

Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026 10:00am
Online Service
Facebook/YouTube



Grace Episcopal Church
336 Main St, Old Saybrook, CT

PRELUDE

Filled With Excitement (Mantos Y Palmas)
by: Ruben Ruiz Avila

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey, comes the Savior, Christ.

From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy:

“Hosanna, hosanna to Christ! Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!”

As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
Hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
To our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith.

The Liturgy of the Palms

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.**

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

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.**

Matthew 21:1-11

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."

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.**

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

THE PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

HYMN 154

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

Refrain: **All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!**
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. (*Refrain*)

The company of angels is praising thee on high;
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. (*Refrain*)

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.**

Refrain: **All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (*Refrain*)**

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. (*Refrain*)**

THE COLLECT *of the* DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 WORD *of* GOD

THE LESSONS

The people sit.

THE FIRST READING

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 me - 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?

After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

The congregation remains seated

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."

THE EPISTLE:

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.

After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

HOSANNA + HYMN #450, vs. 1
by: Carl Tuttle, Edward Perronet, Oliver Holden

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Lord we lift up Your name with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God. Hosanna in the highest!

Glory! Glory! Glory to the King of kings!
Glory! Glory! Glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God. Glory to the King of kings!

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Lord we lift up Your name with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God. Hosanna in the highest!

Be exalted, oh Lord, my God. Hosanna in the highest!

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THE GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14-35

Then, all still standing, the Minister reads the Gospel, first saying:

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

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

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Charles Hamill

THE NICENE CREED *The congregation stands*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE *The Leader and People pray responsively*

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 Bishops, 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 Old Saybrook, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, 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 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, especially Peter Conrad Hoffman & William McCollum Jr., for whom the altar flowers were given, 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.

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.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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 greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY

HOSANNA

by: Brooke Ligertwood

I see the King of glory, coming on the clouds with fire.
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes.
I see His love and mercy, washing over all our sin.
The people sing, the people sing.

Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

I see a generation, rising up to take their place,
With selfless faith, with selfless faith.
I see a new revival, stirring as we pray and seek.
We're on our knees, we're on our knees.

Heal my heart and make it clean.
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.
Show me how to love like You have loved me.
Break my heart for what breaks Yours.
Everything I am, for Your Kingdom's cause.
As I walk from earth into eternity.

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† † †

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

† † †

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

DOXOLOGY

LORD, AS TO THY DEAR CROSS WE FLEE

by: John Hampden Gurney, St. Columba

**Lord, as to Thy dear cross we flee, and plead to be forgiven,
So let Thy life our pattern be, and form our souls for heav'n.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 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:

Sanctus S-129 *(sung)*

**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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and

Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, 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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 hath 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

The following may be said

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **grant us your peace.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION SONGS

BROKEN FOR ME

by: Colin Lunt, Janet Lunt

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus broken for you.**

**He offered His body, He poured out His soul,
Jesus was broken that we might be whole. (Refrain)**

**Come to My table and with Me dine,
eat of My bread and drink of My wine. (Refrain)**

**This is My body given for you,
eat it rememb'ring I died for you. (Refrain)**

**This is My blood I shed for you,
for your forgiveness, making you new. (Refrain)**

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GOD AND MAN AT TABLE ARE SAT DOWN, vs.1,2,5,6

by: Robert Stamps

O, welcome, all ye noble saints of old,
as now before your very eyes unfold.
The wonders all so long ago foretold;

Chorus: God and man at table are sat down,
God and man at table are sat down.

Elders, martyrs, all are falling down,
and prophets, patriarchs are gath'ring round.
What angels longed to see now man has found; *(Chorus)*

Here He gives Himself to us as bread.
Here as wine we drink the blood He shed.
Born to die we eat and live instead. *(Chorus)*

Worship in the presence of the Lord,
with joyful songs and hearts in one accord,
and let our Host of table be adored. *(Chorus)*

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STAY WITH ME

by: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

PRAYER of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(For those unable to receive communion today)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and ever-living 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 PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST MATTHEW

Matthew 26:36-27:66 *(Please remain seated)*

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he 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 judgment 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.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for

Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

THE DISMISSAL

After the Recessional the Priest or Deacon says

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Celebrant and People **Thanks be to God.**

(Service ends in silence)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Either during the service or during prayer time at home, please keep the prayers of Grace Church and the people going! Please keep us up to date on names to add and remove.

WE PRAY FOR: Kate Mason, Myra, Lisa, Bryan, Barbara and Jon Zakhar, Deidra & George Labelle, Earlene Bell, Aurelia Knox, Sarah, Len Pass, James, Penny, Emily, Mary, Doug Hamill, JJ Evola and family, Jane Hamill, Kathi Jones, Cheryl Dudek, Debra Sticht, Elsie, Alicia Winalski and family, Marilyn, Dean, Barbara Bowie, Dick & Suzanne Watson, Judy and Clive Cowper, Alan, The Benways, Jim Donahue, Carol Wilson, Kate, Coral, Kirsten, Joyce Brinley, Curtis, Annaliese Harms, the Igelbrinks, Carol, Rory, Chuck Hoffman, Gianna Porcelli, Gabby, Jacob, Jan, Lee, Jennifer Jaramillo, Karen, Christine, Susan Ogden, Kathleen Lemelin, Chuck MacBeth, Mike DeLisa and Patti & Missy Matto.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY: Travis Board, Todd Buroff, Adam Randle, Susan Eaccarino, Madeline Sheahan, Matthew Auger & Eve Inglis.

FOR OUR MINISTERS AND MISSIONS: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; Charlie, Bill, Chuck and Ellendale, our priests; and for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Common Good Gardens, Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, Early Head Start, the AA groups that meet at Grace Church, Patrick Dominguez & his church planting effort, Russ & Heidi Smith in Chile, and Kateri Medical Services in Nigeria. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; and for Regions & Region Leadership Teams. For Holy Landers Ministry Network.

OUR PARTICIPANTS TODAY

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----------|
| CELEBRANT: | The Very Rev. Charlie Hamill | 8 &10 am |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR: | Bethany Hamill | 10 am |
| CHOIR: | Joe & Jeannette Barone, JoAnn Eaccarino, Meredith Hall, Dick Mason, Bob Mulvihill, Bill Passera | |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: | Ellizabeth Davey | 8 am |
| | Carly Trask-Kuchta | 10 am |
| LECTOR: | Devin Carney | 10 am |
| USHERS: | Al Buroff, Keith Coughlin | 8 am |
| | Clyde & Cathy Auger | 10 am |
| NURSERY: | Betty Jo Stosse, Kyle Trask-Kuchta | 10 am |
| CAMERA TECH TEAM: | Ken Soudan | 10 am |
| COFFEE HOUR TEAM: | Barbara Roman | 10 am |
| ALTAR GUILD: | Kathy Bartus, Betty Salldin | |

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Rector: The Very Rev. Charlie Hamill
Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. Charles "Chuck" Hoffman
Priest Associate: The Rev. Canon Dr. Ellendale Hoffman
Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Veinot
Music Director: Bethany Hamill
Parish Administrator: Kate McKinney
Sexton: Sherry Schiavone

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Senior Warden: Jason Howey
Junior Warden: Matt Stosse
Treasurer: David Condren
Clerk: Julie Peace
Vestry Members: Sue Board, Michelle Kapp
Peter Knox, Ryan Earley
Mary Matthews, Tom Fuller

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH: March 29th — April 5th

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|-----------|----------|---|
| Today | 8:00 am | Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary) |
| | 9:15 am | Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:00 am | Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary) w/music |
| | 4:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall) |
| Monday | | OFFICE CLOSED |
| | 2:00 pm | Men's Bible Study (ZOOM) |
| | 5:00 pm | GriefShare (Hudson Room) |
| | 7:00 pm | Con Brio Choral Rehearsal (Merrill Hall) |
| Tuesday | 10:00 am | Women's Bible Study (Hudson Room) |
| | 7:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall) |
| Wednesday | 12 noon | Shoreline Soup Kitchen Community Lunch (Merrill Hall) |
| | 6:30 pm | Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Thursday | 6:00 pm | Maundy Thursday Service, Dinner and Stripping of Altar |
| Friday | 12:00 pm | Good Friday Service (Sanctuary) |
| Saturday | | |
| Sunday | 8:00 am | EASTER!! Holy Eucharist with Music, Rite I (Sanctuary) |
| | 9:15 am | Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:00 am | EASTER!! Holy Eucharist with Music, Rite II (Sanctuary) |
| | 4:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall) |

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

GRACE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Church Men's Discipleship:

Meeting in Merrill Hall at Grace Church 8am-10am

NEXT Gathering: Saturday April 18

Once a month from 8am-10am Pastor Charlie gathers with the men of Grace Church looking for fellowship and deeper discipleship in Jesus Christ. The first hour we gather for light breakfast and fellowship to get to know each other. During the second hour we delve into whatever book or video series we are working on. February 21, we began a new 8-week video program called Practicing the Way, a series on discipleship. Through the program, we are hoping to strengthen our walk with Jesus, grow in the grace and knowledge of God, and learn to support one another as brothers in Christ. For more info contact Pastor Charlie at gracechurchrector@gmail.com.

Men's Bible Study is meeting via ZOOM beginning in January.

For more information on this Men's Bible Study please feel free to email Charley Bates at charley.bates@yahoo.com or you can go to our website:

<https://www.graceoldsaybrook.org/mens-bible-study>.

Currently the men are studying Exodus.

The Women of Grace (WOG) Bible Study are reading through a 12-week study by Douglas O'Donnell on Psalms **Friday mornings at 10am** in Grace Church's Hudson Room. For more information you can check our website:

<https://www.graceoldsaybrook.org/womens-bible-study>.

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Altar Flower Memorials

The Altar Guild is always accepting donations for Sunday altar flowers made out to "Grace Church Altar Guild" in memory or in celebration of loved ones. For more info contact Betty Salldin at bettyalldin@gmail.com.

Feeding the hungry one donation at a time...

SSKP Food Pantry Donation Basket at Grace Church

Grace Church is always accepting non-perishable food donations throughout the year. A basket is present outside the main side entrance to Grace Church 24/7 to place donations in, or you can bring donations into the church entryway by the patio and place them in the colored bins. If you are curious as to what kind of foods they are in need of most you can go to their website <https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org>. In addition you can always make a cash donation to SSKP. Thank you for your ongoing donations to feed those in need along the shoreline!

Grief Share Program

**Monday evenings From March 16th – Monday, June 8th
5pm – 6:30pm in the Hudson Room at Grace Church**

Grace Church is hosting another 13-week cycle of the GriefShare support group. For those unfamiliar w/GriefShare, it is a program which offers help & encouragement after the death of a loved one. Participants will find understanding, guidance, relief & a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. If you have suffered a loss please consider joining us at any meeting; you don't have to be there from the beginning. For more info, contact Jeannette: gracegriefshare@gmail.com, or call the Church Office: **860-388-0895**.

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Line

Here's how it works...If you need prayer for something, call one of the Prayer Line Chairpersons (Joyce Brinley & Penny Coleman). Use your directory or call the church office for contact info. Please briefly tell them your request. The Prayer Line will take it from there. Once a member hangs up the phone, the intercession begins! The Prayer Line is available to receive requests from **9:00am to 8:30pm**. Typically the Prayer Line requests for the day go out to members about 7:00pm. However, requests of an emergency nature will be passed on immediately. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have your brothers and sisters in Christ lift up your requests to God.

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook

We are a community of faith, rooted in Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, following God's call to feed the hungry in both body and spirit.

Our intention is to know Jesus and to make Him known.

You are welcome regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.

Currently our in-person worship services are Sundays at 8am and 10am with Holy Communion (the 10am is also live-streamed onto Facebook and YouTube), and we offer a Healing Service with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands and Anointing on the First Wednesday of each month at 10am in the sanctuary . Go to our website graceoldsaybrook.org for more info and for bulletins to download for the 10am live-stream service.

Whether you are just exploring a new spiritual direction, curious about the Episcopal Church, or are ready to find a new church home, feel free to fill out a welcome card and place it in the collection plate, sign our guest book, or contact the church by phone or email for more info.

Grace Church is a close-knit community called by God to share the healing love of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also engaged in the greater local and regional community in various outreach ministries as well. If interested, ask us how you can get involved in what Christ is doing at Grace, in Old Saybrook and Connecticut!! Or better yet, tell us where you find God at work in your life, and tell us how we can help or get involved!

If you have any questions feel free to call, email or Facebook us.

We hope your visit to Grace was Spirit-filled, welcoming and meaningful.

In Christ,

The Rev. Charlie Hamill, Rector, and the People of Grace Church

RECTOR E-Mail: gracechurchrector@gmail.com

OFFICE E-Mail: gracechurcholdsaybrook@gmail.com

336 Main St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475

860-388-0895/ www.graceoldsaybrook.org