



# PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2026

10:00 A.M. SERVICE

St. Paul's Syracuse  
The Downtown Episcopal Church

## *Understanding Episcopal Liturgy*

### *#30. What is the Easter Vigil?*

The Easter Vigil is one of the oldest liturgies in the Christian tradition, dating to the second century. Most of the elements of the ancient ritual were gradually dropped or altered during the past millennium. Serious investigation of the most ancient rites of the church in the middle of the 20th century led to the restoration of the ancient form of the Easter Vigil in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The Easter Vigil includes six sections, many of which are unique to this liturgy:

1. **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle.** The service begins in darkness. In the darkness, a fire is kindled, and the Paschal Candle is lit. The deacon or priest processes through the nave, carrying the candle, and members of the congregation light their handheld candles from the fire of the Paschal Candle.
2. **The Exultet is sung.** The deacon or priest sings the ancient hymn unaccompanied. The progression of music, readings, and actions mirrors the changes that happen through history and the changes that may happen in us.
3. **The Liturgy of the Word.** In the darkness, we listen to six readings from the Hebrew Scriptures. These readings are our primal story, the foundation of the story of our salvation. We respond to each reading with a song and then a prayer. The sermon is preached in response to one of the readings.
4. **The first Alleluias of Easter.** At the conclusion of the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures, the priest proclaims "Alleluia, Christ is risen" and the lights in the nave are lit. We sing the Easter Hymn and listen to the readings of the resurrection from Romans and Matthew.
5. **Holy Baptism or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.** In the second, third, fourth, and fifth centuries, the Easter Vigil was the primary time for people to be baptized into the church. This year we have no baptisms but will renew our baptismal vows.
6. **We celebrate the Eucharist.** You might think of the Easter Vigil as a really big, elaborate celebration of the Eucharist. Alternatively, you may end up thinking of each Sunday's Eucharist as a simpler, shorter version of the Easter Vigil.

This year's Easter Vigil will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 19th. The service is a little over 90 minutes in length. Incense is used, but we try to keep the amount of smoke to a minimal level to allow everyone to participate. Thanks to the work of our technical engineer, this year's Easter Vigil will be broadcast through our YouTube channel. Yet there is nothing quite like participating in the Easter Vigil in person.

*Our morning worship begins with the first note of the organ prelude and your silent prayers. Please refrain from conversations during this time.*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY • Choral**

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

*The people are invited to stand*

*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.

*All* **Amen.**

**HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 21:1-11**

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

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

*Celebrant*

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.**

*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.**

*Celebrant* It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and

grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*All*                   **Amen.**

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

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

*Celebrant*           Let us go forth in peace.

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

**HYMN 154** • “All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!”

*Valet will ich dir geben*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*           The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*           Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All*                   **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**LESSON** • Isaiah 50:4-9a

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

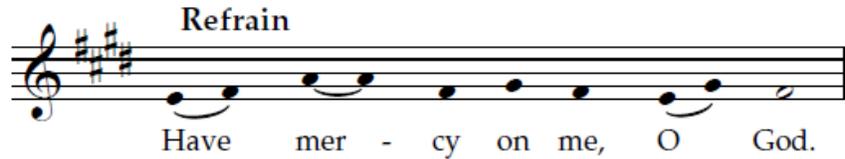
Who are my adversaries?  
 Let them confront me.  
 It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty?  
 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Lector*  
*People*

**PSALM • 31:9-16** *In te, Domine, speravi*

Mode 2

*The choir first sings the Refrain and then all join in repeating the Refrain, and then as indicated.*



Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. **Refrain**

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. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. **Refrain**

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. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God". **Refrain**

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me. **Refrain**

**EPISTLE • Phillipians 2:5-11**

*Lector*

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

and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN**

(See Booklet: Congregation reads the parts of the "Crowd".)

All observe a period of reflection after the reading.

*The people are invited to stand*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We pray, Lord, put Your law within us, write it on our hearts, and take us by the hand and lead us, that your grace, love, and salvation may come to all people.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

At this time of Lent and repentance, we are grateful for Your promise to forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

Lord, by Your cross and resurrection we are given the hope of salvation and everlasting life. We pray this provides comfort to those who grieve as we remember those who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

Lord, You took on flesh and felt the full measure of human suffering. We pray that You ease the suffering and pain of those who are afflicted by illness, trouble, or hardship, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

Lord, we pray, as Your servants, let us stand with You in working to bring an end to hostilities that divide nations and peoples and to alleviate the suffering caused by war, natural disasters, famine, drought and dislocation, especially in Ukraine, Gaza and throughout the Middle East, northern Africa and southeast Asia.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

Lord, we thank you for all creation, for the land and all that grows and lives upon it, the sea and all that swims in it, the sky and that which soars in it. We ask that you instill in us an abiding respect for this sacred gift, and that we would work to end its mistreatment and destruction by our wanton and callous behavior.

*The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

With our whole heart we seek You, Lord; **let us not stray.**

*The celebrant concludes the prayers with the collect:*

At the name of Jesus, the Lord of love, we bend our knees. To the way of love, we give our hearts. In heaven and on earth and under the earth, we will confess Christ as our way, our truth, and our life, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

*The people are invited to sit / kneel.*

*Officiant*  
*All*

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

*Officiant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*All*

**Amen.**

*The people are invited to stand*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*  
*People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

# LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.*

## OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

*Celebrant*  
*People*

All things come of Thee, O Lord.  
**And of thine own have we given thee.**

*Please be seated.*

## AN ANTHEM – *Christus factus est*

Roland E. Martin (b. 1953)

*Christ became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharist Prayer C

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you.      And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts.      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.

*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People*  
*Celebrant*

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People*  
*Celebrant*

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People*  
*Celebrant*

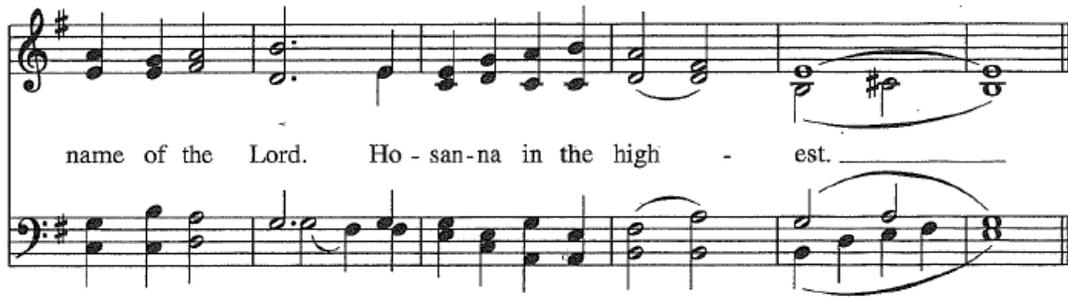
**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS:**

William Bradley Roberts (b.1947)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in the".



*Celebrant*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."  
 Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All  
 Celebrant*

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**  
 Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Ruth and Mary, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*All  
 Celebrant*

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**  
 Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

*All*

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*All*

**Our 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.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.*

**FRACTION ANTHEM:**

Hymnal S-161

*The people are invited to be seated.*

From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*We are not dipping the bread into the wine at this time. Our understanding is that the sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.*

*During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.*

**COMMUNION HYMN 168** • “O sacred head sore wounded”

*Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

*The People are invited to stand.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Officiant*  
*All*

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**HYMN458** • “My song is love unknown”

*Love Unknown*

*The people are invited to be seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE** • *Aus meiner Sünden Tiefe*

Orlando di Lasso (1522-1594)

*Though deep has been my falling, profound is yet Thy grace; O Master, I am calling from out from out this lowly place. I beg that Thou be near me; Pray lend Thy ear sublime: O do Thou come and hear me, Dear Lord, for it is time.*

Sung by the Quartet in Latin

Laura Enslin, Carole Brzozowski, Alex Bodenham & Andrew Sievers

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*Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.*

***Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:***

Destany W., Christian M. & Mary S.

We remember those who have died in recent days

Ian B.

**Announcements**

\* Get your St. Paul's Bicentennial Gear, next Sunday, March 29th! March 29th is the deadline for orders for Bicentennial Gear and we'll have some items available for purchase (cash or check) on the 29th.

\* Thursday, April 2nd is Maundy Thursday. We begin with a Maundy Thursday meal in the nave at 5:30. Please let Liz Belden-Handler know if you plan to attend. Please speak with Liz Belden-Handler if you can help with set-up or clean-up.

## Our thanks today for the...

**Altar Guild:** Georgette & Tim Schmidt

**Lay Readers:** Anita Wagner

**Ushers:** Joe Russo & Robert Wagner

**Altar Arrangements:** Harriet Averill & Sandy Wiley

## Passion Readers

Narrator	Derina Samuel
Jesus	Joseph Von Souder
Pilate	Senegal Mabry
Guard	Jean Stanton
Peter	David Webb
Police	Sue Sinson
Slave	Denise McAndrew
Priests	Women of the Choir
Soldiers	Men of the Choir
Crowd	Congregation

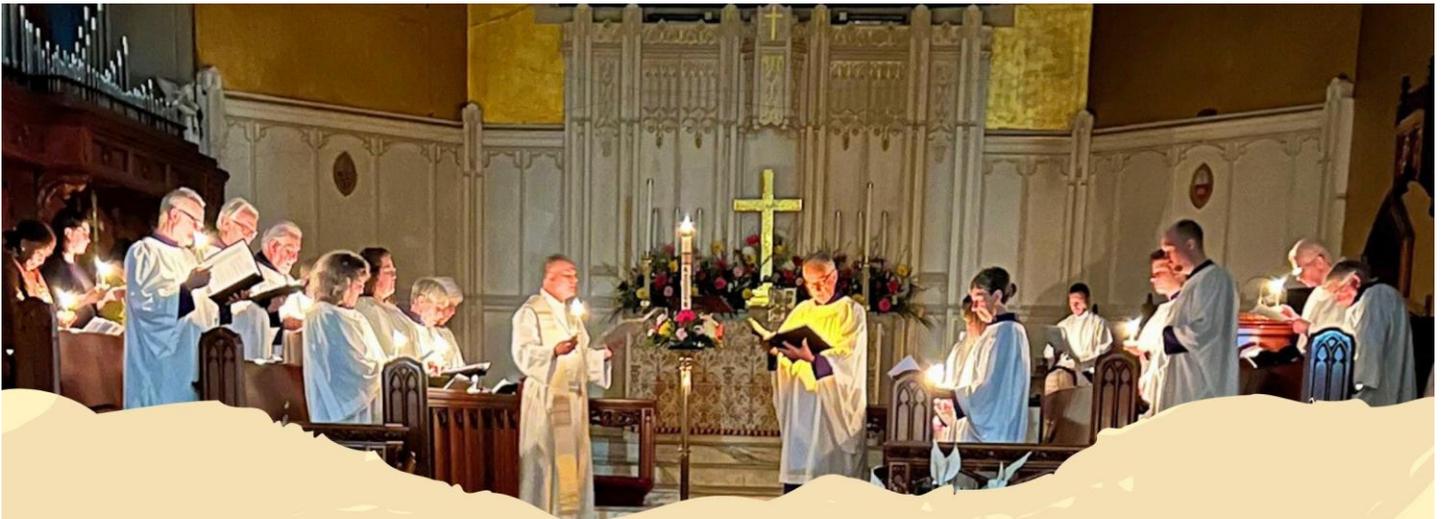


**Giving Made Easy**

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to donate to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



The image is a promotional graphic for donations. It features the text "Giving Made Easy" in a large, teal, sans-serif font at the top left. Below this, a line drawing of a church steeple is visible. To the right of the steeple, the text "Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to donate to St. Paul's Episcopal Church." is written in a black, sans-serif font. On the right side of the graphic, there is a large QR code enclosed in a white square with a blue border. The entire graphic is set against a light blue and white background with a teal and orange curved border at the bottom.



# St. Paul's Holy Week Services

All services will be live streamed  
except Wednesday's Lenten Prayers



[www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)

-  **Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m.**
-  **Lenten Prayers Wednesday, April 1, 12:10 p.m.**
-  **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m.**
-  **Good Friday, April 3, 5:30 p.m.**
-  **Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.**  
Begins with 40 minutes of candlelight with incense
-  **Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
220 East Fayette Street Downtown Syracuse

