



PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

8:30 AM

Cover art: Justin McCarthy (1891–1977) / *Entry into Jerusalem*, 20th century / oil on fiberboard, 24 1/8 × 24 1/8 in. / Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr. (1988.74.10)

After Justin McCarthy flunked out of law school, he spent five years in a psychiatric hospital, where he began to draw and paint. After release, he worked odd jobs and grew and sold produce to support himself. Though his work appeared in an outsider art group exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1966, McCarthy remained little known during his lifetime. McCarthy's subjects ranged from pop stars and verdant landscapes to historical events and bible stories. Here McCarthy employs claustrophobic repetition and a bird's-eye view to convey the noise and crush of "the great crowd that...went out to meet" Jesus (John 12:12–13).

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

BCP 270

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.**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

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 kingdom of our ancestor 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 over the Branches

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 our 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

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

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
“His mercy 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; *
he who is righteous may enter.”
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have 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 Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! *
LORD, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 God is the LORD; he 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, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Collect

BCP 272

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

Collect of the Day

BCP 168

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards humankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

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?

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

Psalm 31:9-16 *unison*

BCP 623

- 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.”

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

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.

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

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. Silence follows the reading.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice-President, members of Congress and the Supreme Court, and our Governors, Mayors, and Legislators, and all working for peace in Ukraine; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially St. Thomas parishioners John, Bob, Kathy, Mary Jane, Neal, Maeve, Laurie, Murray, Gene, Ellen, Steve, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; our homebound members Ramón, Murray, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William; and friends of the parish Linda, the family & friends of Lexy McRae, Sam, Jim, Michael, Molly, and Charlene.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Joe, Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Bob, and Judy, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus

Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 336

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

<i>Celebrant</i>	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
<i>People</i>	Therefore let us keep the feast.
<i>Celebrant</i>	O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.
<i>Celebrant</i>	O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.
<i>Celebrant</i>	O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
<i>People</i>	Grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access *unison*

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

All Christians from any denomination are invited to share in communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the altar rail. Hold out two hands to receive bread dipped in wine and then take the wafer as it is given to you. Hold out one hand to receive bread only. As the second chalice passes, you may dip the bread in the chalice or drink from it as you wish. If you prefer not to receive communion but desire a blessing, cross your arms across your chest and a priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar by request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

Solemn Prayer over the People

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

The Dismissal

Thanks to Jonathan Walz for selecting art for our Holy Week bulletins

Jonathan is the Director of Curatorial Affairs & Curator of American Art at The Columbus Museum.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: John Partin, Bob Chitwood, Kathy Frost, Mary Jane Whisnant, Neal Fenter, Maeve Morrill, Laurie Mahon, Murray Craig, Gene Wells, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Murray Craig, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: Linda (*Florence Wakoko-Studstill*), the friends and family of Lexy McRae (*Riley Connery, Taylor St. John*), Sam Delgado (*Kym Futch*), Jim Holder (*Jenny Holder*), Michael Langan (*Cindy Godwin*), Molly Lane (*Cindy Godwin*), Charlene Ellison (*Meg Olive-Allison*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: William Sealy 3/24, Anna Williams 3/26, Thomas Olukolade 3/26, Grace Burton-Edwards 3/27, Ian Dooley 3/27, Molly Sutter 3/28, Sue Smith 3/29, Shelby Peck 3/29, Julie Van Meter 3/30, Ronald Veasey 3/30

Those celebrating anniversaries: Jack & Nicole Ceccato 3/25, Roger & Erin Redden 3/30

Those who have died: Joe Stewart 4/5/23, Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24

Announcements

For more details about these events visit our website at www.stthomascolumbus.org or see our latest *Seasons* newsletter

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available.

Formation:

Sunday Stories: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adult Formation: 9:30-10:15 in the Library. March 24: Bishop Wright's Lent teaching series - Letting Go of the Fear of Death

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags provided in the Narthex or on the table in the Narthex, for your convenience.

Live Streamed Service: If you need to follow the service in a quieter space or need room to move around, the 10:30 service is live streamed in the Parish Hall. You may come to nave for communion.

Contemplative Healing Service: This evening at 5pm in the Chapel. Silence, gentle chanting, scripture, candlelight, meditation, healing prayers with anointing, and the Holy Eucharist. Bring your most vulnerable self, and be met with the gift of silence and healing.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: No service this week in observance of Holy Week.

News for this week

Holy Week & Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday, March 28:

5:30pm - Agape Supper in the Parish Hall – a simple supper of soup and bread

6:30pm – Gather in the Nave for a ritual of foot washing followed by Eucharist. The service ends with stripping the altar of all adornment, a sign of mourning for Good Friday. Nursery care will be available beginning at 6:15. Children will go to Children's Chapel at the start of the service and join their families for foot washing, Eucharist, and stripping of the altar. This service will be livestreamed.

7:30-10:00pm – “The Watch”. Come and go from the Columbarium (Chapel in case of rain) to pray as if you were staying up with Jesus in the garden. Devotional materials available. Priests will also be available to offer the Rite of Reconciliation.

Good Friday, March 29:

12:00pm – The Liturgy of the Day, with a reading of the Passion from John's gospel and adoration of the cross. Nursery is available beginning at 11:30. This service will be livestreamed.

6:30pm - Stations of the Cross will be set up in the Nave throughout the afternoon for individual meditation and reflection. A service of Stations of the Cross will be in the Nave at 6:30 pm. Nursery care will be available for the 6:30 service. Older children are invited to join their parents.

Holy Saturday, March 30:

9:30am – A brief liturgy recalling the burial of Jesus. We will also bless a new paschal candle and remember everyone who was buried under the light of the old paschal candle.

Easter Vigil, March 30:

6:30pm - We gather outside to kindle a new fire and welcome the light of Christ. We enter a darkened Nave and hear the Exsultet (an ancient Easter hymn) while we light candles from the new paschal candle. We hear the scriptures and a sermon in darkness, and then turn on the lights to welcome Easter and celebrate Baptism. Nursery care and children's chapel will be available. This service will be livestreamed.

Easter Sunday, March 31:

9:00am & 11:00am - Two nearly identical services at 9 am (no incense) and 11 am (with incense) with brass and glorious music to celebrate the risen Christ. Sausage muffins and pastries will be available outside and in the parish hall. Children and families are invited to flower the cross outside as you arrive. Nursery care and children's chapel will be available at both services. Both services will be livestreamed.

Reconciliation of a Penitent: Some Christian traditions emphasize the practice of individual confession during Lent. In The Episcopal Church, we call it the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent. Two forms of the rite are on pages 447 and 449 of the Book of Common Prayer. Form I begins with confession and ends with scripture and absolution (a declaration of God's forgiveness). Form II begins with scripture and ends with confession and absolution. The Rite of Reconciliation is not required or expected of anyone but is available for all who desire it. Many seek it out as part of their practice of repentance during the season of Lent. Contact any of our clergy to schedule a time for the Rite of Reconciliation. Lay people are also invited to share the rite with one another. Our clergy will offer this rite on Maundy Thursday evening from the end of the service until 10 pm.

Easter Pictures! First - Plan to take your photo in front of the Easter altar with the flowered cross on Easter Sunday between the 9 and 11 am services. This is a tradition we honor and are encouraging this year especially with renovations coming. **Second** - Please send us your Easter pictures from years past! We'd like to share these in a slide show on April 7 during our Parish Hall picnic and save them for history! If you have Easter pictures to share please email them to Meg@stthomascolumnbus.org by April 3.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Nametags: We're encouraging everyone to wear your nametag to church! A sheet can be found in the narthex to request a nametag. Leave it in your car or purse, or in the wooden nametag holder in the narthex if you want to leave it at church. We do not make nametags for children without a request, for safety reasons.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursdays from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library and on Zoom. Study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday in this one-hour class taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class. Contact the church office to register.

Evening Prayer: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 5:45 or so on Zoom. We gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.

Prayer Group: The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is confidential to the Prayer Group. Contact the church office to request prayers or to find out about being a part of the Prayer Group. The group meets in person in the Chapel at St. Thomas the first Monday of each month and online on other Mondays.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.

