

# GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

## Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026



*Step into Grace where strangers become friends.*

*We are an open and affirming church.*

*Every one of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or economic status is invited to join us as together we live out the Gospel message of love, forgiveness, service, and justice.*

*No matter where you are in your spiritual journey —  
you are welcome here.*

*The people gather outside the great window before the service begins.*

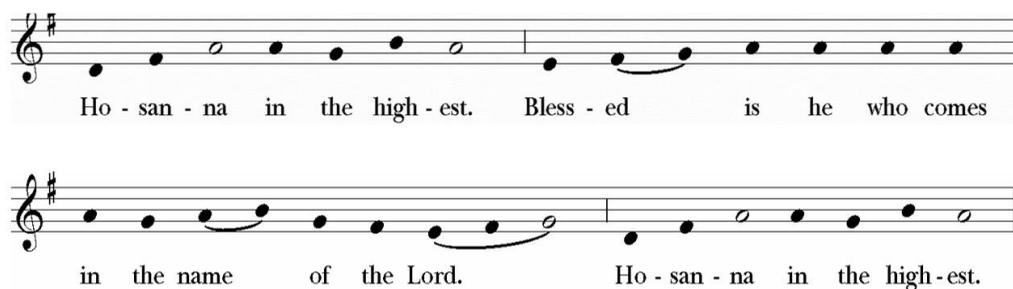
## The Liturgy of the Palms

### *The Word of God*

H 157

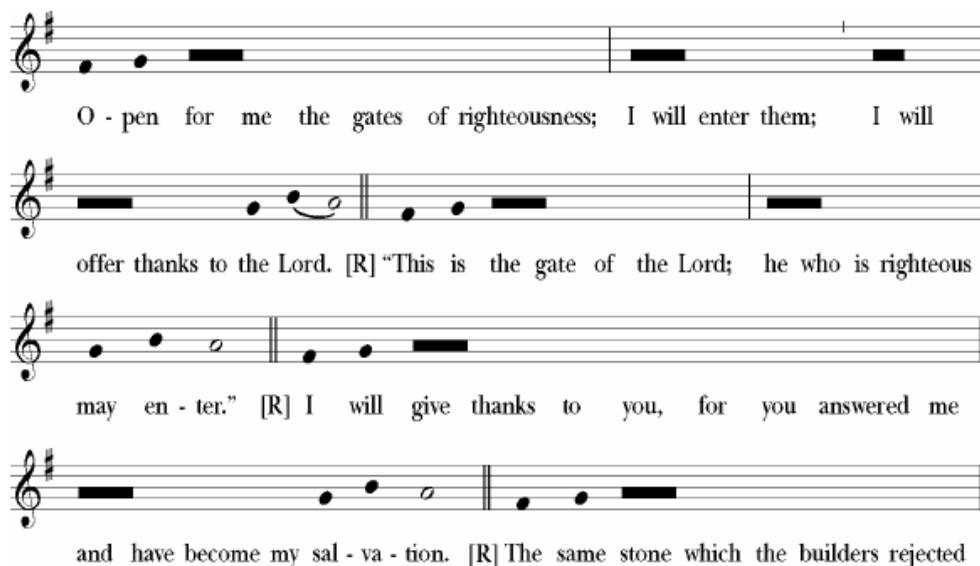
*Open for me the gates of righteousness*

*The Cantor will sing the entire antiphon, then All sing the entire antiphon.*



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Cantor and choir will sing the verses.*



O - pen for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will  
offer thanks to the Lord. [R] "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous  
may en - ter." [R] I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my sal - va - tion. [R] The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief cor - ner - stone. [R] This is the Lord's doing, and it is  
marve - lous in our eyes. [R] On this day the Lord has acted; we will  
rejoice and be glad in it. [R] Ho - san - na, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us  
now suc - cess. [R] Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you  
from the house of the Lord. [R] God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the al - tar. [R]  
"You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will ex - alt you." [R]  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ev - er. [R]

*All sing the antiphon.*

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE COLLECT

*Priest* Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

*Priest* 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.**

## 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."

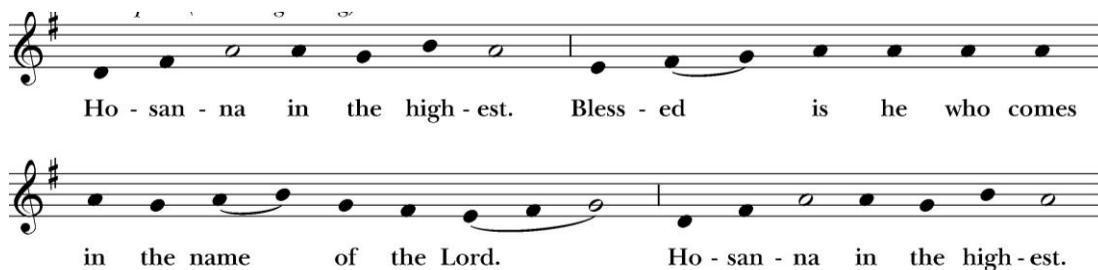
*Priest*            The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Priest*            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.**



*Priest*            Let us go forth in peace

*People*            **In the name of Christ! AMEN.**

*Following the choir, the people process into the auditorium,  
waving their palms and singing as they go.*

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.  
 Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.;  
 harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

# The Liturgy of the Word

## THE COLLECT

*Priest*           The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest*           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 FIRST READING

**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?

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 31:9-16**

**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 SERMON

*The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this Holy Season of Lent, let us return and rest in the arms of our Loving God as we pray for the Church and for the World, saying, “Christ, have mercy.”

For the Church throughout the world, that we may be bound together and strengthened to join in the work of the Lord through prayer and action. May each member of the Church be nourished in this holy season.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For this Nation, that those in positions of authority may have their hearts broken open to see the face of God in those they serve and support the common good.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For the soils and waterways, the elements of Creation that sustain our lives, and the spirit and will to conserve them as we remember that our bodies are made of the same dust.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For this community of crossroads in and among the mountains, that all who dwell here may be sustained and that we may reach out our hands to those in need of food, shelter, and community.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those who are in pain, those who grieve, those who are lonely, those who hunger for better days.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died, may their rest be in peace and may their memory be a continual blessing.

**Christ, have mercy.**

And for who or what else do we pray this morning?

*Please offer your own prayers, on behalf of yourself or another, to God in this time.*

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## **The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Let us offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving and make good our vows to the Most High



*Ah, Holy Jesus*

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

1 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 2 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 3 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 4 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 5 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy pi - ty

1 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 2 I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 3 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 4 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 5 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Words: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

Music: *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johann Cruger (1598-1662), alt.

*Priest*  
*People*

All things come, from you, O Lord.  
**And of your own have we given you.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer C

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*(Expansive Language Version)*

*Priest* God be with you

*People* **And also with you**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe,  
you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be:

shining light and enfolding dark;

the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns

and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,

and blessed us with capacity for memory, reason, and skill.

You made us stewards of your creation.

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust;

and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return.

Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law.

And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word,

born of our sister Mary,

to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

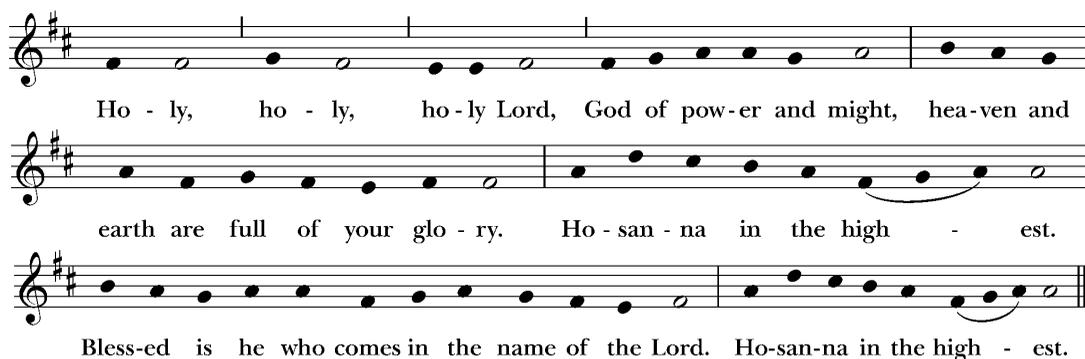
**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you,  
joining with the heavenly chorus,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope,  
to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

S 124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: from New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing,  
broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said,  
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do  
this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,  
"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption,  
and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
**We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, as we await the day of  
his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel;

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

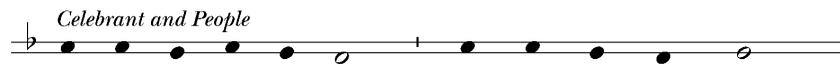
Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

*And now in the words that Jesus taught us and teaches us still, we pray,*

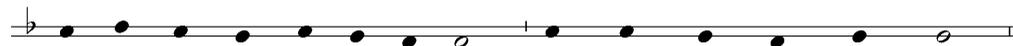
## S 148



As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,



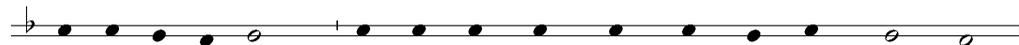
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



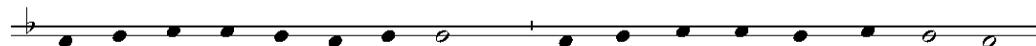
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Great Mystery of Love broken open to be shared in order that we who are hungry may be fed.*

### AGNUS DEI: S 161

#### *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: from New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*  
*People*

Behold what you are.  
**May we become what we receive.**  
These are the Gifts of God for you the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### All Are Welcome at God's Table

Gluten-free bread is available. Please let the priest know if you would prefer this. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. And lastly, if you need communion brought to you, just let the usher know. All are welcome at God's feast.

The Grace Healing Team is in the back of the room during Communion to offer the laying on of hands and a prayer for healing to anyone who desires it for themselves or another.

*If you cannot physically receive the communion bread because you are participating in this service virtually, you are invited to pray this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:*

Lord Jesus, as you promised to be with us in the bread and wine that is your body and blood, grant that we may receive you spiritually today into our hearts, minds, and souls. Stay with us; be our companion in the way; kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you and have confidence in your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

*And now, O Father, Mindful of the love*

1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that  
 2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and  
 \*3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by  
 \*4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most

bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us  
 on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -  
 this pre - vail - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clos - er  
 pa - tient Sa - vior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre - sent, we here spread  
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our  
 to thy mer - cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their  
 awe - some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per - fect in thine  
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -  
 soul's true weal! From taint - ing mis - chief keep them pure and  
 touch of ill: in thine own ser - vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.  
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.  
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.  
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

Words: William Bright (1824-1901), alt.  
 Music: *Unde et memores*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

**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.**

### A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

*Let us pray.*

**Most generous and loving God, we thank you for the gift of children. With each child, you refresh your promises to all of us. Through each child, you remind us to take care of all you have created.**

**We pray your blessing on each child today. Teach them to love courage and to trust you. Help them see you at work in your world.**

**Help them speak words of love, peace, and friendship. Turn their faces in kindness toward their neighbors, and fill each one with confidence in your steadfast love. This we ask in the name of your child, Jesus the Christ. AMEN.**

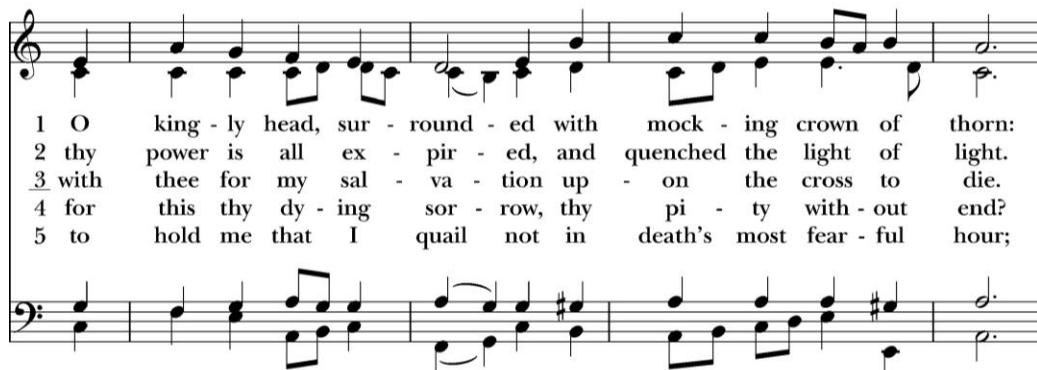
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTCOMMUNION HYMN

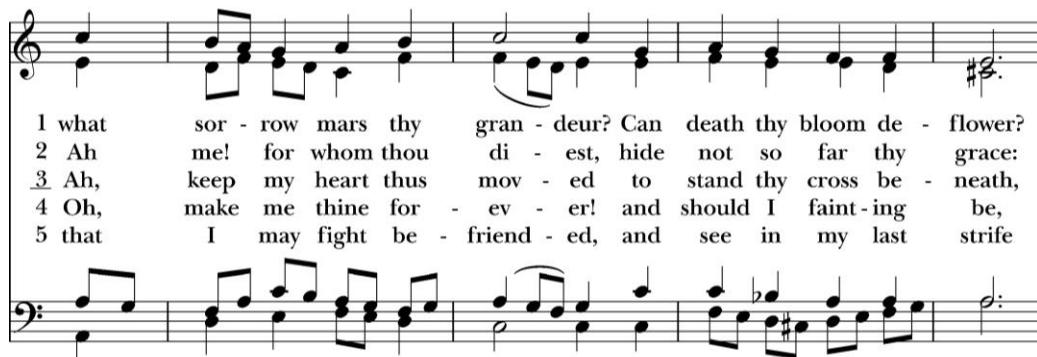
Vs 1, 2, 4, 5 H 168

*O sacred head, sore wounded*


1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;  
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;  
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,  
 \*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 \*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,



1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:  
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.  
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.  
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?  
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;



1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?  
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:  
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,  
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,  
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!  
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.  
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.  
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.  
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); sts. 1-3 and 5, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); st. 4, tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859), alt.  
 Musik: *Hertzlich tut mich verlangen* [*Passion Chorale*], Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612); adapt. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*The congregation sits.  
 The Passion Gospel is read in parts led by a narrator  
 The congregation reads the part of the **Congregation**.*

## The Passion According to Matthew

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

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, `The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

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

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in

whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

ACCUSERS: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

BYSTANDER: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: But they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

CONGREGATION: "**Barabbas.**"

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: "**Let him be crucified!**"

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "**Let him be crucified!**"

NARRATOR: 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,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION: "**His blood be on us and on our children!**"

NARRATOR: 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,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: 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.

*(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)*

NARRATOR: 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), 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,

BYSTANDERS: "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."

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "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.'"

NARRATOR: 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,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: that is,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: "This man is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: 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,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

NARRATOR: 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,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

NARRATOR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*There will be a 3-minute silence for meditation on The Passion following the reading. Then all depart in silence.*

*The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*

*In this version, a few pronouns have been changed to the corresponding proper nouns for clarity in a dramatic reading. No other changes have been made to the text.*

## GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week*

**Members of the Parish Family:** Pennie Curry; Aicha and Matt Marcos; Rick and Sue Gore, and the Haywood family; Louise Peterson; Charlene Peet; The Rev. Marc Britt; Anne Andrews; George Raymond; Dindy and Mark Anderson; Linda White and her grandchildren, Claire, Mark, and Johnny; David Hamill; Doone Marshall; Meredith Haider; Rosemarie Blakely.

**Others we Love:** Julia DePeyster, friend of Lea Richardson; Ada Gómez, mother-in-law of Rev. Jimmy; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Doreen's sister, Linda Manardi; The Rev. Gene Perry and Shirley Perry, parents of Pastor Mark; Paul, neighbor of Gina and Phil; Susie, Mike, and Emily Silver; Fran Hunt, Anne Andrew's sister; Michal Snyder, Dessida's sister; Elizabeth Brannan; Anne Kistrup and Pam Reed, Lynn Walker's friends; Susan Bunce, Mary Booton's sister; Doone Marshall's granddaughter, Bex; George Laye; Fleming and Dick Rutledge; Tania Guerrero and her baby daughter Eugenia Marie Ayala Guerrero; David Rodriguez Ovalle, Sergio Rodriguez's father; Richard Cherneff; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Bishop Michael Curry; Sara Miles and her wife Martha; Jerry and Karen Ericson; Kristen Mary, beloved cousin of Jainee McCarroll; James Driscoll; Livia Driscoll; Deborah McCurdy.

**Those who have died:** Dale Peterson, Hawa Kiebre and Salif Tiri Ouedraogo, mother and father of Aicha Marcos; Jeff Zinn, Dindy Anderson's brother in law; Kathy O'Brien, Pennie Curry's sister; Paul Haywood, Sue Gore's brother; Jane Brooks; The Rev. Donna Larson former Rector of St. George's; Hannah Peabody, Caroline Murray's friend, Pam Minshew, sister of Lee Cheek; Laura Fallon, Jainee McCarroll's friend; The Rev. Donald Peet; Joan Mulhern, Rob Clausen's sister; Pamela Drumm; Antonia Poulos, Jainee McCarroll's friend.

**Our world:** For the people of Iran, Lebanon, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, the Sudan, and all other places of violence and war, that peace and justice may prevail, and human fear and suffering diminish. For all victims of hatred in this country; for all victims of gun violence and also for those who inflict gun violence on others. For all who are alone, afraid, or despairing. For prisoners, unhoused people, newly arrived immigrants, and all our neighbors, near and far.

The many ministries of our local community, especially for our partners at St. Paul's and the Rev. Samuel Vaught, the Rev. Jane Tillman, and the Rev. Libby Wade; Christ Trinity and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher; and the Mampong Babies' Home; and The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, the Bishop Elect for the Bishop Candidates for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

In the sixth century, the “filioque” clause referring to the Holy Spirit crept into the Nicene Creed in the Church in the West (Roman) without consultation or agreement from the Church in the East (Orthodox): “...Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.” The Episcopal Church meeting in general Convention in 1994 agreed to remove the clause in the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer. In the meantime, since Grace Church prints the creed text in our bulletins, we have removed the clause and adjusted musical settings to put the Episcopal Church’s intention into practice.

### **CALENDAR**

#### **ALL IN-PERSON + ON ZOOM**

Wednesdays, 10:00 am: Contemplative Eucharist at Grace Church Chapel

Thursdays, 5:00 pm: Centering Prayer at Grace Church Chapel

Sundays, 10:00 am: Worship Service at Berkshire South Community Center

### **GRACE CHURCH**

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Please visit our website: [www.graceberkshires.org](http://www.graceberkshires.org)

## WORSHIP LEADERS

| ROTA                   | This Week<br>3/29/26          | Next Week<br>4/5/26                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>WELCOME TEAM</b>    | Richard Starr<br>Phil Burt    | Rick Gore<br>Sue Gore              |
| <b>ACOLYTE</b>         | Jack Kamps                    | Peter Kirchoff                     |
| <b>LECTOR</b>          | Holly Murray                  | Matt Marcos                        |
| <b>INTERCESSOR</b>     | Laura Jordahl                 | Sarah Sieber                       |
| <b>CHALICE BEARERS</b> | Jack Kamps<br>Louise Peterson | Peter Kirchoff<br>Jacob Greer      |
| <b>HEALING TEAM</b>    | Ted Cobden<br>Sue Gore        | Ted Cobden<br>Kathy Clausen        |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>     | Jack Kamps<br>Sarah Sieber    | Peter Kirchoff<br>Monique Kirchoff |
| <b>COFFEE HOUR</b>     | <b>No Coffee Hour</b>         | Carol Way<br>Rick and Sue Gore     |
| <b>COUNTERS</b>        | Carol Way<br>Kathy Clausen    | Rick Gore<br>Kathy Clausen         |
| <b>VESTRY CLOSER</b>   | Phil Burt                     | Matt Marcos                        |

## GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Senior Warden:</b> | Matt Marcos                                 |
| <b>Junior Warden:</b> | Evie Starr                                  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>     | Sue Gore                                    |
| <b>Clerk:</b>         | Doreen Hutchinson                           |
| <b>Class of 2027</b>  | Jainee McCarroll, Kevin Rosero              |
| <b>Class of 2028</b>  | Mackenzie Kendall, Evie Starr               |
| <b>Class of 2029</b>  | Phil Burt, Lynn Carlson, and Dindy Anderson |

## GRACE CHURCH STAFF

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bishop of Western Massachusetts:</b> | The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher |
| <b>Rector:</b>                          | The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett   |
| <b>Gideon's Garden Director:</b>        | Jack Kamps                      |
| <b>Choir Director:</b>                  | John Cheek                      |
| <b>Keyboardist:</b>                     | Lee Cheek                       |
| <b>Parish Administrator:</b>            | Mackenzie Kendall               |

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026

|                      |  |                   |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Wednesday<br>April 1 | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br>Grace Church Chapel   | 10:00 am          |
| Thursday<br>April 2  | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>Worship & Foot Washing<br>Grace Church Chapel  | 6:00 pm           |
| Thursday<br>April 2  | <b>Vigil at the Altar of Repose</b><br>St. Paul's, Stockbridge   | 8:00pm-<br>8:00am |
| Friday<br>April 3    | <b>Three Hour Meditation on the Last<br/>Seven Words of Jesus</b><br>St. Paul's, Stockbridge                               | 12:00 pm          |
| Friday<br>April 3    | <b>Proper Liturgy of the Day: The<br/>Passion, Solemn Collects, and<br/>Veneration of the Cross</b><br>Grace Church Chapel | 6:00pm            |
| Saturday<br>April 4  | <b>Proper Liturgy of the Day</b><br>A brief moment to pause and mourn<br>St. Paul's, Stockbridge                           | 10:00 am          |
| Saturday<br>April 4  | <b>The Rite of Reconciliation</b><br>St. Paul's, Stockbridge   | 2:00 - 3:30<br>pm |
| Saturday<br>April 4  | <b>The Great Vigil of Easter</b><br>St. Paul's, Stockbridge  | 8:00pm            |
| Sunday<br>April 5    | <b>The Sunday of the Resurrection:<br/>Easter Sunday</b><br>Berkshire South & on Zoom<br>15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington | 10:00 am          |