



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

215-389-1513 • www.old-swedes.org

March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday & Sunday of the Passion

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Jeanette Woehr*
Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*
Usher: *Bob Jenkins*
Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstong*
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*
Organist: *Paul Fleckenstein*

Ministry Assistants April 5

Lector 1: *Susan Steele*
Lector 2: *Corin Micklewright*
Intercessor: *Matt Mahler*
Usher: *Mark Roberts*
Altar Guild: *Jeanette Woehr*
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Welcome to Holy Week at Gloria Dei

During this week, we dwell in the mystery that Jesus, the Word of God who took on flesh, died for our sins – and that he rose again by the power of God's love. The services of this week trace out the major events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Like the crowds outside Jerusalem 2000 years ago, we gather today and wave palms to mark the coming of our king. But, as we will see today, and throughout this week, Jesus is not a king like other kings, for his crown will be made of thorns, and his throne will be a cross.

Weather allowing, our service begins outside on the bricks near the Roak House.

Liturgy of the Palms

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

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant Let us pray together:

All 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.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *(led responsively, by Rev. Chris)*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.

"This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! *
LORD, send us now success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

"You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Blessing of the Palms & Procession to the Church

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Congregation processes to the church, repeating the following anthem:

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

Opening Hymn #154

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
All His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All 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.

(All are invited to sit for the readings)

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Jeanette Woehr

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?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:9-16

(Read responsively, as directed by Lector)

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 neighbors,*

a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

I am forgotten like a dead man, 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

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 servant, 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God**

Hymn # 435

At the Name of Jesus

Hymnal 1982

Proclamation of the Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (21:1-11)**

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

When Jesus and his disciples 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 fulfill 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Rev. Chris Micklewright

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and tradition. You are free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and further conversation is always welcome. After the sermon we will stand for a time of prayer.

Prayers of the People – Based on Psalm 91 (leader and people pray responsively) **Corin Micklewright**

Celebrant Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, let us enter with Mary Magdalene and the other disciples into the grief and confusion of the hours following Jesus’ death. As we wait in this darkness, may we draw hope from the example of the saints who have gone before us, and especially from God’s faithfulness to walk with us in fearful times. *(Silent Pause)*

Intercessor To the God of just and inescapable truth, we pray for our leaders – in the church and in the world around us. May the light of your wisdom be a lens to illuminate justice and clarity in the eyes and hearts of those who wield power. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.

People **Christ have mercy.**

Intercessor To the God of immeasurable mercy and care, we pray for our divided nation, and for the needs of the most vulnerable among us. Today we particularly remember our trans siblings, and all who face the threat of violence from corrupt systems of power. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.

People **Christ have mercy. (continued...)**

Intercessor To the God vast enough to know all sorrow, but tender enough to know every tear, we pray for the needs of the world, especially for those living in nations besieged by violence, and for those who are hungry today. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.

People Christ have mercy.

Intercessor To the God who is able to heal all wounds, we pray for the needs of our community, remembering especially: Sara, Rev. John, Erica, Elia, Eulogio, Sheila, Emily, Monica, Amy, William, Betty, Dina, Gia, Beth, Seamus, Thomassina, Julie, Denise, Jason, Laurie, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.
(Long pause for further names.) Lord have mercy.

People Christ have mercy.

Intercessor To the God of the living and of the dead, we pray for Mary and the disciples, for all the saints who have gone before us, and for the recently departed.
(Long pause for names.) Lord have mercy.

People Christ have mercy.

Celebrant Merciful God, whose son Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on our behalf willingly and with great love, fill us with that same love, that it may unknot our hearts and ease our souls, and that we might share this love with all your creatures; all this we pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace & Announcements

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you. *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 158

Ah, Holy Jesus

Hymnal 1982

Offertory

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
-Ephesians 5:2

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. Those seeking to support our long-time organist, Paul Fejko, can do so through his website: www.andre-cafe.com. At the end of the offertory, the congregation will stand to sing a song of thanks, praising God for the many blessings we have been given.

Thomas Ken, 1674

GENEVAN 134 (OLD HUNDREDTH) L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

The Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer, Prayer A

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 It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

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

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

All (In a LOUD voice!) AMEN!

<p>Celebrant People</p>	<p>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,</p>	<p>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.</p>
-----------------------------	---	---

Fraction & Invitation

<p>Celebrant All</p>	<p>Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.</p>
--------------------------	---

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Instrumental Hymn # 170

To Mock Your Reign

Hymnal 1982

All those interested in receiving communion should begin to make their way forward, while the priest and the altar guild assistant receive the bread and wine and prepare to distribute it to the congregation.

Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and that baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith – and that Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his community.

Therefore, all are welcome at this table (including children!).

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers are available – just hold up one finger. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. You may sip from the cup or dip your wafer. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.

Post Communion Prayer

<p>Celebrant All</p>	<p>Let us pray. Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.</p>
--------------------------	---

Reading of the Passion

Please use the booklets for The Reading of the Passion According to Matthew.

The Congregation takes the part of the People. Please stand, as you are able, when speaking your part.

A period of silence is kept after the reading of the Passion.

Solemn Prayer Over the People

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord. *(Bow or kneel as you are able)*
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.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 164

Alone Thou Goest Forth

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

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

Postlude

*All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.*

Please join us for the rest of Holy Week:

*Maundy Thursday – Community Dinner at 5:30, Service at 7:00pm
Good Friday – Service Project at 11am, Service at 7:00pm
Easter Vigil – Service at 7:30pm, Wine and Dessert Reception Afterward
Easter Sunday – 10am Service, Egg Hunt and Community Potluck Afterward*

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Adam Haines Music Director
adam@MobileMusicPhilly.com

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons
Insta: @SextonSideshow

Gloria Dei Vestry

*Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden),
Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr*

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

