

*“Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit.”*

Words from the Cross

a lenten sermon series on the 7 last words of Christ



March 29, 2026, 10:30 am
Palm and Passion Sunday

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to visit our Worship Corner in the front of the Sanctuary for a variety of resources to help engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne Street side entrance. Restrooms are located underneath the Sanctuary, accessed via the stairs off the porch on the Princess Anne Street side or elevator, or in the Education Building next to the offices or kitchen, both with elevator access. Our service is livestreamed via YouTube.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠We rise in body or spirit.
We say words in bold together.

Liturgy of the Palms and Processional with St. George's Episcopal (10:00 am on the patio)

Prelude *All Creatures of Our God and King*
The Jubilate Ringers

Silent Prayer of Preparation

“Hosanna!” We’re shouting, “Save us!” Savior, ride into our hearts again, wash us with excitement and hope, give us a reason to praise and to shout again, “Hosanna!” Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 118:1-2, 19, 26*

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God’s steadfast love endures forever!

Open the gates of righteousness, enter through them and give thanks!

God is our salvation!

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

Hosanna in the highest!

✠Introit *Procession and Hymn for Palm Sunday* Craig Courtney
Covenant and Adult Choirs

The congregation is invited to stand and wave palms then join in verse 3:

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,

For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav'n, our King;

O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,

And in His holy presence eternally rejoice!

✠Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Michele Coffman

Holy Christ, we confess that amidst all the Palm Sunday crowds, we find ourselves in more turmoil than triumph. Our faith is unsteady.

Our wisdom is eroding. Our resolve is shaken. Our mercy is

hardening. Our hope is weakening. Come again and save us from

these and all our sins. Give us strength to follow you, our humble

Savior, our wise fool, our all in all. Amen. . . . *silent prayers of confession* .

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☩Sung Prayer (Hymn 227, sung twice)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

☩Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

☩Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Luke 23:46-49*

p. 109 in the pew Bible

Psalms 31:9-16

p. 622 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Gilbert M. Martin arr.

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.

My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God!

All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.

Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 26:36-46*

p. 37 in the pew Bible

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

From Palms to Passion: Watching to the End

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

☩Hymn 220 (vv. 1-3)

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;

your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;

turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

*Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.*

*Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

✠Affirmation of Faith *Philippians 2:5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Presentation of Offerings

Gifts, tithes, and offerings may be placed in the plates at the Sanctuary entrance. We also give thanks to God for offerings given via mail and online at fredericksburgpc.org/give.

✠Song of Praise (Hymn 196, verse 3)

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

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

Recessional in a Gregorian Mode

Henry Kihlken

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
for the life of Katherine Oliver-LeFebre by the LeFebre family.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Bruce and Elizabeth Smith

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Karen Johnson

Videographer: Ed Foresman

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