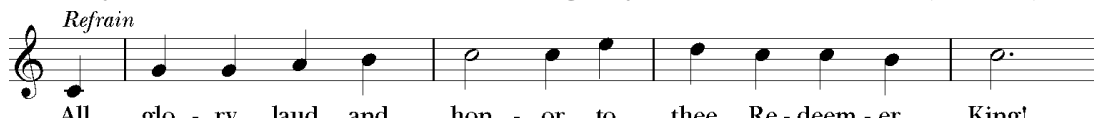
*People* ***Hosanna in the highest.***

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in peace.


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

**Processional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #154 - All glory, laud, and honor (v. 1 - 3)***


*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;

*Repeat Refrain*



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.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchoir Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

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. *Amen.*

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.*

## **The Word of God**

### **A Reading from the Prophet 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?

*Reader*        **The Word of the Lord.**

*People*        **Thanks be to God**

## **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."*

## **A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians (2:5 – 11),**

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.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #458 - My song is love unknown (verses 1-3)*

1 My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but  
 \*3 Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing, re -

1 to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O  
 2 men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know. But  
 3 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then

1 who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 2 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.  
 3 "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), alt.  
 Music: *Love Unknown*, John Ireland (1879-1962)

66. 66. 44. 44

Sermon

**The Nicene Creed** (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [Please stand, as you are able]

*We believe in one God,*

*the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,*

*the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through Him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation*

*He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.*

*For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;*

*He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,*

*who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## **The Prayers of the People – Form IV [The people may be seated]**

*Deacon or other leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Within our parish family, we pray for ***Rob, DeVona & family, Leon & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Sally, Bill & Lisa, Amanda & family, Danielle,***

*Jamie & family, Jennifer, Karly, Katie, Laura, Lyndsee & family, Libby, and Lynn.* We also pray for the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Prayer In Times of Conflict*

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

*For Prisons and Correctional Institutions*

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. ***Amen.***

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

**The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

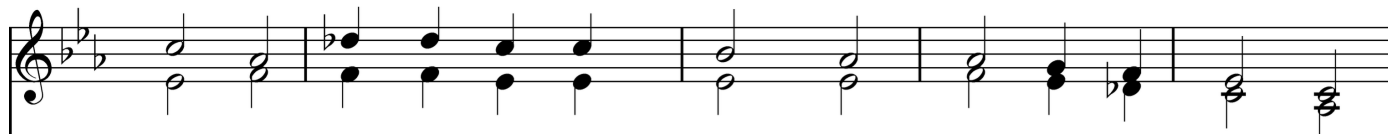
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #158 - Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended (verses 1-3)*



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath



1 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 2 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 3 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,



1 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 2 I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 3 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.

Words: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johann Cruger (1598-1662), alt.

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer B [Please stand, as you are able]

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

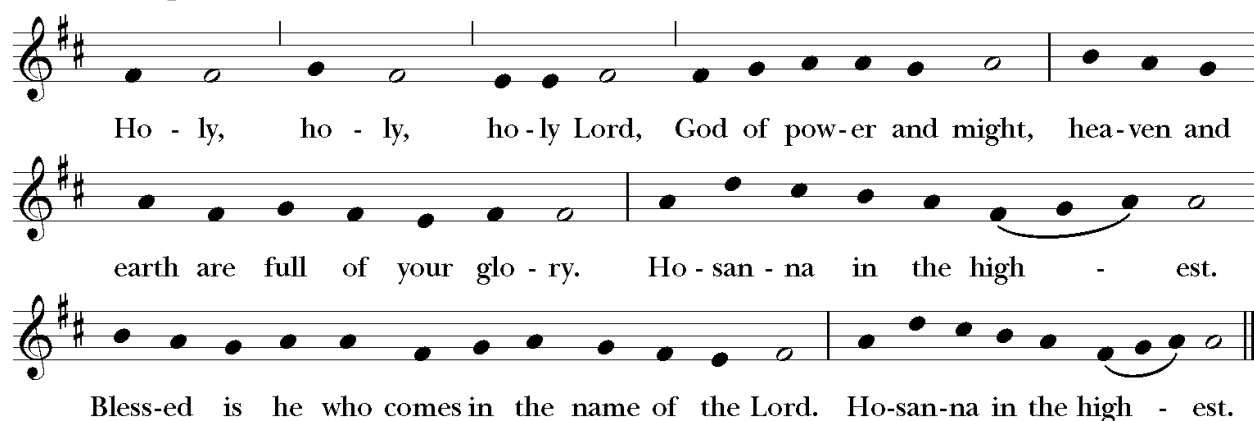
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*



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.

*Then the Celebrant continues* [People may stand or kneel]

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;***

*The 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 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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

*Officiant and People*

***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**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Celebrant then 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 are welcome at the Lord's Table.***

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]**

*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 your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Announcements**

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #474* - When I survey the wondrous cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: *Rockingham*, from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1970; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807).

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God.*



*"Christ's Entry into Jerusalem" by Gustave Doré, 1876*



Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Office and Mailing Address:

**40 Tenth Street West**

**Billings, Montana 59102**

**Office Phone: (406) 248 - 6427**

Email: [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [ststephensbillings.org](http://ststephensbillings.org)

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