

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION:



PALM SUNDAY

28 MARCH 2021

12:00 NOON

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

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

The Collect of the Day

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 Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Commentary:

Paul presents Jesus as our perfect example for attitude and action. Jesus left the heights of heaven for the lowliness of earth; the Sovereign became a humble Servant. Jesus was willing to alter His status and behavior for the good of others and in this He is a model of submissiveness for us. Not only did Jesus come to serve, He came to die; He was obedient to the point of death on the cross. Jesus was submissive to the depths of humiliation, then God the Father raised Him to the height of exaltation. We follow Jesus' example when we submit to God and one another, not for personal gain, but for the glory of God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark (15:1 – 39)

(The congregation remains seated. The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.)

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

(At the mention of Golgotha, all stand as able.)

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Sermon

The Reverend Michael Singer

The Prayers of the People

The response to each petition:

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

(Gluten-free wafers available at main altar rail, please request)

Eucharist Prayer B

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

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 Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

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:

Celebrant and People

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 Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People

The Postcommunion Prayer

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After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal:

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Let us go forth in the name of Christ
People Thanks be to God.



The Reverend Cheryl Brainard, Officiant
The Reverend Michael Singer, Preacher

Musician
John Sullivan, Organist

THE IN-BETWEEN TIMES OF OUR LIVES

by the Rev. Michael Singer, St. James Priest-In-Charge

“When one door closes another opens,” goes an old and popular saying. But what about that time in-between, after one door closes but before another opens? What do we do then? As a friend of mine once said, “It’s hell when you are waiting in the hallway.” That’s where we are during the events of Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Day. The door on Good Friday has closed. Jesus is dead. The door on Easter has not yet opened. The tomb is sealed and guarded. Holy Saturday... in-between time, tomb time.

Many, perhaps most, will not remember or celebrate this day, but, at some point, we all live this day. We all come to the Holy Saturday of our lives, the hell of our life, and it always involves a death of some kind: the death of a loved one, the death of a relationship, the death of a dream. Regardless of how it comes about, someone or something has died, and all the doors remain closed.

This day seems like anything but holy. Where is Jesus on Holy Saturday? Reread the Apostles’ Creed. Remind yourself that on this day “He descended to the dead” or as another translation says, “He descended into hell.” Holy Saturday is when Christ descends into the hell of our life, breaking the bonds of death, and setting the captives free. Holy Saturday is the day death and Hades

tremble in fear and regret ever having tried to take captive the author and creator of life.

It is tempting in the Holy Saturday of our lives to run away, to leave the tomb and just get to Easter. But the tomb is the birthplace of Easter, the workshop of resurrection. Tragedy, sorrow, and death do not simply go away or get replaced. They are transformed. In that holy workshop, Christ transforms tragedy into triumph, sorrow into joy, and death into life. We must, therefore, remain present to the tomb of Holy Saturday. That’s what Mary Magdalene and the other Mary did.

They are sitting opposite the tomb. They do not say anything; there is not much to say on this day. They do not do anything; there is not much to do on this day. Holy Saturday is a time of patience. This is about more than just waiting or passing time. It is the willingness to trust that there is more going on than we see or understand. It is reminding ourselves that “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end.” It is remaining present so that when another door opens, and it will, we will be there to walk through it.

Dear friends, during the week we call Holy Week, I pray you will make every effort to join us for worship as we participate in these transformational events. Service times and sign-up information may be found on our website, www.stjamesp.org. Be present, as we together wait and watch.

EASTER IS COMING - RSVP FORM

Saturday & Sunday, April 3-4, 2021 | Multiple Times and Locations

Please use the form online (stjamesp.org/easter-2021) or below to let us know which service your family plans to attend. We request that you only submit one RSVP per household/family. Similar to our outdoor worship protocol, masks will be required of all attendees and family units will be asked to sit together and stay at least 6ft from other family units. *A full breakdown of our safety protocol and what to expect may be found here: stjamesp.org/indoor-safety.*

*Please note we are following diocesan protocols and the Nursery will remain CLOSED at this time so families with young children should plan accordingly.

Please return completed physical form to the Parish Office at 25 S. Third Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

EMAIL/PHONE _____ HOUSEHOLD SIZE _____

Please check the box by which service(s) you plan to attend:

- 6:30 AM: Outdoors at St. James Parish- Easter Sunrise Meeting at the Tomb in St. James Graveyard.
- 8:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Outdoor Worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Online Worship- Livestream of Mt. Lebanon- Rite II
- 10:30 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 12:00 PM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Week at St. James

HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH

Monday - Friday during Holy Week | RSVP

You are invited to come and take a contemplative walk through the labyrinth. The labyrinth will be set up in the Perry Hall Gym all week. Please use the link below to let us know when you plan to stop by: stjamesp.org/blog/holy-week-labyrinth. Have questions? Reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

TAIZÉ TUESDAY SERVICE

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | St. James Parish | RSVP

A Taizé worship experience involves liturgical readings, prayers set to simple musical lines, periods of silence, and many candles. Join us for this beautiful contemplative service on Tuesday of Holy Week at 7:00 PM in the St. James sanctuary. If you plan to attend, please RSVP on the website: stjamesp.org/blog/taize-tuesday or call the office to let us know you will be there!

JESUS' THIRD HOUR

Thursday, April 1, 2021 | 2:00 p.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Come join our St. James Youth Group outdoors at Mt. Lebanon Chapel at 2:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. Together we will reflect upon Jesus' experience on the cross and the depth of his love for us. Have questions? Please reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 1, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | St. James Parish | RSVP

Join us for our Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week. We'll join together indoors for worship and prayer at St. James Parish at 7:00 p.m. Please note that due to the pandemic, we will not be offering foot-washing this year and we do ask that you RSVP to let us know you are coming. You can find the RSVP form at stjamesp.org/blog/maundy-thursday-evening-service.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 2, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. | RSVP

Join us at noon on Friday, April 2nd, as we take the time to stop and meditate upon the love of Jesus. We'll join together indoors for worship and prayer. If you plan to attend, please RSVP on the website: stjamesp.org/blog/good-friday-2021 or call the office to let us know.

QUIET REFLECTION

Saturday, April 3, 2021 | 7:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

We hope you will join us on the first Saturday of each month, beginning April 3, for an hour of quiet reflection at Lebanon Chapel from 7:30-8:30 AM. All are welcome! This time of Quiet Reflection will be offered on the first Saturday of each month until the end of the year. Questions contact Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

FLOWERING THE CROSS

Saturday, April 3, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. | St. James

In 2020, we updated a special Easter tradition to accommodate the pandemic. This year, the Flowering of the Cross continues in the new tradition! We invite parishioners of ALL ages to stop by the church any time between 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 3rd and bring a flower to add to the cross. The cross will be standing right at the front doors of the church for all to see! The cross will remain standing for those who wish to place a flower before joining us for service on Easter!

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 3, 2021 | 8:00 p.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

The Easter Vigil, or the Great Vigil of Easter is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. The Easter Vigil service has been regarded throughout Christian history as the most sacred service of the Church's year. It is the climactic moment of the three-day period known as the Holy Triduum, the sequence of prayers and services commemorating Jesus' last days before his death, including the Last Supper and his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Maundy Thursday), his Crucifixion (Good Friday), and his Resurrection (The Easter Vigil).

ST. JAMES HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 29th

- 8AM – 4PM HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH *(Perry Hall; RSVP necessary)*

Tuesday, March 30th

- 8AM – 4PM HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH *(Perry Hall; RSVP necessary)*
- 7:00PM TAIZÉ SERVICE *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*

Wednesday, March 31st

- 8AM – 4PM HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH *(Perry Hall; RSVP necessary)*

Thursday, April 1st

- 9:30AM – 6:30PM **MAUNDY THURSDAY** HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH *(Perry Hall; RSVP necessary)*
- 2:00PM JESUS' THIRD HOUR *(Mt. Lebanon; BYOS*)*
- 7:00PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*

Friday, April 2nd

- 9:30AM – 4:30PM **GOOD FRIDAY** HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH *(Perry Hall; RSVP necessary)*
- 12 NOON GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*

Saturday, April 3rd

- 7:30AM – 8:30AM **HOLY SATURDAY** QUIET REFLECTION *(Mt. Lebanon Chapel)*
- 10AM – 6PM FLOWERING OF THE CROSS *(St. James Parish lawn)*
- 8:00 PM THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER *(Mt. Lebanon; BYOS*)*

Sunday, April 4th

- 6:30 AM **EASTER SUNDAY** EASTER SUNRISE
- 8:00 AM MEETING AT THE TOMB *(Parish Graveyard)*
- 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*
- 9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*
- 9:30 AM ** HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II *(Mt. Lebanon; BYOS*)*
- 10:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*
- 12 NOON HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II *(St. James; RSVP necessary)*

*BYOS - Bring Your Own Supplies – Mt. Lebanon services are held outdoors.
Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

** This service will be live-streamed at 9:30 am

Learn more about each service and how to RSVP:

<https://www.stjamesp.org/holy-week-2021/>

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

 @stjamesp  @stjamesparish

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