

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. TERI WALDRON, PRESIDING

MARCH 29, 2026



**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION:
PALM SUNDAY**

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

All gather with greens/ferns/palm branches.



PRESIDER: ☩ Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

ASSISTANT & PEOPLE (on mute): *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*

PRESIDER: 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.

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRESIDER: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew [21:1-11]

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you Lord Christ.

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRESIDER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRESIDER: 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.

PRESIDER: ☩ 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.

PRESIDER: ☩ Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

PRESIDER: Lord Jesus Christ who is and was and will be forever, in who's coming in the fullness of time was foretold by the Scripture and the Prophets, and to whom the vast crowd hastened, bearing branches and shouting 'Hosanna' to the Son of David as you entered Jerusalem on the feast day, we humbly pray:

ASSISTANT & PEOPLE (on mute): *Lift up our hearts as we lift these branches to you. Strengthen our faith as we enter this sacred time, this Holy Week. Be faithful to us, even as we abandon you to the Cross, and grant us the peace of which these branches are a sacrament.*

PRESIDER: We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God of Love, from ages unto ages.

Amen.

PRESIDER: *Procedamus in pace.*

In nomine Christi! Amen.

MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED

PRESIDER: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

PRESIDER: Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love 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.

ASSISTANT: Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God and one another, in gratitude to hear the holy Word and share in the spiritual communion of Christ. Let us prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship God and entrust ourselves to the divine mercy.

Silence is kept. Then all pray together on mute led by Assistant:

ASSISTANT: Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you,
Against one another, and against our Mother
Earth.

Although you have made us incarnations of your
Love,

We have not reflected your Divine Image in
the world.

Although you have called us to intimacy in Christ,
We have shunned you in ourselves, in others,
and in your Creation.

Although you have poured upon us the Spirit of
freedom

We have preferred our slavery to our
passions, greed, and complacency.

Turn to us Lord, even when our hearts turn away
from you.

Forgive us for the harm we cause to the innocent,
the vulnerable, the voiceless.

Forgive us for the harm we inflict on the very
planet that sustains us.

Instill in us a spirit of repentance.
Shake us from our complacency.

Move us to act in accordance with your Will for the love of the planet and one another. Awaken in us the hope of the Resurrection, that recalling your boundless love for us we may love boundlessly in return. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDER: ✠ May 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

ASSISTANT: A reading from The Book of the Prophet 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—
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?

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 31:9–16 *Please join Presider and Assistant on
mute in a responsive reading.*

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in
trouble; *
***my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.***

10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
***my strength fails me because of
affliction, and my bones are consumed.***

- 11 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.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 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.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you,
O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from The Letter of Paul to the 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God!

THE PASSION GOSPEL

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Saint Luke.

NARRATOR: When the hour for the Passover
meal came, Jesus took his place at the table,
and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: “I have eagerly desired to eat this
Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you,
I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the
kingdom of God.”

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”

NARRATOR: Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

JESUS: “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

“You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail;

and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

NARRATOR: And he said to him,

PETER: “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!”

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?”

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: “No, not a thing.”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one.

For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: "Lord, look, here are two swords."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "It is enough."

NARRATOR: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

NARRATOR: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

JESUS: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

NARRATOR: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

JESUS: “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

JESUS: “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”

NARRATOR: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

DISCIPLES: “Lord, should we strike with the sword?”

NARRATOR: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

JESUS: “No more of this!”

NARRATOR: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

JESUS: “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

NARRATOR: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: “This man also was with him.”

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: “Woman, I do not know him.”

NARRATOR: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

ACCUSER 1: “You also are one of them.”

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: “Man, I am not!”

NARRATOR: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

ACCUSER 2: “Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.”

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!”

NARRATOR: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

“Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

SOLDIERS: “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”

NARRATOR: They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

ASSEMBLY: “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

NARRATOR: All of them asked,

ASSEMBLY: “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “You say that I am.”

NARRATOR: Then they said,

ASSEMBLY: “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

ASSEMBLY: “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked him,

PILATE: “Are you the king of the Jews?”

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: “You say so.”

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.”

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

ASSEMBLY: “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate.

That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

PILATE: “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod,

for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

NARRATOR: Then they all shouted out together,

ASSEMBLY: “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”

NARRATOR: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

ASSEMBLY: “Crucify, crucify him!”

NARRATOR: A third time he said to them,

PILATE: “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

NARRATOR: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.

So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

A great number of the people followed him,

and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

JESUS: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

ASSEMBLY: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIERS: “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him, saying,

CRIMINAL 2: “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

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

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

CENTURION: “Certainly this man was innocent.”

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God.

This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Silence is observed.

NARRATOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



SERMON

KINDLY KEEP ALL MICS MUTED DURING SERMON

Cara Meredith



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All are invited to sit in silent communion with one another. Presider will signal the end of our meditation after four minutes.

LECTIO DIVINA

All are invited to share a short few words, phrases, or themes from the sermon that speak to our hearts. We raise our 'yellow hands' when ready to speak and lower when finished. The Presider will call on us. We listen prayerfully to each one, but do not comment.

*When the Presider sees that everyone who wishes to speak has done so, the Presider says **Amen**. [We are invited to save further reflections to our Coffee with Jesus.]*

MUSIC SIGNALS THE END OF THE LECTIO DIVINA.

THE OFFERING OF PEACE

PRESIDER: The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you.

PRESIDER: Let us embody Christ's peace for one another.

Presider will invite us into small groups for five minutes to get to know one another. If you are new to St. Columba's we welcome you. If you are a member already, please extend a warm welcome to those in your group. Should you prefer to stay where you are and spend the next five minutes meditating alone, that's fine too!

BIDDING PRAYERS

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRESIDER: Let us pray as Jesus taught.

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,
Forever and ever. Amen.

PRESIDER: And for what or whom else shall we pray?

All are invited to voice prayers before the community or offer them in the silence of your heart. Unmute before speaking, then kindly mute again.

After each offering, the Presider says “God hear us” to which the Assistant responds: “God graciously hear us.”

PRESIDER: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people: those we have voiced in the presence of your Assembly, those we hold in the silence of our hearts, and those for which we have yet to find words. In gratitude and love, we entrust ourselves to you who knows better than we the deepest needs of our hearts. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

PRESIDER: Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRESIDER: ✠ And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all both now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED

PRESIDER: Let us go forth to love and serve the Divine in one another!

Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE REACHED OUT
TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY!**

ONLINE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE VIA THE **"GIVE"** BUTTON ON OUR
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ST. COLUMBA'S INVERNESS

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NEED PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

*Please Email Meredith Burrell
who can help direct your needs to the right person:*

mburrell01@hotmail.com

TRIDUUM LITURGIES

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 8pm

Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altar,
Meditation on the Farewell Discourses of John's
Gospel

Good Friday, April 3

Outdoor Ecological Way of the Cross, *12pm*

Solemn Veneration of the Cross, *3pm*

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 4, 8pm

Followed by a celebratory reception

Easter Sunday, April 5, 10am

Eucharistic Liturgy in celebration of the
Resurrection of our Lord

Easter Brunch to follow—All welcome!

COFFEE WITH JESUS

Take few minutes to get your favorite morning beverage and return to us for coffee hour small group conversation

