

**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

✠

CAPITOL HILL

ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in life's struggles and care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



PALM SUNDAY

March 22, 2026

**5:00 PM LITURGY OF THE PALMS
& CONTEMPLATIVE EUCHARIST**

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Associate Rector

The Reverend Caitlin Frazier

Pastoral Associate

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

Seminarian

Rebekah Taylor

Director of Music

Jeff Kempskie

Children, Youth, & Family

Ministry Director

Lisa Ramish

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church ✠ Capitol Hill

To view the **parish calendar online**, please visit our homepage www.stmarks.net and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Hearing – Infrared headsets providing amplified sound are in the tract racks by the doors, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are available in the foyer, with more downstairs.

Land Acknowledgement We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples on whose traditional territory we are located, specifically the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We make this acknowledgment mindful of the traumatic events and the ongoing forces of systemic racism and oppression that forced native peoples from their lands. We continue our commitment to learning, growing, and finding a new way forward for meaningful, mutual healing.



THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

The people gather in the A Street Courtyard.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Let us pray.

O God, with the kindness of your love, assist us that we, with joyful faithfulness, may contemplate anew the mighty acts of your Son, our brother Jesus, through which you grant us life. Amen.

PSALM 118:1-2, 22-24, 28-29 (adapted) *Read responsively.*

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
a steadfast love endures forever!

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
a steadfast love endures forever.

God is with you.
Always with us.

Therefore, let us give thanks!

It is always good to give thanks to you, O God, for the acts of love by which you redeem us through your Son, our brother Jesus. On this day, we remember his triumphal entry into the holy city of Jerusalem, where he was proclaimed as God's chosen by those spreading 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 follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!
Hosanna in the highest!

The palms are distributed.

Let us go forth in peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

All process into the Nave. The people proceed to their seats and the presider stands at the lectern

STATION COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, your dear son, our brother Jesus, knew not joy before first suffering pain, entering 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. Amen.

A period of silence is observed.

THE COLLECT

Together, 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 people sit.

THE FIRST READING 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

The Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

AFFIRMATION

Let us pray together:

**We believe in God the Creator,
by whom every person in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today, we wave our palms and cry “Hosanna” as we enter Holy Week. Let us walk together, drawing closer to the end of Jesus’ life, saying: “Lead us in your way.”

Silence is kept for a time.

Gracious God, your Son entered Jerusalem in humility and was welcomed as king. Strengthen your Church throughout the world, that we may follow him without fear, walking the way of the cross with faith and love. We pray for all who serve in your name.
Lead us in your way.

In Jesus you took the form of a servant. Guide the leaders of the nations to use their power with humility, seek justice for the oppressed, and work for peace among all people and the end of all wars. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

You hear the cries of those who are rejected and forgotten, especially refugees, prisoners, the unhoused, and all those our society treats with contempt; let us each know your steadfast love and dignity. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

You give a word to sustain the weary. As we hear the story of Christ’s Passion, open our hearts so we may not turn away, but take up the work of love, serving the suffering, lifting the lowly, and walking in the way of the cross. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

On the cross, Jesus entered fully into human suffering. Be close to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit: the sick, the dying, the grieving, and the despairing, and hold them in your mercy and love. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

We entrust to you all who have died, that they may share in Christ's resurrection and dwell in the light of your presence forever. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

As we step into this Holy Week, walking the path from palms to the cross, let us offer ourselves to God who has given everything for us. As we follow Jesus,
Lead us in your way.

Please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud.

Together, let us pray:

Almighty and everliving God, you invite us to go deeper into your life and the life of your people. Set us free to live generously and bravely. Give us hearts ready to serve, and send us to share what we have with a world in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION

Let us together, in honesty, confess our brokenness.

A time of silence and self-examination may be kept.

Together:

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you!
And also with you.

VESTRY GREETING

WELCOME

ELECTRONIC OFFERING

Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Mark's website, stmarks.net, and choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.

Gifts to St. Marks can also be made by texting "stmarks20003" to 73256, or by visiting the QR code. Thank you for your generous support of our collective work.



Food offerings may be brought forward to the baskets under the altar at this time.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

God of abundance, as we go about our daily routines of giving and receiving, help us listen to your call to feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe those without, and visit people in need. Take what we give and use it for your kin-dom's work. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

EEUCHARISTIC PRAYER

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love, you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings, you never cease to call us to fullness of life.

You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, suffering with us, in his dying and rising, sharing with us the pattern of our living.

Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished, and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We ask that your Holy Spirit fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This, my body, I give to you. Eat and remember me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This, my blood, I give to you. Drink and remember me."

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold. Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking, we are filled with Jesus' life-giving presence; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table and this bread and wine as God's food for us all.

Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe or do not believe, All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

THE COMMUNION

St. Mark's receives communion "in the round" as a symbol of our strong belief in the power of community.

You will be offered bread by a celebrant and invited to drink from the common cup. Please put out your hands to help guide the cup to your lips, and drink.

If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your hands over your chest. Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

Lord of this feast beyond measure and price: we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share bread with our neighbor, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May our wilderness bear no terror for us, only truth. May our truth never break us, only make bold our strength. May we, in our strength, seek not to sustain only ourselves but make swift our service to others. And may the blessing of God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – shine in us and through us, this day and always.

Amen.

There is no dismissal in this service.

All are invited to continue walking the last week of Jesus' life together through the rest of the Triduum services (Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter).



Liturgical Colors and Symbols:

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and marks the start of Holy Week. On this day, crosses are covered with red, which stands for Jesus' passion, instead of the purple used during Lent. We carry palms just as people did when they welcomed Jesus. In places where palms do not grow, like Eastern Europe and Russia, people use pussy willows instead, since they bloom in early spring. This tradition is called Pussywillow Sunday, and the liturgical color is green to represent spring plants and the palms waved by Jesus' followers. Sometimes, gold vestments are worn to symbolize triumph. This year, the Orthodox Church is a week behind us: while we celebrate Easter, they will be observing Pussywillow Sunday. The willows are burned after being blessed, but their ashes are not kept for the following year. Traditionally, we keep extra palms, dry them, and burn them to make ashes for the next Ash Wednesday.



Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

*We'd love to talk to you if you're interested in serving in the liturgy in any of the following roles!
For more information, contact our Assistant Rector Caitlin Frazier, Caitlin@stmarks.net*

Ministers	All the Members of St. Mark's
Presider & Preacher	The Reverend Patricia Catalano
Vergers	Martha Huizenga

Acknowledgments: Liturgy of the Palms (adapted), Confession, Absolution, and Peace The Lord's Prayer; *The Book of Common Prayer*. The Collect; *Common Worship*, adapted by Michele Morgan. Affirmation: Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. Prayers Of the People: the Clergy of St. Mark's. Eucharistic Prayer, Post-communion Prayer, and The Blessing: *Prayers from an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. Rubric, from *Common Worship*. Prayers Of the People: the Clergy of St. Mark's. Offertory Sentence: by Reverend Michele Morgan. Invitation to communion, common usage St. Mark's Capitol Hill.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Tenebrae, Wednesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. A solemn candlelit service of Scripture and shadows, remembering Christ's
Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Dinner in Parish Hall

8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service (live-streamed)

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at the U.S. Capitol

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

Special Service, April 4

10:00 a.m. Walking after Jesus, Interactive Children's Holy Week Service

Easter Sunday, April 5

9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch

11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist with incense (live-streamed)

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist

Our Regular Sunday Service Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Eucharist

10:00 a.m. – Sermon Seminar

11:15 a.m. – Festival Eucharist (live-streamed)

5:00 p.m. – Contemplative Eucharist

Online at <https://www.stmarks.net/lent-and-easter>



Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

African Palms

Pray for our Jewish siblings observing the Season of Passover

Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Martin Luther King (April 4)

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Parish Prayer List

Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Pam Baugh • Alex Beau • Jackie Boddie
Joseph Boone • Suzanne Burnette • Tracy Councill
Mark, Karen, Abby & Aimee Dahl • Martin & Mary De Nys • Charley Donnelly
Leonard "Toby" Ellison • Pete Eveleth • Karen Falk • Jack Guza • Dianne Hall
Barbara Harvey • Michael Henely • Jack Howell • Gale Johnson • Julia Jones
Liam Kenny • Shadi Khoury • Hatcher Byrd Kincheloe • Pat Latin
Marwan Ibrahim Maadi • Lila Marks • Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks
Sis McKay • Walt Moody • Fred Muller (and family) • Mike Neuman • Hester Ohbi
Malik Robinson Jr • Charlie Rupp • T.H. Salmon • Ben Schaibly • Bob Schaaf
Stephanie Seely • Elin Whitney Smith • Richard Smith • Helen Soheilli
Martha Kincheloe Spain • Suzanne Stepanek Spratt • Barbara Starkey
Deb Sullivan • Anthony Sullivan • Yasser & Jawaher Toshtash • David Thacker
Carol Thornhill • Stephanie Toth • Stephen Wolf • Geoffrey Wood • Tom Zarek

Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest • Noah Landen
Ensign Andrew Loevinger • Lt. Tyler Gray-Hoehn • 1st Lt. Colin Gray-Hoehn

*If you would like to request to add or remove a name,
please email the Bulletin Coordinator at bulletin@stmarks.net*

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Annick Milde, Parish Administrator for Finance	pfa@stmarks.net
Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director	judith@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Alix Pereira	srwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	Martha Huizenga	juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '27	Elizabeth Becker, Kristina Keenan & Doug Padgett	
Class of '28	Mary Ellison, Ben Flowers, Katherine White	
Class of '29	Laura Gladstone, Randy Marks, Bo Ranney	

Officers

Doug Ammon, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ryan Baugh, <i>Clerk</i>
Roy Phillips, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Karen Wiedemann, <i>Vestry Counsel</i>
Nick Simons, <i>Risk Manager</i>	

Diocesan Delegates

J.R. Randall (2027), Mary Neznec (2027), Jan Lipscomb (2028), Michael Knipe (2029)

Upcoming Vestry Meetings will be held on April 28 7:00 PM via Zoom and in-person. If you have questions, contact the Vestry Clerk at clerk@stmarks.net



Welcome Guests!

We'd like to get to know you better!

We invite you to fill out this page, tear it off, and drop it into the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters as you leave. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or one of the greeters after the service.

To complete this form online, or sign up for our weekly newsletter, use this QR code:



I attended: _____ 5 p.m. Worship Service on March 29, 2026

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone No. _____

Zip Code _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- _____ Becoming a member
- _____ Service and Social Justice
- _____ Adult education classes and prayer groups
- _____ Volunteer during worship (Greet, Lay Serve, Altar Guild, Read, etc.)
- _____ Baptism/Confirmation (child, adult)
- _____ Music (choir, lessons)
- _____ Children/youth classes & programs including Sunday School
- _____ Affinity groups (20s/30s, Men's Group, Women's Group)
- _____ Getting married at St. Mark's
- _____ Meditation Center
- _____ Yoga classes
- _____ Dance classes
- _____ St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)

Anything else you would like to share?

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today. *Go in peace and return often!*