

**MARCH 20, 2016  
8:00 AM  
PALM SUNDAY**



**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**JONESBORO, ARKANSAS**

**THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP  
THE REV. JESSE PERKINS, RECTOR  
THE REV. AMBER CARSWELL, CURATE**

**Welcome** to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are glad you are here! Please complete a **Welcome** card and place it in the offering plate. St. Mark's is a traditional church for contemporary people and we believe that God's love is for everyone. This is an open-minded congregation where we actively seek, question and wonder about our faith. We also believe that we are the hands of Christ, and mission work within our community is a vital part of what we do here.

#### **AN OPEN TABLE**

All are welcome to receive communion here. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the minister know when you are at the altar rail. You are invited to come forward and kneel as you are able to receive the bread. You may drink from the cup or take the wine by "intinction," or dipping the wafer into the cup. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your chest.

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN**

Children's Chapel is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 3 through 7 in our smaller John Roberts Chapel. Children enter our Sanctuary during the processional hymn and will return from Chapel during the Peace so that they may share the Eucharist with their families. Children's Chapel is a special time for these children, and they sing, pray, craft and hear the Gospel.

#### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Children in kindergarten through high school meet at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, then split up by age. Classes end at 7:30 p.m.

#### **NURSERY SERVICES**

The nursery is located in the short hallway between the Narthex and the Parish Hall. Nursery is provided for children birth through age 3. Nursery hours are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The friendly, two-room nursery suite is staffed by a wonderful group of compassionate caregivers who are church members and mothers, too!

#### **RESTROOMS**

Are located in the Sanctuary Foyer, through the Parish Offices door, on the right-hand side.

#### **COFFEE BAR**

In between the services, enjoy a cup of coffee at our coffee bar, located in the front left corner of the Narthex. Additional church information about our ministries and upcoming events can be found there as well.

#### **OUR SERVICES**

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sundays (Nave)

Compline Service at 7:30 p.m. Sundays (Nave)

Healing Eucharist at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays (John Roberts Chapel)

#### **JOINING**

If you are interested in joining St. Mark's, please let us know on the Welcome Card.

#### **DIGITAL BULLETINS AND WI-FI ACCESS**

Digital bulletins are available; to download please visit <http://stmj.us>. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

# THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

## Liturgy of the Palms

*The people gather in the courtyard so that all may process into the church.*

*The people standing the Celebrant says*

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.**

*The Priest then reads the story of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 19: 28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

*The Celebrant then says the following blessing*

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

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

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

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

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

*People*           **Hosanna in the highest.**  
*Celebrant*       Let us go forth in peace.  
*People*           **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **PROCESSION**

*The people will process into the church, all holding palm branches in their hands.*

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

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Procession enters the church.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Sunday of the Passion**

**BCP 219**

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 LESSONS**

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from 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?

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 31:9-16** *Read responsively.*

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.**

## **SECOND LESSON** A reading from Philippians [2:5-11]

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

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**                           Luke 21:37-22:6

*Celebrant*       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.  
*People*           **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple. Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

*Celebrant*       The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*           **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## SERMON

The Rev. Jesse Perkins

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM I

BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city Jonesboro, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of St. Mark and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence.*

## **THE PEACE, GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BCP 360**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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



## THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER

BCP 830

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant as he begins another year. Grant that he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

*All: All things come of thee O Lord, and of Thine Own have we given Thee.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, RITE II, PRAYER A

BCP 361

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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*A period of silence is kept*

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

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are welcome to receive communion. At the invitation of the ushers, proceed up the center aisle to the bread station and then to the cup on either side before returning by the side aisles.*

*If you would rather receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest while standing before the bread.*

*Celebrant:*  
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people:*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
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.**

## PASSION GOSPEL

*All may be seated for the reading of the Passion Gospel. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha all stand.*

### **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in

authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

‘You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

‘Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!’ Jesus said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.’

He said to them, ‘When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?’ They said, ‘No, not a thing.’ He said to them, ‘But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, “And he was counted among the lawless”; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.’ They said, ‘Lord, look, here are two swords.’ He replied, ‘It is enough.’

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’ Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’ When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, ‘Lord, should we strike with the sword?’ Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, ‘Have you come out with swords

and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight,

stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?' They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them, 'You say that I am.' Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some

sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and

offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

*Celebrant:* Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel and the Celebrant says*

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## Dismissal

*Priest* Let us bless the Lord.

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

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week; the week leading up to Easter. It is an intense week of meditation and prayer as we remember Christ's journey to the cross, tomb, and ultimately his resurrection. On this Sunday, we usually begin outside and carry palm branches to remember that it is often we who, like the people in Jerusalem, claim "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord" and then turn again to our own

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Today

10:00a Palm Procession with Bagpipes  
11:30a Liturgical Rehearsal in the Nave  
5:00p EfM  
6:30p Compline

**Mon** 7:00p Vestry Meeting

**Wed** 7:00p Taizé Prayer Service  
No Christian Education

**Thurs** 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service

**Fri** 12:00p Good Friday Eucharist and Stations of the Cross  
7:00p Franz Litz's *Via Crucis* performed by St. Mark's Choir

**Sat** 10:00a Two Saints' Kitchen, Team # 1  
8:00p The Great Vigil and Reception

## SAVE THE DATE

**April 3** Rev. Amber's Final Sunday  
**April 24** Bishop Benfield's Visit and Confirmation

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

3/21 Amelia Haynes  
3/26 Cadey Hopper

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Easter Lilies and Helping Neighbors Donations for Easter** Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex for you to use for Easter donations. For \$20 you may choose to donate an Easter Lily to decorate our Nave for Easter and/or you may donate gifts of money to Helping Neighbors. Please use your check's memo line to indicate which you are donating, or write on the envelope if you use one for a cash donation. Thanks!

**UTO Boxes** Please do not forget to be thankful during this Lenten season and demonstrate that thankfulness by filling up your UTO boxes with money. The boxes will be taken up on Easter Sunday. Bring them to church

**Reception for Rev. Amber** Rev. Amber's last day with us will be Sunday, April 3. Please join us for a reception in her honor immediately after the 10:00 am service that day. If you will, please bring some vegetarian finger foods. Thanks.

**Helping Neighbors Food Pantry** Thank you for your donations last week of 14 pounds of food items and \$50.00.

**Prayer Requests** If you would like to submit a prayer request for the Daughters of the King to add to their monthly prayer list, please click the following link and fill out the request form. All prayers are kept confidential. [DOK Prayer Request](#)

## WEEKLY REPORT

	Weekly Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget, Wk 11	Attendance
Offering 3/13/16	\$ 9,466	\$ 83,314	\$ 83,314	Last Week 151
Needed	6,508	72,827	71,588	2016 52 Wk Av 145
Shortage	\$ 2,958	\$ 10,847	\$ 11,726	2015 Average 154
Current Cash	\$ 8,771			
Outstanding bills	(\$ 4,814)		Loan Balance	\$ 166,194

## ST. MARK'S STAFF

Rev. Jesse Perkins, Rector	<a href="mailto:rector@stmarksjonesboro.org">rector@stmarksjonesboro.org</a>
Rev. Amber Carswell, Curate	<a href="mailto:curate@stmarksjonesboro.org">curate@stmarksjonesboro.org</a>
Amber Cesare	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org">bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org</a>
Susan Geis, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org">secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org</a>
Joy Sanford, Organist	<a href="mailto:jandjazz@suddenlink.net">jandjazz@suddenlink.net</a>
Rhonda Dauer, Music Director	<a href="mailto:music@stmarksjonesboro.org">music@stmarksjonesboro.org</a>
Betty Donnell, Sandy Clark,	nursery attendants
Stephanie Matthews, Kirsten Penley	

## ST. MARK'S VESTRY

Blake Coe, Sr. Warden	870-217-1975	<a href="mailto:davidblakecoe@gmail.com">davidblakecoe@gmail.com</a>
Lise Cater	870-219-6700	<a href="mailto:lise58@suddenlink.net">lise58@suddenlink.net</a>
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*The Episcopal Church welcomes you!*



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