

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570  
stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com (914) 769-0053 www.stjohnspleasantville.org

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



**PALM SUNDAY LITURGY**

**28 MARCH 2021 9:30AM**

LIVE STREAM ONLINE SERVICE

*PAINTING BY JEN NORTON*

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ.

This morning we celebrate a Palm Sunday Liturgy. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

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

*All:* **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 ACCORDING TO MARK 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus 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 of our ancestor of 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.

## THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Officiant:* 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.

*All:* **Hosanna in the highest.**

### *Distribution of the Palms to those present*

## OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant:* Jesus said, "If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." *Mark 8:34*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

## THE COLLECT OF 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.**

## A READING FROM ISIAH 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?

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

### PSALM 118:1-2, 19-29

1 Give thanks to the Lord who is good;  
\* the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.  
2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
“The mercy of the Lord endures for ever.” .  
19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.  
20 ”This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
those who are righteous may enter.”  
21 I will give thanks to the Lord who answered me \*  
and has become my salvation.  
22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
23 This is the Lord’s doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! \*  
Lord, send us now success.  
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; \*

we bless you from the house of the Lord.  
27 God is the Lord and has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.  
28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."  
29 Give thanks to the Lord who is good; \*  
the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

## A READING FROM 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.

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

### **CANTICLE 14 A Song of Penitence** *Kyrie Pantokrator*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and of all their righteous offspring:  
You made the heavens and the earth, \*  
with all their vast array.  
All things quake with fear at your presence; \*  
they tremble because of your power.  
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.  
O Lord, you are full of compassion, \*  
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.  
You hold back your hand; \*  
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,  
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.  
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to you: \*  
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \*  
and in me you will show forth your goodness.  
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \*  
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

THE PRAYERS

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## SUFFRAGES: SET A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**R. And grant us your salvation.**
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**R. Let your people sing with joy.**
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## PRAYER LIST

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this skeptical world

We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith.

We pray for our Nation may we work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Bob** Gowen, **Laura** O'Malley (John & Clare McAndrew's niece), **Yumi**, **Linda** Hill, **Ronald** Garvey, **Max**, **Anne**, **Cathy**, **Barbara**, **Hudson** Beaugard; **Ellie** Ruvo, **Steven** Schubert, **Martha** Thornley and **Shlomo** Teladano

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda** Hastings, **Margaret** Vaccaro, **John & Lee** Williams, **Dorothy** Dushin, **Ronald** Acheson, **Jim**, **Marge**, **Joe** Smith, **Carolyn** Damiano, **Deanna** Ammirato and **Bill & Dorothy** D'Amato.

We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff** Daniele, **Andrew** Tom, **Rebecca**, **Vince** Servio, **Sarah** Paruolo, **Annaliese** Haag, **Martha**, **Gerald**, **Marilyn** Griffin, **Joyce**, **Paul** Ruvo, **Helene**, **Jason**, **Peter**, **Hannelore**, and **Jeff**.

We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School**, and the American **Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**.

We pray for those who have died, especially the over 500,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

### COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE:** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:1-4*

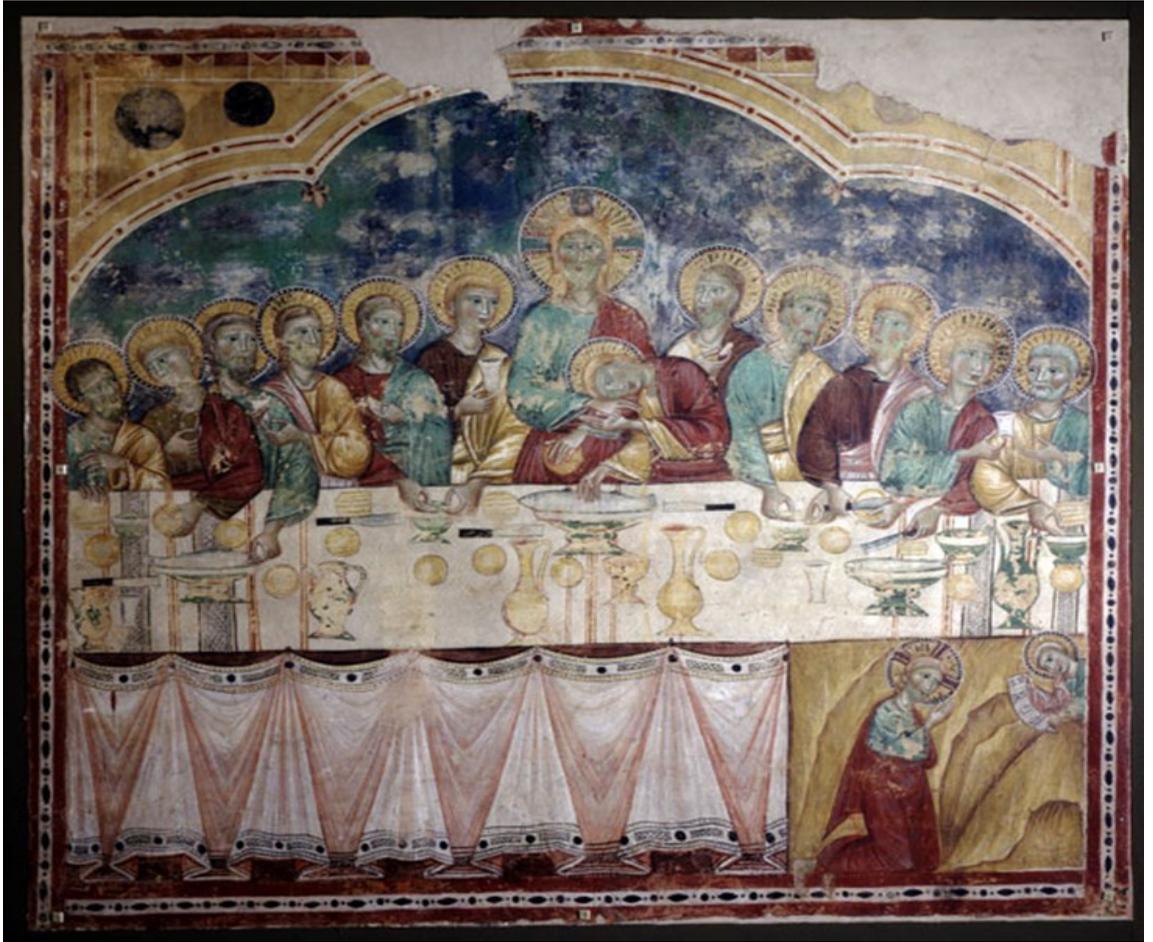
### THE PRAYER THANKSGIVING

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**



## **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** **according to Mark 14:-15:1(2-47)**

**READER #1:** 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,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #1:** 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,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #2:** 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,

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

**READER #2:** They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” He said to them,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #2:** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, .

**JESUS:** “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. He said to them, “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.”

**READER #2:** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #2:** Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” Jesus said to him,

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

**READER #2:** But [Peter] said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

**READER #3:** They went to a place called Gethsemane; and [Jesus] said to his disciples,

**JESUS:** “Sit here while I pray.”

**READER #3:** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

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

**READER #3:** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

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

**READER #3:** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #3:** 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,

**JESUS:** “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.”

**READER #3:** 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 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,

**JESUS:** “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.

**READER #4:** 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?” Jesus said,

**JESUS:** “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.’”

**READER #4:** 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.

SILENCE

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The people dismiss in silent reverence.*

**Thank you to our Readers this morning:** Robbin Levy, Peter Russell, Laura Simpson, The Rev Deacon Lynn Werdal & The Rev Mary B. Gregorius

## CALENDAR:

**Tuesday** Noon Prayers, via ZOOM, watch for link

**Wednesday 7pm-8pm Lenten Program** This week's Topic—Gratitude and Celebration—Responding with Joy! Please join us via Zoom for the Lenten Program based on the book Flunking Sainthood by Jana Riess. [Click here](#) for the sign up genius or call the office if you are interested in attending

**Bible Study;** Thursdays at 11am; feel free to ZOOM in. We are looking at Paul's Letter to the Romans

## HOLY WEEK 2021

**Maundy Thursday: 4-1-2021, 7pm;** ZOOM Service only. At 6pm, gather with your family/friend's pod Wash each other's feet and follow with a simple Agape Meal and then join in the ZOOM.

**Good Friday: 4-2-2021; 12n to 3pm** the church will be open for prayer. The Passion Gospel will unfold through out the first hour; The Liturgy for Good Friday throughout the 2nd & 3rd hours. A bulletin will be sent; the service will be accessible via Zoom

**Easter Sunday: 4-4-2021, 9:30am;** In person Morning Prayer Service will be Live Streamed through our YouTube Channel and will be followed by Holy Eucharist.

Space for In Person attendance is limited to 30 persons, please use [Sign-Up Genius to](#) reserve a spot in the church.

**Easter Cut Outs**—For those not yet ready to attend in person, please send or drop off pictures for use in the church by Thursday April 1st and we will be sure you and yours are in joyful attendance!

**Peep Golf**—Enjoy the days celebrations with feasting and frozen Peep Golf Instructions available upon request—prizes will be awarded!

## ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector:	The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius	mothermarystjohns@gmail.com
Deacon Emerita:	The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal	lynn.werdal@gmail.com
Organist:	Warren Blyden	quintiton@gmail.com
Parish Administrator:		stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com
Parish Bookkeeper:	Megan Whalen	bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com
Warden:	Debbie Paruolo	csullivan914@gmail.com
Jr. Warden:	Matt Ruvo	mattsunset@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Ken Foley	foleyken6@gmail.com
Organist	Warren Blyden	
Videographer	Hal Gregorius	Video Editor Raphael Wong
Cantor	Angela Berg	Web Master Jonathan Pytell
Vestry:	Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Jim Dirlam, Sarah Hoadley, Lynn Russell, Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko	