



Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Weather permitting, we will gather at the Labyrinth for the Procession of the Palms.

Liturgy of the Palms

The Anglican Church of Australia

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

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Today begins the Great Week of the Christian Year.

During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of the Lord’s death and resurrection.

With Christians throughout the world,

we come together this week to call to mind,

and to express in word and action,

the centre of the Easter mystery:

our Lord’s Passover from death to life.

Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City

to complete his work as Messiah: to suffer, to die and to rise to new life.

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross,

so that, sharing his sufferings,
we may be united with him in his risen life.

Palms are lifted in the air to be blessed.

Celebrant Sovereign God,
we thank you for these branches of palm.
By your blessing may they be for us signs of the victory of your Son.
May we who carry them in his name ever hail him as our Messiah,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Gospel

John 12:12-27

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Deacon The next day 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,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and 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!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told

Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

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

The Procession

Celebrant Let us praise Jesus our Messiah,
as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem.

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

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

The procession begins.

Music for the Procession

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Thou art the King of Israel

The Hymnal 1982, #154

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Pause at the entrance of The Trees.

Celebrant Merciful God,
 as we enter this holy week and gather at your house of prayer,
 turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,
 to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
 that, united with Christ and all the faithful,
 we may one day enter in triumph
 the city not made with hands,
 the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens,
 where, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 Christ lives in glory forever. **Amen.**

Once all are seated.

Celebrant God of all,
 you gave your only-begotten Son
 to take the form of a servant,
 and to be obedient even to death on a cross:
 give us the same mind
 that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility,
 we may come to be with him in his glory,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from Prayer Over the Water, The Church of England

Reader We praise you, loving God,
 for the gift of your Son Jesus.
 He was baptized in the River Jordan,
 where your Spirit came upon him
 and revealed him as the Son you love.
 He sent his followers
 to baptize all who turn to him.


Celebrant Now, loving God, we ask you to bless this water,
 that those who are baptized in it
 may be cleansed in the water of life,
 and, filled with your Spirit,
 may know that they are loved as your children,
 safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Opening Song


What wondrous love is this

The Hymnal 1982, #439

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Salutation

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

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. **Amen.**

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ The Crucified Messiah

The First Lesson

Psalm 24 ~ First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation

Mother Earth and all she gives birth to belong to Grandfather.

All the world and those who live on it are his.

**He formed the land on the ancient deep waters
and shaped the solid ground on the rivers.**

Who is permitted to go up Grandfather's sacred mountain?

Who can stand without shame before him in the holy place?

**Only those with no blood on their hands, whose hearts are pure,
who keep their inward thoughts free from lies and never make false promises.**

They will come away with Grandfather's blessing.

**They will have good standing in the sight of the one who sets them free
and makes them whole.**

This is the generation whose honor it is to seek your face,

O Great Spirit of Heel Grabber (Jacob).

Lift high your heads, O gatekeepers!

Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the Chief of Shining-Greatness may come in.

Who is this bright-shining Chief? He is Grandfather, strong and mighty!

Chief of all Spirit Warriors!

**Lift high your heads, O gatekeepers! Be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the Chief of Shining-Greatness may come in.**

Who is this bright-shining Chief? He is Grandfather!

Chief of all Spirit Warriors.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 19:16b-22

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Marie, Maureen, and Nikki.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon We remember that the Lord Jesus died to take away our sins.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Deacon Let us confess our sins to the God who knows us through and through.

People **Holy God, we have disobeyed your commandments,**

**we have resisted your call,
we have failed to live by your generous love.
We are sorry for all our sins,
and ask you to forgive us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant God who has called us is faithful,
and will not remember our sins.

Your sins are forgiven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Live by the Spirit's transforming power,
and forgive as you have been forgiven. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

People **We meet in his name and share his peace.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

The Offering

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor
and power; because you have created all things, and by your
will they were created and have their being.

You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Music for Preparation

My Song Is Love Unknown

$\text{♩} = 60$

D F#m/A A G/B A/C# D D/F# G G/F# Em7 F#m

1. My song is love un-known; The Sav-ior's love for me, love to the love-less
 2. My song is love un-bound, for love has con-quer'd death, and love the vic-t'ry

Bm D D/E E A C Em G Bm A/C#

shown that they might love-ly be; For who am I, that in my place my
 won in this, His part-ing breath; For with the cry that all is done vain

D D/F# D/G A Dsus D Bm A/G G A Bm/F# F#m

Lord should take frail flesh and die.
 dark-ness fell be-fore the Son.

1 2

G Em Asus A Asus Bsus B E G#m/B B

3. My song is love en-

A/C# B/D# E E/G# A A/G# F#m7 G#m C#m E E/F# F# B

-throned, where an-gel voic-es raise to mag-ni-fy the Son and sing the Fa-ther's praise; So

D F#m A C#m B/D# E E/G# E/A B Esus E

shall I stand, in glor-ious throng and add my prais-es to that song; So

D F#m A C#m B/D# E E/G# E/A B Esus E

shall I stand, in glor-ious throng and add my prais-es to that song.

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,

People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

From The Anglican Church of Australia (2009)

Celebrant 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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant With all our hearts we praise you, faithful God.
In the beginning, you called light to shine in darkness,
you made living things to grow and flourish
and you created human beings in your image.

You chose us in love,
guided us by your presence
and blessed us with your holy law.
Yet we chose our own sinful ways.
We broke your commandments,
persecuted your prophets,
forgot your wisdom and,
time after time,
refused to answer your call.

So you spoke an eternal word in a human voice
in Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God.
He called and people followed,
leaving every other loyalty.
He set us free to praise your holy name.

But hatred and violence shouted Jesus down.

Betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross,
he laid down his life for the world he loved,
and broke the chains of evil and death.
Then you turned our sorrow into joy.
On the third day you raised him up
to lead your people into life.

So we praise you, holy God,
with angels and archangels
and all your faithful people:

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.**

Celebrant

On the night before he died,
Jesus gathered with his friends
to share a meal and wash their feet,
teaching one more lesson of love.

He took bread and blessed you and broke it.
He gave it to them and said:
“Take this and eat it. This is my body.”

He took a cup of wine and blessed you
and gave it to them.
He said: “Take this and drink it.
This is my blood,
sealing God’s promise to forgive your sins.
Whenever you do this,
do it in memory of me.”

As we share these holy gifts,
we remember the Lord Jesus.

For the love you taught us,
the sacrifice you made for us
and the hope you give us,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

People **Dying you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Celebrant And now, faithful God,
send us your Spirit to feed us with the body and the blood
of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Make us one body in Christ.
Send us as your messengers in the world
and fill us with energy, courage and love.

Now to you, most holy God,
through Christ your Son and in the Spirit's power,
we bring our worship and our songs of praise:

People **Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior has taught us, let us pray:

Celebrant and People

**Our Lord that is in heaven:
blessed be your name.
Your dominion come:
your will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our next day's bread:
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And leave us not prey to temptation:
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Taize & Contemplation

Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, Remember Me 422

Ostinato Refrain

Capo 1: (D)
E_b (Em/G)
F_m/A_b (A)
B_b (D)
E_b

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

(Bm)
C_m (Em/G)
F_m/A_b (A)
B_b (D)
E_b

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community, 1981
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

We thank you, God,
for all the blessings of this table:
for the life-giving story, the living bread
and the wine of new creation.

People **Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Celebrant God who has called you is faithful.
Go into the world with joy,
forgive generously,
love extravagantly,
live abundantly.

The Blessing

Celebrant Beloved, remember, you are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Deacon Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go in the peace of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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