

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church
Passion/Palm Sunday

Call To Worship

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

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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.**

Processional Reading/Gospel:

Mark 11:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray: 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.**

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Procession/Hymn Of Praise

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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Processional Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ... Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

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?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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Epistle Lesson

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

O Christe Domine Jesu

URW 389

Gospel

Mark 14:1-15:47

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

“Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

“Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.”

And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

“Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

“Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

“Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

“Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

“Surely, not I?” ... “Surely, not I?” ... “Surely, not I?”

“It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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.”

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

“Take; this is my body.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

“You will all become deserters; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

Peter said to him,

“Even though all become deserters, I will not.”

“Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

But he said vehemently,

“Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

“Sit here while I pray.”

He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

“I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

“Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

“Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

“Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

“The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

“Rabbi!”

And [he] kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

“Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”

But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

“Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

“Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am; and

‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’
and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

“Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”

All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

“Prophesy!”

The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

“You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

But he denied it, saying,

“I do not know or understand what you are talking about.”

And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

“This man is one of them.”

But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

“Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”

But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

“I do not know this man you are talking about.”

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

“Are you the King of the Jews?”

“You say so.”

Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

“Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

“Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

“Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

They shouted back,

“Crucify him!”

“Why, what evil has he done?”

But they shouted all the more,

“Crucify him!”

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

“He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

“Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

“Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers Of The People

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Communion

pages 496 and 497

This Sunday we again offer healing prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands for healing. You may also ask to be anointed on behalf of another who needs healing or is troubled.

Prayer After Communion

God of mercy, God of grace, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you give yourself to us. By your Spirit may the mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus, that we may go into the world in your strength, giving ourselves for others, in his name. Amen.

Community Sharing

Offering

Hymn Of Response

We Give Thee But Thine Own

360

Hymn Of Dismissal

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

510

Dismissal With Blessing

May the Triune God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, restore you and favorably hear you; may God accomplish in you the work of salvation, that you may show forth God's glory in the world, loving and serving both God and your neighbor. **Amen.**

Our service is ended—go in Christ's peace!

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8

This Week: Palm/Passion Sunday Scriptures read in community

Celebrant: Judy Cox

Preaching Next Week: B.J. Parker

Acolyte: Caden Wayman

OBSERVING HOLY WEEK TOGETHER

ST. PAUL'S PRAYS WITHOUT CEASING

Join us this Holy Week in **prayer, scripture and Communion** from **7:30-8a Monday-Friday** in the sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP/LUNCHEON

The final community Lenten service will be hosted by the **1st Christian Church** (1100 Killarney) at **noon** this Friday, March 30; complimentary luncheon at **12:30**; **freewill offering** supports the **Ministerial Alliance's benevolence fund.**

JOINT GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCHES OF GREENVILLE

Worship together in the **GFMC** sanctuary at **6:00p** in a service of **mourning, repentance and prayer for mercy.**

SUNRISE SERVICE OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCHES OF GREENVILLE

Gather to worship the Risen Christ in the **east parking lot of the GFMC** at **6:30 Easter morning.** We will recount and rejoice in **Christ's resurrection through scripture, prayer and song.** (Alternate location Young Teen Room, should weather require). Please dress warmly, and **bring your folding chair(s).** ☺

EASTER GODLY PLAY AND BREAKFAST POTLUCK

Our children invite us to the Godly Play room at **9:45a** to **hear the Easter story with them;** in lieu of Sunday School we'll then adjourn to the Fellowship Hall to share an **Easter Breakfast Feast** together in St. Paul's favorite **potluck** style.

EASTER WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M.

Celebrate with us the Resurrection of our Risen Lord in worship on this, the highest day of the Christian year!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST CALL TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE EASTER SEASON '4 X 4'

Love that "table fellowship"? Email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com to opt in for **4 X 4**, to feast with a smaller group (4 individuals, couples and/or families) several times across the Season of Easter. Groups will form based on **preferred day(s) of the week; your group decides** which **4 (or fewer) days/times April 2 – May 19** you'll meet, for mini-potluck, picnic, dinner or breakfast out, whatever!

NEXT SEXTON FOR ST. PAUL'S

If you are interested in serving as the St Paul's sexton for the upcoming **summer and/or academic year**, please **contact Pastor Ben asap** at ben.wayman@greenville.edu

GODLY PLAY TRAINING IN DANVILLE, KY, APRIL 19-21, OR NASHVILLE, TN, APRIL 27-29

Join our **Godly Play team** soonest by attending one of these **Core training weekends; others available in May and August.** St. Paul's reimburses all costs—email georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu **asap** for information.

GSGA DODGEBALL FUNDRAISER FOR EDEN'S GLORY

Prove your dodging skills **THIS Tues., March 27**, at HJ Long! 5 people per team; individuals may sign up, as well as entire teams, but individuals will be placed on teams together. Cost is **\$2 per person** and all proceeds go to **Eden's Glory.** Please register online at: <https://form.jotform.com/80504799065161> You may **pay electronically** on the form or **in cash at 6:45p** before the tournament starts at 7p.

COME-AND-GO WEDDING SHOWER APRIL 15

All are warmly invited to celebrate **Claire Sattler & Dylan Antila** at their **come-and-go wedding shower** on **Sunday, April 15th** from **3-5p** in the **St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.** As your time permits, please bring a dish to share and stay for a **celebratory potluck beginning at 5:00!** The couple is registered at **Target and Amazon.**

GSGA 5K RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER FOR AGAPE SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL

Come out to **Patriot's Park** on **April 21** to support **street children in Malawi** via the outreach of Agape Scholars. The run begins at 8a, the walk at 8:15a. **Registration before April 10th is \$10, after is \$15.** Please register via the online form at: <https://form.jotform.com/80626644490157>; email GSGA@greenville.edu with questions.