



Christ Church  
Cathedral  
Ottawa

# Palm Sunday | The Sunday of the Passion

Sunday | March 29<sup>th</sup> | 2026

10.30 am | Liturgy of the Palms | Choral Eucharist | BAS  
*Messes Solennelle | Louis Vierne and Jean Langlais*

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## Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service  
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.  
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.  
Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.  
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

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# The Liturgy of the Palms

**Prelude** | *Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott (BWV 721)* | J.S. Bach

## Announcements

**Introit** | *Kyrie Eleison*

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison. | Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## Greeting | Introduction

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gospel** | *Matthew 21:1-11*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

When they 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 fulfil 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."

*Please hold up the palm branches.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ 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.**

## The Procession

*Let us go forth in peace.*

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

**Processional Hymn 181** | *All glory, laud and honour*

## Collect at the Station

*Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.***

**Hymn 182** | *Ride on, ride on in majesty*

## Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

**First Reading** | *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

A reading from the book of 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 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?

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** | *31:9-16*

*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. I have become a reproach to all*

*my enemies and even to my neighbours, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me. I am forgotten like a corpse, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. 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. 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."*

## **Second Reading** | *Philippians 2:5-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul 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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual** | *Set me as a seal* | *James Whitbourn*

*Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love.*

## **The Passion of our Lord** | *Matthew 26:47-27:26*

*Please remain seated.*

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you

think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*Silence.*

# Sermon

## Motet | *Ex ore innocentium* | John Ireland

*It is a thing most wonderful, Almost too wonderful to be, That God's own Son should come from heaven, And die to save a child like me. And yet I know that it is true: He chose a poor and humble lot, And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, For love of those who loved him not. I sometimes think about the Cross, And shut my eyes, and try to see The cruel nails and crown of thorns, And Jesus crucified for me. But even could I see him die, I should but see a little part Of that great love, which, like a fire, is always burning in his heart. And yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame within my heart, And I will love thee more and more, Until I see thee as thou art.*

## Prayers

Let us pray.

Gracious and holy God, we pray for your blessing to rest upon Shane, our Primate, Anne, our Metropolitan, Kathryn, our Bishop-Elect, our diocese and cathedral. Let your presence be made known in all that we do and all that we say. During this Holy Week, draw us more deeply into prayer, into humility, and into love, that your joy and compassion may flow through us and touch all whom we meet.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator and Redeemer God, drive away the shadows of despair that linger over our politics and public life. Revive in us the longing for justice and truth; restore our courage to seek what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle reign throughout the world—especially in places torn by violence and war, where peace feels distant and where so many have lost homes, loved ones, and hope itself. Make us instruments of your peace and servants of reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate and healing God, stretch out your tender hand upon all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. We remember before you those known to us who suffer in pain, those burdened by anxiety or grief, and those whose hearts are broken by personal or family struggles. Surround them with your mercy, uphold them with your strength, and grant them the comfort of your presence.

*Silence.*

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

God of all consolation, be near to those who mourn. Give courage and quiet faith to the bereaved, that, casting their cares upon you, they may find strength for each new day and hope in the promise of resurrection life.

*Silence.*

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

Faithful and everlasting God, renew us through this Lenten journey. Cleanse our hearts, strengthen our fellowship, and send us into the world as witnesses to the Gospel of your Son. May we walk the way of the cross with humility and love, bringing healing where there is hurt, welcome where there is loneliness, and reconciliation to this wounded world.

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

Holy God, receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

## Offertory Hymn 184 | *My song is love unknown*



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# The Celebration of the Eucharist

## Prayer Over the Gifts

Gracious God, the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, makes us pleasing in your sight. Alone we can do nothing, but through his sacrifice, may we receive your love and mercy. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you: *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.*

We praise you, merciful God, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,

**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Agnus Dei

### Communion

*All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.*

**Motet** | *Ave verum corpus* | Edward Elgar

*Ave verum Corpus, natum De Maria Virgine, Vere passum, immolatum In cruce pro homine: Cuius latus perforatum Unda fluxit sanguine, Esto nobis praegustatum In mortis examine. O clemens, O pie, O dulcis Jesu, Fili Mariae . | Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind, whose pierced side flowed with water and blood: May it be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet in the trial of death. O gentle, O merciful, O sweet Jesus, son of Mary.*

## The Sending of the Community

### Prayer after Communion

God our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with this eucharistic food. Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son, we may be led to salvation, for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Glory to God,

**whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of mercy transform you by grace, and the blessing of God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 185 | *Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle*

*The choir and clergy exit in silence.*

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Celebrant | The Reverend Canon Doug Richards      Organists | James Calkin and Nick Veltmeyer  
Blessing of Palms | Preacher | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff      Director | Andrew McAnerney  
Readers | Zixuan Zhao | Judith O'Rourke      Sung by | Girls | Boys | Lay Clerks  
Intercessor | Ted Livingstone  
Duty Warden | Shawn Scromeda

Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985; *Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer #3* © 2001; *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

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## Readings Next Sunday | April 5<sup>th</sup>

### Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

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## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm | Passion Sunday | March 29<sup>th</sup>**

4 pm | Organ Meditation for Passiontide

**Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | March 30<sup>th</sup> | 31<sup>st</sup> | April 1<sup>st</sup>**

12.05 pm | Sung Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday | April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

12.05 pm | Contemplative Prayer

7 pm | Choral Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday | April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Noon | Solemnity of the Lord's Passion

1 to 3 pm | Cathedral Open for Quiet Meditation

3 pm | Sacred Concert for Good Friday

**Holy Saturday | April 4<sup>th</sup>**

8 pm | A Vigil for Easter

**Easter Day | April 5<sup>th</sup>**

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist

10.30 am | Festal Eucharist

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## **Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa**

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory

The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital

Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

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Dean of Ottawa and Rector | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff (ext. 161)

Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)

Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Honorary Assistants | The Reverend Joan Riding | The Reverend Victoria Scott |

LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker

Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalimiec | Ted Livingstone

Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)

Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)

Music Associate | Nick Veltmeyer

Algonquin Teacher in Residence | Albert Dumont (Oshki Nodin)

Church Wardens | Katherine Spencer-Ross | Stephen Giles

Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos (ext. 171)

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