

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in worship, and during the service they may enjoy the activity bags, which are in the Tower Entrance. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Sundays. Please use the crosswalk to get there!
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

Easter Flowers: Reminder that Easter lily memorials and honorariums are due no later than Monday, March 30. To place a memorial or honorarium, fill out one of the Easter flower envelopes available in the church and office, place your donation (suggested: \$100) inside, and return the envelope to the office or include it in the offering plate.

Prayer List: The Sunday prayer list is updated at the end of each quarter. On Sunday, April 5, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in March. You can add or update a name on the prayer list at www.stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list.

HOLY WEEK:

THE WAY OF THE CROSS, THE LIGHT OF RESURRECTION

www.stjohnflatrock.org/holy-week

Holy Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday | March 30-April 1 | 4:30pm

Join us for Evening Prayer in the Atrium Chapel.

Maundy Thursday | April 2

Foot Washing for Kids: 5:00pm | Proper Service: 7:00pm

Wear your sandals and share in the radical servant ministry of Jesus of Nazareth! Families with children are invited to a special program with dinner at 5:00pm in the Wilderness Room. ***Sign up for Foot Washing for Kids at bit.ly/maundykids2026.*** At 7:00pm, all are welcome for our traditional service of foot-washing and stripping of the altar.

Gethsemane Watch | April 2-3 | 9:00pm – 8:00am

The Gethsemane Watch invites us to pray for one hour, staying awake as the disciples could not. This vigil begins after the Maundy Thursday service and continues until Good Friday Morning Prayer. ***Sign up for a shift at bit.ly/gethsemane26.***

Good Friday | April 3 | Proper Services: 12:00 & 5:30pm

Stations of the Cross: 11:00am | Veneration of the Cross: 1:00-4:00pm

On Good Friday, join us at 11:00am in the Parish Hall parking lot for the Stations of the Cross, processing to the church for the 12:00 proper liturgy. Another proper service will be held at 5:30pm. Offerings from both services will support the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. From 1:00–4:00pm, all are invited to pray in the church during the Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday | April 4

Blessing of Easter Baskets & Foods for the Easter Feast: 4:00pm

Join us in the Atrium Chapel for a new parish-wide offering as we prepare to end our Lenten fast by blessing our Easter baskets and samplings of the food to be eaten when the Easter feast begins. Bring your own baskets full of food to be blessed.

Easter Sunday | April 5

Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Parish Breakfast: 9:30-11:30am

Egg Hunt: 10:00am | Potluck Feast: 4:00pm

The story of Jesus did not end on the Cross, because the love of God cannot stay locked in a tomb. On Easter, we celebrate Jesus' conquering of death to bring new and abundant life to us all. Join in the celebration at one of our services at 8:45 and 11:00am. Bring flowers to share in the flowering of the cross, or use the flowers provided in the church. At 10:00am, the celebration will move across the street for St. John's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your own basket and meet in the Rector's Garden. From 9:30 to 11:30am, the Chefs of St. John will be serving up an Easter Parish Breakfast in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$6/person or \$12/family. To round out this most festive of days, Fr. Josh and Rosanna invite you to their home for a potluck feast at 4:00pm. ***RSVP for the Easter Potluck Feast at bit.ly/easterpotluck2026 by Monday, March 30.***

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:45 & 11:00am

Our service today begins outside at the Carriage Entrance. Get your palms from the ushers and meet outside to begin our worship.

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.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Confitemini Domino

The Psalm is read in unison.

- 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.

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

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 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 is repeated three times.

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

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

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

With palms waving, we will repeat the refrain as we process into the church. As the people find their pews, the organ will lead us into the first verse.

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,

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.
 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 WORD OF GOD

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

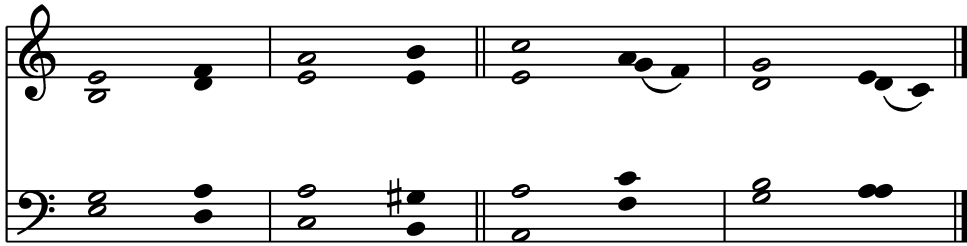
The people are seated.

First Lesson: 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 is read responsively by whole verse at 8:45 and sung in unison at 11:00. The 11:00 congregation remains seated as it sings the Psalm.



Chant setting. #408 from *The Hymnal 1982, Service Music* — Music: James Frazier (b. 1947). Copyright © 1978 James Frazier.

- 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."
- Glory be to the Father, and to the SON, *
and to the Holy GHOST:
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. AMEN.

Second Lesson: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.

GRADUAL HYMN: #435 At the name of Jesus

King's Weston

Verses 1-4

All remain standing as the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel: 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

**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:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 VI, BCP p. 392

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

People For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;
People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;
People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; José, our Bishop;
and for all bishops and other ministers;
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for Jeff, Legare, Elijah,
Susan, Betsy, Tawana, Chuck, John, Nancy, Ginger, Robert, Dottie, Betty, Mason,
Mary, Sue, Dale, Mary, Deacon, Kristen, Katherine, Julie, EJ, and Alicia. Are there
others?

The People may add their own petitions silently or aloud

Leader Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**

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

The People may add their own thanksgivings silently or aloud

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

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

Leader We pray for all who have died, [*especially _____,*] that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions silently or aloud

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People **Who put their trust in you.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 330

The Deacon introduces the Confession with the following or the other introduction on page 330.

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon

you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying
Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

The Peace

BCP p. 332

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome & Announcements

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

*The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table.
Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.*



OFFERTORY MUSIC:

8:45 Hosanna!

Christian Gregor

11:00 Hosanna!

Christian Gregor/arr. Hopson

Hosanna, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Text: Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Doxology

Old 100th

Musical score for the Offertory Response: Doxology. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, BCP p. 333

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

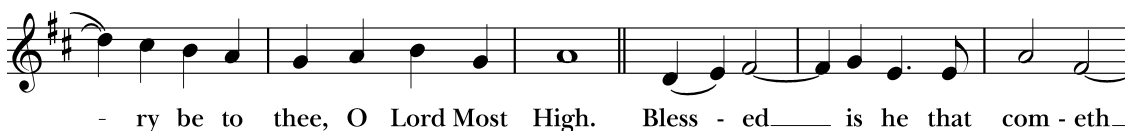
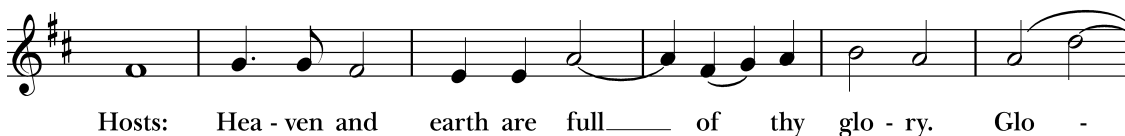
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

People and Celebrant

**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

BCP p. 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The following or some other suitable anthem may be said (8:45) or sung (11:00) here

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **grant us thy peace.**

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that



ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have



mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of



God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the



world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors on the back inside cover of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by singing a hymn while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's hymn, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION MUSIC:

8:45 Lamb of God

F. Melius Christiansen

11:00 Lamb of God

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy and lowly, who on the cross didst suffer,
Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer;
Our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

Text: Nicolaus Decius, 1521

COMMUNION HYMN: #458 My song is love unknown

Love Unknown

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.**

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Kneel before the Lord.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The people stand.

HYMN: #158 Ah, holy Jesus

Herzliebster Jesu

The people are seated.

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts, led by a narrator who begins by saying:

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew (26:14-27:66)

The people participate as noted.

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you,

this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the

elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But Jesus was silent. Then the

high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make

against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said,

People **“Barabbas.”**

Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said,

People **“Let him be crucified!”**

Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more,

People **“Let him be crucified!”**

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered,

People **“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),

The congregation now stands and remains so for the remainder of the reading.

they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door

of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

At the end of the reading, all kneel for a time of prayer. Remain kneeling as the procession departs the church.

Please leave in silence after you have finished praying. There is a coffee hour for children and adults with optional crafts in the Wilderness Room after the first service.

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. **Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People.** As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Jeff, Legare Head, Elijah Stephens, Susan Rex, Betsy Thagard, Tawana Gibbs, Chuck King, John and Nancy Taylor, Ginger Quarles, Robert Odean, Dottie Dalzell, Betty, Mason, Mary, Sue, Dale, Mary McCarty, Deacon Whitson, Kristen, Katherine Gee, Julie Morse, EJ Albergotti, and Alicia Wallace.

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Art Mack, Judy Petersen, Anita Reid, Stan Rogan, and Bill Taylor.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Palm Sunday - March 29		Maundy Thursday - April 2
	8:45am	11:00am	7:00pm
Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers	D. Brombacher Lori Griswold Stan Rogan Chad Stephens Will Rodriguez	D. Brombacher Lori Griswold Stan Rogan Chad Stephens Will Rodriguez	Bill Taylor
Acolytes	Laura Teel Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell	Cora Fitzpatrick Joey Saltz Sofia Ridgeway	Laura Teel
Ushers	Debby Staton Clint Adams	Bettie Orr S. Gulbrandsen	Debby Staton Jerry Holt
Greeters	Worth Gordon Meg Holt	Jo Stahle Anne Vogler	
Cart Drivers	Jill Owen	Bob Staples	Jill Owen
Videography (Service)	N/A	BJ McKee	David Burge
Videography (Formation)	N/A		N/A
Altar Guild	Brenda Hillyer Virginia Rehn (<i>Sat.</i>) Rick Rehn (<i>Brass</i>)	Diane Skelton Susan Gibbs	Elaine Harris Laurie Morris
Flower Guild			Lenten Branches
Opening Gatekeeper	David Dethero		N/A
Closing Gatekeeper	Mark Delk		N/A

	Good Friday - April 3		Easter Sunday - April 5	
	12:00pm	5:30pm	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers	Bill Taylor	Will Rodriguez	Judy Petersen	Candace Lewis
Acolytes	N/A	N/A	Danielle Pharr Joey Saltz Sofia Ridgeway	Anita Reid Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell
Ushers	Lisa Kauffman George Grzenda	S. Gulbrandsen Bettie Orr	Jodi Sundeen Jim Spry	Bettie Orr Lisa Kauffman Ned Curtis
Greeters			Worth Gordon Cathryn Harrell	
Cart Drivers	Scott Bell	Jill Owen	Jim Vint	John Knapp
Videography (Service)	BJ McKee	N/A	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Videography (Formation)	N/A		N/A – Breakfast/Egg Hunt	
Altar Guild	Diane Skelton Brenda Hillyer	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Gibson Sims (<i>Brass</i>)	Laurie Morris Becky Petersen Elaine Harris (<i>Sat.</i>) Cathryn Harrell (<i>Sat.</i>)
Flower Guild	Lenten Branches		Flower Guild & Friends	
Opening Gatekeeper	N/A		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
Closing Gatekeeper	N/A		Lynne Miller	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Church: 1895 Greenville Highway | Office: 1905 Greenville Highway

Mailing: PO Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

*In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial **

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Kathy Hulin, Associate Rector for Formation & Pastoral Care: associate@stjohnflatrock.org

Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Financial Administrator: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jill Owen, *Senior Warden (2026)*
Jim Cooper, *Junior Warden (2027)*

2026

Jon Fitzpatrick
Sandy Skelton

2027

Kitty Olson
Catherine Popp
Steve Sittnick

2028

Liz Carson
Mark Delk
Worth Gordon
Lynne Miller

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders &
Bill Williams, *Treasurers*

Kim Sanders, *Clerk*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Gary German

Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer & Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton

Personnel: Margaret Barker

Stewardship: Jim and Jann Cooper

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Laura Teel

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell

Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel

Episcopal Church Women: Jan Tanner

Flower Guild: Patrice German

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry Tanner

Gatekeepers: BJ McKee

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Cathy & David Burge

Greeters: Worth Gordon & Carmen Curtis

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk

Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams & Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: Clint Adams

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe