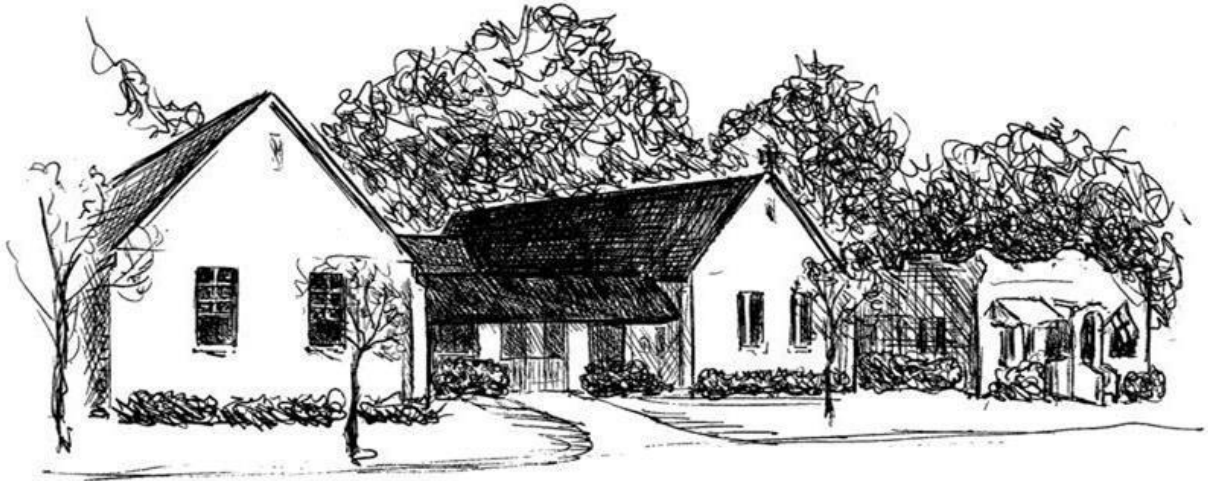


# St. Matthias

## Episcopal Church

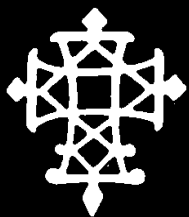


*St. Matthias Church strives to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and strives to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-30)*

**Sunday**  
**March 29, 2026**

The Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday  
7:45 AM



**The Right Reverend Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop**

**The Reverend James M. Dorn III, Rector**

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*Talk to God before Church. Listen to God during Church. Talk to each other after Church.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

### **GATHER INSIDE**

As the service begins, please face the back of the Church.

### **OPENING ANTHEM** (BCP p. 270)

*The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing*

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

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

Celebrant 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 GOSPEL READING:** 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."

## **BLESSING OF THE PALMS** (BCP p. 271)

*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.**

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.**

## **SECOND ANTHEM** (BCP p. 271)

*The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said*

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

**People      Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THE PROCESSION** (BCP p. 271)

Celebrant      Let us go forth in peace.

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

*During the procession, all hold branches in their hands.*

**PSALM (SAID IN UNISON): 118:1-2, 19-29**

*The reading may be announced:*

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.**

**Let Israel now proclaim,  
"His mercy endures for ever."**

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

**"This is the gate of the Lord;  
he who is righteous may enter.**

**I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

**The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

**This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**On this day the Lord has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Hosannah, Lord, hosannah!  
Lord, send us now success.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

**God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

**"You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.**

**PROCESSION COLLECT (BCP p. 272)**

*At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said*

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.**

# The Word of God

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 272)

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 Lessons

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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?

Reader      The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM (SAID IN UNISON):** Psalm 31:9-16

*Remain 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."**

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 2:5-11

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
People            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## **THE PASSION GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11—27:54**

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.*

*The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (Matthew 27:33) 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

***Congregation stands.***

(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!”

***Extended period of silence to reflect upon the passion.***

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM I (BCP p. 359)**

*All stand or kneel as you are able.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “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 Bishop, 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, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those on our prayer list;(\_\_\_\_\_) and for our family and friends on our prayer list, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays this week; especially, (\_\_\_\_\_) and for those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially, (\_\_\_\_\_) let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all the men and women of our armed forces and those who keep us safe at home; especially (\_\_\_\_\_), Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, 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 peace in the world and in our lives. Heal, love, and bless the poorest, the refugees, and the victims of every war, 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 \_\_\_\_\_) 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.**

In the communion of [ \_\_\_\_\_ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE** (BCP p. 360)

*All stand.*

Celebrant        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People        And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE** (BCP p. 376)

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

*Options for Giving:*

- 1. Checks can be made payable to St. Matthias Church. All offerings can be placed in the offertory plate or wooden boxes at the back of the Church and the East Door.*
- 2. Credit or Debit Card via the giving tab on our website [stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/](http://stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/)*
- 3. Text-to-Give via your smart phone to 73256 with matthias & amount in body of text  
Example: matthias \$25*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Celebrant    Let us pray together.

*Celebrant and People*

**God of grace, your limitless love gave us everything in Jesus, and through belief in him, you offer us life in your kingdom. Accept our gifts, and as we give, warm and soften our hearts to lead us into lives reflecting your generosity. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

# The Great Thanksgiving

## PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 361)

*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 (BCP p. 362)

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 362)

*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## **EPICLESIS** (BCP p. 363)

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM** (BCP p. 364)

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**therefore let us keep the feast.**

### **INVITATION** (BCP p. 364)

*The Celebrant says*

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.

## **DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive the real and living presence of Christ in this Holy Communion. When it is your turn, please extend your hands upward, palms crossed to receive the bread (also called a wafer or host). When the cup of wine comes to you, either dip (also called intinction) the bread into the cup of wine and consume the bread or leave the bread in the palm of your hands, and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread into the cup of wine for you and place on your tongue. You may also choose to consume the bread without dipping it into the cup of wine.*

*Anyone may come forward for a prayer for God's blessings in lieu of receiving Communion. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.*

*The Priest will gladly bring communion or provide a blessing to anyone unable to come forward for Communion, please, let one of the Ushers know if this is desired.*

***Ushers will direct the congregation to receive Communion.***

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSING** (BCP p. 830)

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNIVERSARY BLESSING** (BCP p. 431)

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL** (BCP p. 366)

Let us bless the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**