

PALM SUNDAY



SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
8:00AM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ROYAL OAK, MI



St. John's Welcome Statement

Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do.

At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016

Palm Sunday

Our High Holy Days are filled with beauty and symbolism and tradition. Today, on Palm Sunday, we begin by recalling the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when he was welcomed as a "King"; we shout and sing Hosanna!, a word used to recognize royalty. We end the service by retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and his execution as a "Criminal." This is a powerful service, and we will end the service by leaving in silence. From that moment, we enter into our Holy Week. Please join us for Tenebrae (Holy Wednesday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. You are very welcome here.

Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!

Welcome Newcomers!

Young Children – *with all their sounds and wiggles* - are very welcome in this church!

If you are here for the first time, please help us to get to know you by signing our Guest Book (clipboard in the entry of the church) and/or filling out a yellow card found in each pew. Place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. We are so pleased that you are here and want to do everything we can to help you make the most of St. John's Episcopal Church and its resources for your spiritual journey.

All are welcome to communion, where we share one bread, one body. To facilitate this, our communion bread is all Gluten Free. All are welcome to St. John's programs and events.

-----THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS-----

The congregation gathers outside on the Woodward Avenue entrance.

Presider †Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

People **‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Presider †In your love, O God, let these palm branches be for us signs of the joyful welcome we make in our hearts and with our lives for the Holy One, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **May we who carry them follow him this day,
and to eternal life. Amen!**

Presider The disciples brought a young donkey and Jesus sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

People **‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Presider Let us go forth in peace.

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

The palm branches are distributed. The people process into the church carrying palms shouting Hosanna!

-----THE WORD OF GOD-----

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: PALM SUNDAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

The people are seated.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

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?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9-16

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails 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, out of mind, as if I were dead; *
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."

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5-11

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Philippians

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.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe

A period of silence is kept

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Clergy As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere.

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

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, especially those we now name _____. Bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have +died, especially those we now name _____. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Presider Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to share the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place, and as we near the cross grant us strength on our journey; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION

Clergy Let us confess our sins.
All **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, and in our words, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers, so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, with those we love, and with our enemies, and for the sake of your love, forgive us all our sins. *Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND ABSOLUTION

Presider †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. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Peace is shared among the people. The people are seated.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Your pledges and financial gifts support the mission, the many ministries, the outreach, and the fellowship offered through St. John's. Gifts of pledges and offerings may be placed in collection baskets or at the basins at the steps of the altar as you come up for communion.



Give online: stjohnsroyaloak.org and click on GIVE

Text: Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256

Mail: St. John's, 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067

Envelopes: Available upon request 248-546-1255

or office@stjohnro.org

OR scan this code to be directed to the giving page.

————— THE HOLY COMMUNION —————

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ, who, giving up all he had, and walking the path of obedience all the way to insult, betrayal and death, opened the gates of justice and became our salvation.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we pray:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

†Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

†Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. ***Amen!***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Grant us your peace.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Holy Gifts for Holy People.**

This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The bread used for Holy Eucharist at St. John's is gluten free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The people may kneel or stand as they are able and pray together

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The people gather around the altar as members of the congregation tell the story of the Passion of our Lord.

SILENT DISMISSAL

*Following the Passion, all depart in silence.
Our observance of Holy Week has begun.*

Altar Memorials and Thanksgivings

In thanksgiving to the
**Acolytes, Altar Guild, Liturgical Arts Team, Liturgy Planning Teams,
Actors/Readers, Decorators, Maintenance Team, Honey Doers, Chancel
Choir and Musicians, and Staff**
for their thoughtful preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.

Ministers of Today's Service

Lectors	Cathy Holcomb – First Lesson, Psalm; Rosemary Spatafora – Second Lesson, Prayers of the People
Greeter/Usher	Jackie Speer
Greeter during the service	Maria Walter
Acolyte	Joey Spano
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Holcomb, Joey Spano
Healing Ministers	Ann Marie Piwonski
Bread Baker	Christy Scott
Opener	Ray Kwiatkowski
Altar Guild	Bob Lazich
Priest in Charge	The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe

Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2025



Tenebrae: Wednesday, April 16

7:00pm Service of Shadows

An ancient service of prayer that follows the last few hours of Jesus' life. The service includes readings, silent contemplations, and meditation with music.

Maundy Thursday: April 17

7:00pm Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar



On the last night Jesus spent with his friends, he gave us the 'commandment' to love one another. We remember this night by gathering to receive Holy Eucharist, participating in the foot washing, and waiting in darkness as the altar is stripped (remembering the hours of Jesus betrayal and arrest). Following the service, the church is open for meditation.

Good Friday: April 18

7:00pm Holy Eucharist, with Music



At 7:00pm, we receive 'reserved sacrament' rather than celebrating a new Eucharist meal to remember that this was the day of Jesus crucifixion and death.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 19

7:00pm, Lighting of the New Fire (Woodward Avenue entrance), Holy Eucharist, followed by Festive Reception



Our community gathers around the altar fire to hear the stories of God's work in our world throughout history and in the present through the great Salvation Stories. It is a service of deep mystery, beauty, and darkness which is overcome by light. Bring bells to ring! A Festive reception follows. All are invited to bring something to share.

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 20

8:00am, Festal Eucharist *Bring bells to ring*

10:15am, Festal Eucharist *Bring bells to ring*



This festival Eucharist proclaims the risen Christ, the fulfillment of hope, the triumph of justice, and the immortality of love. Bring bells to ring! The children in our parish receive flowers, and the flowers that adorn the altar are delivered to our homebound parishioners following the service.