



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH    DUPONT CIRCLE



## Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020

### The Liturgy of the Palms

**D**EAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Celebrant:    Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People:        **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant     Let us pray.

**A**SSIST 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.**

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

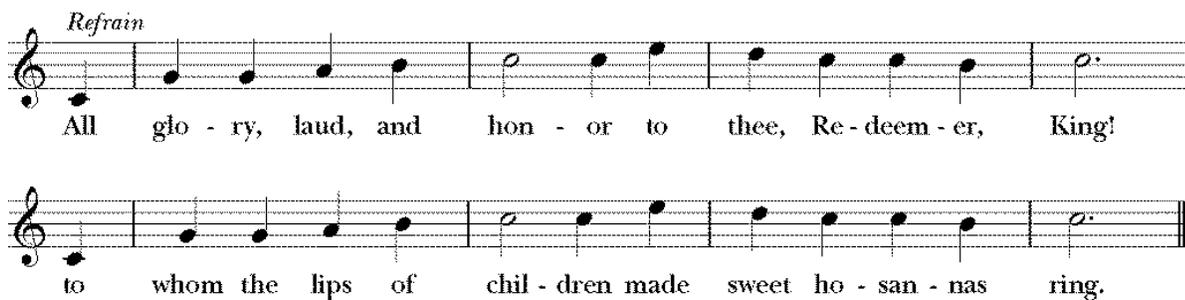
People: Hosanna in the highest.

**Hymn**

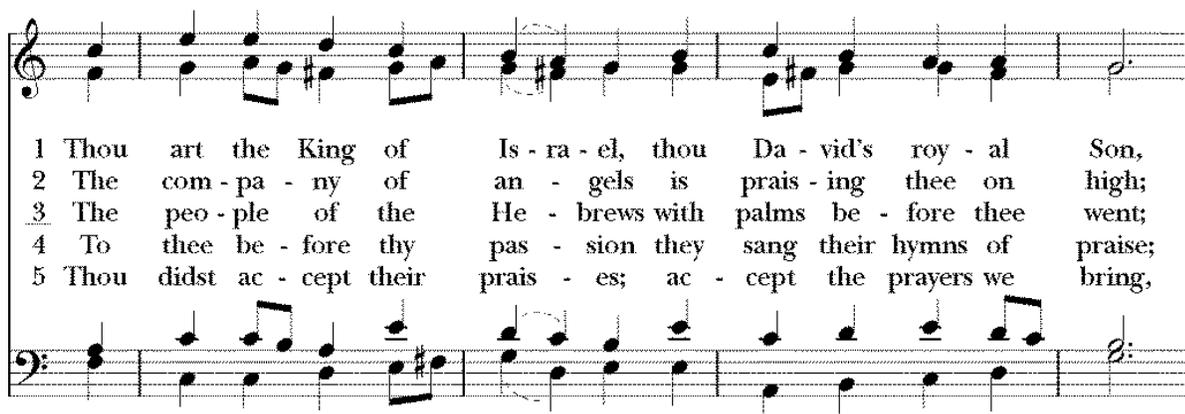
“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*Valet will ich dir geben*

*Refrain*

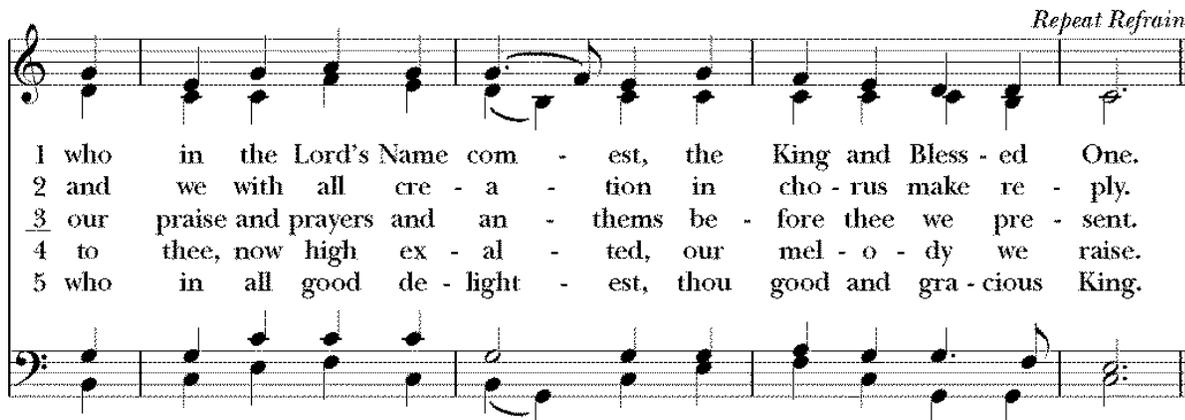


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!  
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



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 Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY 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.**

## First Reading      Isaiah 50:4-9a

**T**HE 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 she 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;  
she who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Lector: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

# Hymn

## “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”



1 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the  
2 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and  
5 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly



1 tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his  
2 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be -  
3 ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and won - dering  
4 fierc - est strife is nigh; the Fa - ther on his sap - phire  
5 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mor - tal



1 road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
2 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
3 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
4 throne ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.  
5 pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

## The Holy Gospel Matthew 21: 1-11

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon.*

## The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**Narrator:** One of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the cabal of high priests and said,

**Judas:** "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?"

**Narrator:** They settled on thirty silver pieces. He began looking for just the right moment to hand him over. On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said,

**Disciples:** "Where do you want us to prepare your Passover meal?"

**Jesus:** "Enter the city. Go up to a certain man and say, 'The Teacher says, My time is near. I and my disciples plan to celebrate the Passover meal at your house.'"

**Narrator:** The disciples followed Jesus' instructions to the letter, and prepared the Passover meal. After sunset, he and the Twelve were sitting around the table. During the meal, he said,

**Jesus:** "I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators."

**Narrator:** They were stunned, and then began to ask, one after another,

**Disciples:** "It isn't me, is it, Master?"

**Jesus:** "The one who hands me over is someone I eat with daily, one who passes me food at the table. In one sense the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the Scriptures—no surprises here. In another sense that man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man—better never to have been born than do this!"

**Judas:** "It isn't me, is it, Rabbi?"

**Jesus:** "Don't play games with me, Judas."

**Narrator:** During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

**Jesus:** “Take, eat. This is my body.”

**Narrator:** Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

**Jesus:** “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, God’s new covenant poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. I’ll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I’ll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father.”

**Narrator:** They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives. Then Jesus told them,

**Jesus:** “Before the night’s over, you’re going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me. There is a Scripture that says, I’ll strike the shepherd; helter-skelter the sheep will be scattered. But after I am raised up, I, your Shepherd, will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee.”

**Narrator:** Peter broke in,

**Peter:** “Even if everyone else falls to pieces on account of you, I won’t.”

**Jesus:** “Don’t be so sure. This very night, before the rooster crows up the dawn, you will deny me three times.”

**Peter:** “Even if I had to die with you, I would never deny you.”

**Narrator:** All the others said the same thing. Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples,

**Jesus:** “Stay here while I go over there and pray.”

**Narrator:** Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said,

**Jesus:** “This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me.”

**Narrator:** Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying,

**Jesus:** “My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?”

**Narrator:** When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter,

**Jesus:** “Can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don’t wander into temptation without even knowing you’re in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there’s another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.”

**Narrator:** He then left them a second time. Again he prayed,

**Jesus:** “My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I’m ready. Do it your way.”

**Narrator:** When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time. When he came back the next time, he said,

**Jesus:** "Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's get going! My betrayer is here."

**Narrator:** The words were barely out of his mouth when Judas (the one from the Twelve) showed up, and with him a gang from the high priests and religious leaders brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one—seize him." He went straight to Jesus, greeted him,

**Judas:** "How are you, Rabbi?"

**Narrator:** and kissed him. Jesus said,

**Jesus:** "Friend, why this charade?"

**Narrator:** Then they came on him—grabbed him and roughed him up. One of those with Jesus pulled his sword and, taking a swing at the Chief Priest's servant, cut off his ear.

**Jesus:** "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords. Don't you realize that I am able right now to call to my Father, and twelve companies—more, if I want them—of fighting angels would be here, battle-ready? But if I did that, how would the Scriptures come true that say this is the way it has to be? What is this—coming out after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I have been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. You've done it this way to confirm and fulfill the prophetic writings."

**Narrator:** Then all the disciples cut and ran. The gang that had seized Jesus led him before Caiaphas the Chief Priest, where the religion scholars and leaders had assembled. Peter followed at a safe distance until they got to the Chief Priest's courtyard. Then he slipped in and mingled with the servants, watching to see how things would turn out. The high priests, conspiring with the Judean Council, tried to cook up charges against Jesus in order to sentence him to death. But even though many stepped up, making up one false accusation after another, nothing was believable. Finally two men came forward with this:

**Two Men:** "He said, 'I can tear down this Temple of God and after three days rebuild it.'"

**Narrator:** The Chief Priest stood up and said,

**Chief Priest:** "What do you have to say to the accusation?"

**Narrator:** Jesus kept silent.

**Chief Priest:** "I command you by the authority of the living God to say if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

**Jesus:** “You yourself said it. And that’s not all. Soon you’ll see it for yourself: The Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Mighty One, Arriving on the clouds of heaven.”

**Narrator:** At that, the Chief Priest lost his temper, ripping his robes, yelling,

**Chief Priest:** “He blasphemed! Why do we need witnesses to accuse him? You all heard him blaspheme! Are you going to stand for such blasphemy?”

**People:** *“Death! That seals his death sentence.”*

**Narrator:** Then they were spitting in his face and banging him around. They jeered as they slapped him:

**People:** *“Prophesy, Messiah: Who hit you that time?”*

**Narrator:** All this time, Peter was sitting out in the courtyard. One servant girl came up to him and said,

**Bystander 1:** “You were with Jesus the Galilean.”

**Peter:** “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

**Narrator:** As he moved over toward the gate, someone else said to the people there,

**Bystander 2:** “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”

**Peter:** “I swear, I never laid eyes on the man.”

**Narrator:** Shortly after that, some bystanders approached Peter.

**Bystander 3:** “You’ve got to be one of them. Your accent gives you away.”

**Peter:** “I don’t know the man!”

**Narrator:** Just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried. In the first light of dawn, all the high priests and religious leaders met and put the finishing touches on their plot to kill Jesus. Then they tied him up and paraded him to Pilate, the governor. Judas, the one who betrayed him, realized that Jesus was doomed. Overcome with remorse, he gave back the thirty silver coins to the high priests, saying,

**Judas:** “I’ve sinned. I’ve betrayed an innocent man.”

**High Priests:** “What do we care? That’s *your* problem!”

**Narrator:** Judas threw the silver coins into the Temple and left. Then he went out and hung himself. The high priests picked up the silver pieces, but then didn’t know what to do with them.

**High Priests:** “It wouldn’t be right to give this—a payment for murder!—as an offering in the Temple.”

**Narrator:** They decided to get rid of it by buying the “Potter’s Field” and use it as a burial place for the homeless. That’s how the field got called “Murder Meadow,” a name that has stuck to this day. Then Jeremiah’s words became history: They took the thirty silver pieces, The price of the one priced by some sons of Israel, And they purchased the potter’s field. And so they unwittingly followed the divine instructions to the letter. Jesus was placed before the governor, who questioned him:

**Pilate:** “Are you the ‘King of the Judeans?’”

**Jesus:** “If you say so.”

**Narrator:** But when the accusations rained down hot and heavy from the high priests and religious leaders, he said nothing. Pilate asked him,

**Pilate:** “Do you hear that long list of accusations? Aren’t you going to say something?”

**Narrator:** Jesus kept silence—not a word from his mouth. The governor was impressed, really impressed. It was an old custom during the Feast for the governor to pardon a single prisoner named by the crowd. At the time, they had the infamous Jesus Barabbas in prison. With the crowd before him, Pilate said,

**Pilate:** “Which prisoner do you want me to pardon: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus the so-called Christ?”

**Narrator:** He knew it was through sheer spite that they had turned Jesus over to him. While court was still in session, Pilate’s wife sent him a message:

**Pilate’s Wife:** “Don’t get mixed up in judging this noble man. I’ve just been through a long and troubled night because of a dream about him.”

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, the high priests and religious leaders had talked the crowd into asking for the pardon of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus.

**Pilate:** “Which of the two do you want me to pardon?”

**People:** *“Barabbas!”*

**Pilate:** “Then what do I do with Jesus, the so-called Christ?”

**People:** *“Nail him to a cross!”*

**Pilate:** “But for what crime?”

**People:** *“Nail him to a cross!”*

**Narrator:** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was imminent, he took a basin of water and washed his hands in full sight of the crowd, saying,

**Pilate:** “I’m washing my hands of responsibility for this man’s death. From now on, it’s in your hands. You’re judge and jury.”

**People:** *“We’ll take the blame, we and our children after us.”*

**Narrator:** Then he pardoned Barabbas. But he had Jesus whipped, and then handed over for crucifixion. The soldiers assigned to the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and got the entire brigade together for some fun. They stripped him and dressed him in a red toga. They plaited a crown from branches of a thornbush and set it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand for a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mocking reverence:

**Soldiers:** "Bravo, King of the Judeans! Bravo!"

**Narrator:** Then they spit on him and hit him on the head with the stick. When they had had their fun, they took off the toga and put his own clothes back on him. Then they proceeded out to the crucifixion. Along the way they came on a man from Cyrene named Simon and made him carry Jesus' cross. Arriving at Golgotha, the place they call "Skull Hill," they offered him a mild painkiller (a mixture of wine and myrrh), but when he tasted it he wouldn't drink it. After they had finished nailing him to the cross and were waiting for him to die, they whiled away the time by throwing dice for his clothes. Above his head they had posted the criminal charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Judeans. Along with him, they also crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament:

**Passersby:** "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

**Narrator:** The high priests, along with the religion scholars and leaders, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him:

**High Priests:** "He saved others—he can't save himself! King of Israel, is he? Then let him get down from that cross. We'll *all* become believers then! He was so sure of God—well, let him rescue his 'Son' now—if he wants him! He did claim to be God's Son, didn't he?"

**Narrator:** Even the two criminals crucified next to him joined in the mockery. From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around midafternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly,

**Jesus:** "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

**Narrator:** Some bystanders who heard him said,

**Bystanders:** "He's calling for Elijah."

**Narrator:** One of them ran and got a sponge soaked in sour wine and lifted it on a stick so he could drink. The others joked,

**Bystanders:** "Don't be in such a hurry. Let's see if Elijah comes and saves him."

**Narrator:** But Jesus, again crying out loudly, breathed his last. At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom. There was an earthquake, and rocks were split in pieces. What's more, tombs were opened up, and many bodies of believers

asleep in their graves were raised. (After Jesus' resurrection, they left the tombs, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.) The captain of the guard and those with him, when they saw the earthquake and everything else that was happening, were scared to death. They said,

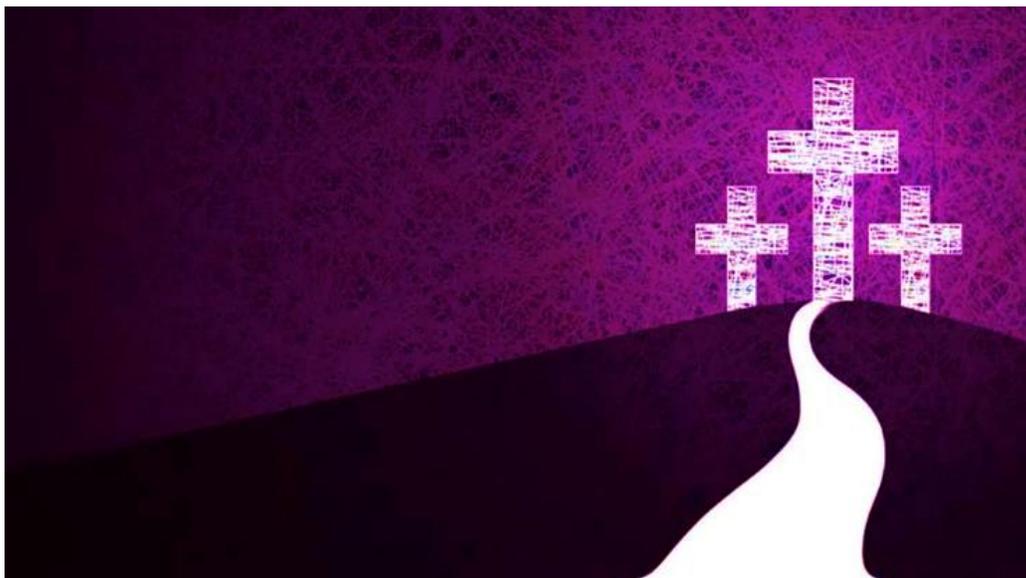
**Soldiers:** "This has to be the Son of God!"

**Narrator:** There were also quite a few women watching from a distance, women who had followed Jesus from Galilee in order to serve him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the Zebedee brothers. Late in the afternoon a wealthy man from Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus, arrived. His name was Joseph. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate granted his request. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in clean linens, put it in his own tomb, a new tomb only recently cut into the rock, and rolled a large stone across the entrance. Then he went off. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary stayed, sitting in plain view of the tomb. After sundown, the high priests and Pharisees arranged a meeting with Pilate. They said,

**High Priests:** "Sir, we just remembered that that liar announced while he was still alive, 'After three days I will be raised.' We've got to get that tomb sealed until the third day. There's a good chance his disciples will come and steal the corpse and then go around saying, 'He's risen from the dead.' Then we'll be worse off than before, the final deceit surpassing the first."

**Pilate:** "You will have a guard. Go ahead and secure it the best you can."

**Narrator:** So they went out and secured the tomb, sealing the stone and posting guards.



Hymn

“Were You There?”

(We will sing verses 1, 2, and 4)

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you

1. there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
2. there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
3. there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
4. there when He rose up from the grave?  
O! \_\_\_\_\_

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Prayers of the People**

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battle-ground, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those, weighed down with hardship, failure, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, sorrow, or feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith✠, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy upon us.**

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

## Offertory Anthem

“What the Lord Has Done”

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**O**UR FATHER IN HEAVEN,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all:*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

## Blessing

## Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## Silence

## Announcements



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE  
Announcements for Sunday April 5, 2020

## A Note from Our Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

On Palm Sunday we enter into Holy Week. This year we try in a new way to walk with Jesus through the last days of his life. We've included the Holy Week schedule, and I encourage you to join us online when you are able for each day we worship. If this doesn't work with your schedule each day, you can watch the service on your own, as they are stored on Facebook and our website.



How do we live Holy Week at home? You may already know what you plan to do. You may want to set up a special spot in a room in your home that you return to each day to worship. You may want to leave some paper there, where you can write prayer requests you hear in our worship and you carry on your heart. You could go back to those prayer requests and continue praying in the days to come. You may want to include a cross, or candles, or flowers, or some piece of nature that connects you to God.

You may also find you're cramped for space, sharing space with others working from home. Perhaps it is not just about setting up our physical space but taking a moment to allow room within us. Take some time to breath. Shut your eyes. Still yourself.

God bless you, and God bless all of us with a deeper understanding and connection with Jesus this Holy Week.

Lisa+





### **Our Online Holy Week Schedule**

*While our church building may be closed, our worship and community life is very much alive!  
 Details to connect online are found below the calendar.  
 All are welcome to join in.*

**Palm Sunday morning at 10:30 am: Sunday morning worship followed by a Zoom Coffee Hour.**

**Monday evening at 6:30 pm: Zoom Prayer using Evening Prayer or Compline, time to check in.**

**Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm: Zoom Prayer using Evening Prayer or Compline, time to check in.**

**Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm: Tenebrae Service on Zoom**

**Thursday evening at 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service on Zoom**

**Friday at 12:00 noon: Good Friday Service on Zoom Prayer using Evening Prayer or Compline, time to check in.**

**Saturday evening at 8:00 pm: Easter Vigil Service followed by a Reception on Zoom**

**Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 am: Easter Service followed by a Reception on Zoom**

**Zoom login/call in info:**

**Join Zoom Meeting** <https://zoom.us/j/887621935?pwd=NCtKSThoTGhuV1B4M1VMZ3hqQkpSdz09>

**Meeting ID: 887 621 935 Password: 275440**

**Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 887 621 935**

Using Zoom: The meeting link (for joining from a computer, so you can see everyone) or call in number and code will remain the same each night at 6:30 pm.

- Turn on your video on your computer's video capability.
- Go to [www.zoom.us/test](http://www.zoom.us/test) to test your ability to speak and be recorded during the meeting. Sit near your computer. If you are too far from the camera, we will not be able to see your beautiful face.
- If you cannot see your face in the screen, neither can we. Just adjust your camera up or down so your whole face is visible.
- Please mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking. This helps with outside noise.
- There is a feature to raise your hand, which we will encourage during time of conversation. This helps us not talk over one another

### **Reverend Lisa's Contact Information:**

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja  
St. Thomas' Parish  
1517 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
1-202-361-2018 (cell)  
[lahuja@stthomasdc.org](mailto:lahuja@stthomasdc.org)

### **Easter Photo Request!**

Please consider sending an Easter photo or Welcome / Peace video by text or email to Rev. Lisa to be used for our Easter Morning service. She'll need them by Maundy Thursday at noon.

### **Easter Offering**

Some have asked how they may give an extra gift at Easter this year, since we did not have an appeal for Easter flowers or music. If you'd like to make a special gift in response to the good news of the Resurrection of our Lord, we'd suggest a targeted gift toward the repair of our piano. The piano must be retuned very often because the pegs need a repair, which will cost \$2000. This has not been budgeted for, but we'd like to fix it before returning to our worship! If you'd like to make a gift, please add a memo to your check or online Realm gift stating "Easter Music Gift."

### **A Message from the Wardens**

Dear ones,

What a wild, wild week it has been! Like all of us, we have been adjusting to this new normal which has caused anxiety, stress, and negotiating space for work in our homes and boundaries about timing with our colleagues. As we continue to find ways to connect as a community, we also recognize the financial concerns that are at play. If you normally bring your pledge check to drop in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, please begin mailing your check to the church (1517 18th St. NW) or paying using Realm or bill

pay through your bank. If your financial situation has shifted due to inability to work, closures, or furloughs, please reach out to Rev. Lisa or one of us so we can take all the information into account as we make needed adjustments to the church budget. We are all in this together and we will come to the other side a stronger community for having had to adjust how we conceive of worship and community as the church out in the world yet isolated from each other. Our prayers go with you in this time of social distancing.

Love,  
Jessie and Steve

### **Read alouds with our Senior Warden, Jessie**

Learning at home can be great, but you'll probably start to get sick of hearing your own voice. As a part of my job, I've begun creating read aloud videos of some of my favorite children's books. All of the videos have to be unlisted due to copyright, but I'm allowed to record them for the duration of the closure and then will take them down when school resumes. The read alouds will range from picture books to chapter books so there will eventually be something for everyone. I hope this helps you have an added resource for your children in this time! Here is my YouTube channel playlist of read alouds:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdu4f4Nlc25nnjVK0JR-YaMibap28S0la>

### **Connecting while home with one another**

Please check to see if your [Realm](#) (online parish directory) contact information is current. A number of people have reached out to the office to get contact information, as a phone number or email is out of date.

*If you are interested in being part of a social group, please follow [this link](#) to sign up with a google form. If you do not have a **Realm** account, please email Nolan at [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org).*

### **Baptism**

At baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked as one of Christ's own forever. If you seek baptism, or would like for a child to be baptized, please be in touch with Rev. Lisa. Our tentative date for baptism at St. Thomas' Parish is Pentecost Sunday on May 31.

### **Zoom Small Groups**

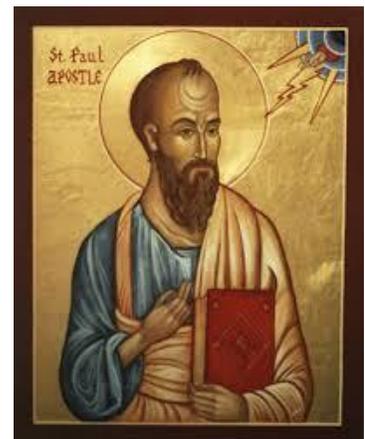
The ***Traveling the Way of Love*** small group continues this Monday right after Evening Prayer on the same Zoom line.

***The Challenge of Paul*** small group will skip this week due to Maundy Thursday and start back on Thursday, April 16, right after Evening Prayer.

Feel Free to invite any of your friends across your communities.

We will use the [Compline Zoom Code](#). Download the Zoom app onto your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Enter the following: **Meeting ID: 887 621 935 Password: 275440**

**Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/887621935?pwd=NCtKSThoTGhuV1B4M1VMZ3hqQkpSdz09>



## **Virtual Online Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

While closed, St. George's College in Jerusalem is offering an online pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This is available on their Facebook page.



### **Congratulations to Vestry Member Reggie Greer!**

This week former Vice President Joe Biden named Reggie Greer the Director of his campaign's LGBTQ vote effort. This news is bittersweet for us in the parish, as it means Reggie will need to relocate for this position. He assures us he will remain a faithful member of St. Thomas' Parish, and we will see him around plenty! His vacancy will leave room for us to appoint a member of the parish to fill the remainder of his term. According to our parish bylaws, in the case of a vacancy, the Vestry is to fill the position for the remainder of the term with a member of the parish. The Vestry is taking time to discern and will be in communication with you about the decision-making process. If you are feeling moved for such service, please do be in touch.

Again, congratulations to you, Reggie! You have our prayers for this important work set before you and joy each time we see you online for worship and in person when we are able to return to our building.

### **Celebrating Cindy Adkins' Retirement**

Our celebration with Cindy Adkins has been postponed to a tentative date of Sunday, June 7. We will give thanks for the ministry of Cindy Adkins, our Music Director, and celebrate her retirement. Please plan to join us for worshipping that Sunday and stay for her party!



### **Dupont Circle Village Resources**

Dupont Circle Village has collated a number of resources including: Medical Information; Transportation, Food / Grocery Delivery / Meal Services; Online Entertainment Resources including Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Online Nature Tours, Movies and Documentaries, YouTube, Podcasts, Online Learning; and Faith Services Online. Click this link and additional pages under the "COVID-19" tab:

[https://dcv.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=161481&module\\_id=392852](https://dcv.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=161481&module_id=392852)

## Celebrating Our April Birthdays

### Birthdays

Catherine Manhardt (April 4)

Dennis Hobb (April 7)

Jane Saari (April 12)

Eric Scharf (April 22)

Peter Jue (April 23)

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org).*

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### **Prayer List**

*Gene Robinson, Cindy Gangler, Annemarie Bohler, Matthew Briggs, Len Hawley, Michael Fitzpatrick (stepfather of Jessie Brewster), Peggy Ann Cohen, Kristin Jones, Dave Kucharski, Steve Parsons, Paula Amadeo, Bill McDonald, Brian Crane, the Dodson family, Chris Hartenau, Donna Norman, Mary Ellen Reed, Trisha Shaffer, Brianna Clifford, David Clayton Montgomery, baby Sabag, Catherine Manhardt, John Paul Clark, Andrew Greer Asheesh Kumar, Hunter Ray, Leighton Honea, Justin Small; for the repose of the souls of Andy Bonilla, Wilfredo Torres, David Yoder, Ed Harri, and Nancy Littlefield Stine.*

*You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: [prayers@office.stthomasdc.org](mailto:prayers@office.stthomasdc.org).*

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# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

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*"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."*

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## Vestry

Jessie Eddy, Senior Warden  
Stephen Schembs, Junior Warden  
Jennie Allison, Treasurer  
Jean Holman, Clerk  
Jennie Allison, Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Reggie Greer,  
Bettina Hager, Jane Saari, Gregory Zitterkob

## Staff

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja	Priest-in Charge	lahuja@stthomasdc.org cell: 202-361-2018
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson	Bishop in Residence	@BishopGRobinson
Cindy Adkins	Music Director	cadkins@stthomasdc.org
Nolan DiFrancesco	Administrator	administrator@stthomasdc.org
Kimberly Davis	Nursery Care Worker	
Clifford Bowens	Nursery Care Worker	

**Please Note: Our Office is closed through May 16.**

## St. Thomas' Parish

1517 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 808-3326  
www.stthomasdc.org ✉ [info@stthomasdc.org](mailto:info@stthomasdc.org)

