



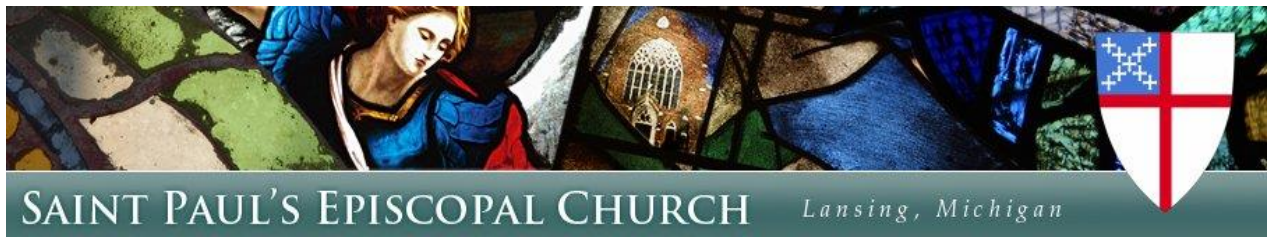
“Our Welcome”

In the light of God’s unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday Antecommunion --- April 5, 2020

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
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This Sunday we will utilize a service known as Antecommunion.

What is ‘Antecommunion’?

The prefix *ante-* means ‘before’, so the service of Antecommunion is the Service of Holy Communion before, or leading up to and excluding, the actual celebration of Communion. Basically from the Organ Voluntary to the Offertory, this is the non-sacramental part of the Communion liturgy. The only difference is that Antecommunion is done on purpose, and ends with a few different prayers, making this specifically the Service of Antecommunion rather than the Service of Holy Communion

Why would anyone do this?

Antecommunion is a uniquely Anglican practice. Early in our church tradition, provision was made for the celebration of Holy Communion every Sunday and major Holy Days of the year, *but*, people were not used to such frequent reception of Communion, and despite the Reformers’ best efforts, the average English believer still only came to the Holy Table once a month at best. The priests, however, were still expected to fulfill the liturgical demands of the Book of Common Prayer, and so provision had to be made for situations in which there was a Service of Holy Communion offered but no communicants prepared to receive Holy Communion.

Now that Anglicans almost the world over are accustomed to weekly Communion, this “need” for Antecommunion is no longer common. If your parish priest is unexpectedly sick on a Sunday morning, then a Deacon or Lay Minister could lead an Antecommunion service instead, since it’s almost identical to the regular Communion service.

St. Paul’s Staff: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; Dr. Timothy Flynn, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Jackie Womble, Christian Formation Director; Mr. Christopher Hart, Interim Sexton; Ms. Ciera Wilson, Nursery Attendant; Ms. Kathy Vogel, Wedding Coordinator.

St. Paul’s Vestry: Maria Wawro, Sr. Warden; Sue LeDuc, Jr. Warden; Jack Baker, Jane Bryce, Michael Hart, Jennifer Humphries, Bob Merriman, Dave Parks, Libby Richardson, Margaret Schulte, Gloria Sutton, Jeff Irwin, Treasurer, Sally Boron, Secretary.

Please prepare yourself for worship. Find a space where you can be comfortable and undisturbed for awhile. Perhaps have a small cross and/or a candle placed on a small table by you.

Take a moment to be still and think of all those who will be joining you this morning in prayer.

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday **April 5, 2020**

The Liturgy of the Palms

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

People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Officiant 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.**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 21:1-11

When they 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.”

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Officiant continues

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Procession

Officiant Let us go forth in peace.

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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect for the Day

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 Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha, all stand.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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), **[people stand]** 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!”

Sermon

Dr. Timothy Flynn

Prayers of the People

On this day the church hears again the passion of our Lord, into which we are baptized. Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the whole church throughout the world, especially Michael our presiding bishop and Bonnie our bishop, and for all bishops, clergy, and the baptized that we may have the mind of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace among nations and forbearance among all people; for wise decisions by leaders of our communities and all nations that they may be ruled by humility and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Ease our fear and anxiety, that we may share our resources rather than hoard them, and extend a helping hand to those in need. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation as we strive to faithfully walk the road toward the cross, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely and homeless, the oppressed and the forgotten, the weary and the sick, especially those on our parish prayer list and those we now name either silently or aloud ____; for those who are in prison and for the refugees seeking asylum from conflict; and for those who are consumed by sorrow, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our community and for family, friends, and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We give thanks for all the departed whose faith and witness have nourished our own, and for ourselves, that we may be obedient even unto death, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Facing the coronavirus, we pray
for all who mourn their dead
for the thousands who have contracted the virus
for all who are quarantined
for those who are stranded away from home
for those who have lost their employment
for those who fear the present and the future
for children who cannot assemble for school
for parents with needs for child care
for physicians, nurses, and home health aides
for hospitals and clinics
for volunteers who are serving their communities
for truckers, grocery store clerks and all who still work
for medical researchers
for the World Health Organization
for adequate and wise governmental policies. . .

A brief silence.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us prayer together in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us

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 General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People

Officiant Bow down before the Lord.

The people bow their heads.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remember to check St. Paul's Facebook page regularly for updated notices, prayers and videos.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

Amen.

Author unknown

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

April 5, 2020

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Margaret (Peggy) Richardson, Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Sebastian Cuesta, Clint Hogue, John & Grace Hawkins, Julie, Van Anderson, Marian Boulus, Nancy Rudd, Meadow Rawlins, Thomasina Canty, Anna Hayward, Harvey Clark & Mary Armstrong, Michelle Levenick, Norma Lindholm, Audrey & David, Pat Bellinger, Joanne Boulton, Megan Timm, Claudia Hamlin, Amy Eldridge, Ronda Peters, Erica, Marta & Venancio, Mike Jacobs, Rick Wendorf, Chris Krupka, Paul Doersam, Jason Thomas, Robert Madrigal, Joy Brewer, William Gabel, Pat Seger-Krawczynski, April Cruz, Karlene Bach, Sally Boron, Pam & John Irwin, Kate Johnson, Delaine Counseller, Doug, Jeff Waters, David Hemingway, Max Pierce, Michael Crouch, Terry Bryce, Sherry Sutton, Danielle Laurion, Michael O’Toole, Penny, Peggy, Karen Clarke, Eric, Amy Crabtree, Judy Manson, Patricia McMartin, Doug Boor, Mason Nichol, and Ellie Doersam.

We pray and remember those in the Military, and those who are serving in dangerous areas: Brendan Moody, Zachariah Reeves, Zachary Bellinger, Conrad Laurion, Alex Van Koevering, and Tyson Carter.

We pray this week for the following St. Paul’s members & family:

Peter & Anne Kressler, Charlie & Chris, Drew & Anna Krupka, Rick & Carol, Thomas & Emily Laub, and Sally Laurion.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Sickie Cell Disease Association, 815 N. Washington Ave. #2, Lansing, MI 48906

We pray for our worshipping communities: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Mason; St. James’, Grosse Ile; St. Anne’s, Mendoza, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song, Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean and Bishop of the Seychelles.

We pray for: Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; our worship ministers, and staff at St. Paul’s.