Welcome to Worship: Thank you for making Grace-St. Luke’s part of your spiritual journey and for joining us today for this virtual worship offering. If you are new among us, please complete an online Connect Card at gracestlukes.org/online-visitor-card. Our clergy-staff team would like to reach out to learn more about you and to explore how life at Grace-St. Luke's might bless your journey and you bless ours. For more about our thriving faith community including online formation (learning) offerings, please visit www.gracestlukes.org.

Officiant: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

Preacher: The Rev. Meredith Jane Day

All are asked to observe silence during the Voluntary: “Improvisation on Valet will ich dir geben” Patrick A. Scott

Welcome and Announcements

This service is an adaptation of various services for public worship in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) of The Episcopal Church. Text in boldface type is read aloud or sung by the congregation. Text in italics provides directions or details. Explore the richness of the BCP online at bcponline.org including Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. During this service, please feel free to stand, sit, or even kneel at the appointed times and practice any personal pieties that might enhance your engagement in this experience.

The Liturgy of the Palms

The assembly gathers in the Sanctuary for the Liturgy of the Palms.

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.

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.”

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
People Hosanna in the highest.
Celebrant Let us go forth in peace
People In the name of Christ. Amen.
Hymn 436, stanzas 1, 2, & 5, “Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates”

music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.
text: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

The Word of God

Celebrant    Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People       His mercy endures forever.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution said by all

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.

The Priest says

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

The Sequence: Hymn 167, stanzas 1, 2 & 5, “There is a green hill far away”

music: Horsley, William Horsley (1774-1858)
text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.
The Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. When indicated during the reading, the congregation will be invited to stand and remain standing until its ending.

Priest  The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

All stand

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, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.” The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”
The Prayers of the People, Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Phoebe our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans,
for the sick and the suffering reflected on the Prayer List of this parish, for all whose lives are affected due to
the COVID-19 pandemic and those who now care for them, and for the people and concerns we personally
name silently or aloud:
Silence
The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life including the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support
life at Grace-St. Luke’s; for our School and all schools that serve our community; for the Anglican Communion,
The Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of West Tennessee; and for all individuals, communities, and organiza-
tions working tirelessly and creatively to respond to the needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.
The Peace

Celebrant    The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People       And also with you.

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

During the anthem that then is followed by instrumental music, or following this service, you may make your offering online by clicking on or visiting gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving. You also may mail your offering to the church office. Grace-St. Luke’s is not closed during this season of physical distancing. Instead, we are becoming more open and creative in how we abide with God, walk by faith, and service one another. Your gift to the glory of God supports the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke’s Church.

Voluntary at the Offertory, “LARGO, FROM SONATA IN C MAJOR”

music: Johann Friedrich Fasch (1688-1758)
Andrew Carroll, bassoon

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

Lenten Solemn Prayer and Blessing

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

The people are dismissed with these words

Minister     Let us bless the Lord.
People       Thanks be to God.

Refrain

All glory, land, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!

to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal Son,
2 The company of angels is praising thee on high;
3 The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
4 To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,

I who in the Lord’s Name comeest, the King and Blessed One.
2 and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
3 our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.
4 to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
5 who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.

All are invited to continue the day, giving thanks to God for blessings known and known, and by reaching out in care for fellow parishioners, neighbors, and any persons in need. Members of the parish with any needs or pastoral concerns: email pastoralcare@gracestlukes.org or dial 901-252-6320, and for hospitalizations or emergencies, dial the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334.

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Officiant
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music and Organist
Lucy Owens, Director of Communications

The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Preacher
Andrew Carroll, bassoon
Grace-St. Luke’s: A lot is happening in our common life. Check out the following news, keep good care, and please be in touch with the clergy-staff team to assist you along the way!

Note followed by mess

Virtual Offerings

**Sunday, April 5 Worship at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook Live.** Join us live stream on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. as the clergy and musicians lead a Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday liturgy and provide a service leaflet to follow along. Whether or not you have a Facebook account, you can access the live stream via www.gracestlukes.org/facebook, which includes a step-by-step instruction guide. **Please note:** A recording of the service will be available by noon on Sunday at this link: www.gracestlukes.org/news/palm-sunday-april-5.

**Tuesday and Thursday, Compline (Night Prayers) via Facebook Live.** A member of the clergy or the laity will lead a 15-minute service of Compline (Night Prayers) on Facebook Live on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. Access the order of service in The Book of Common Prayer (p 127), online at www.bcponline.org/DailyOffice/compline.html, or via PDF download. Spread the word!

**Wednesday Mid-Week Christian Formation, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.** either via Facebook Live or an uploaded pre-recorded video. Weekly topics are announced in the preceding Friday’s 3:00 p.m. “Looking Ahead” eNews and online at www.gracestlukes.org/news/weekly-virtual-offerings.

**Fridays at Noon, “Catch Up with the Clergy: A Weekly Lunch Meeting” on ZOOM Video or Audio.** While enjoying your lunch, gather in front of your computer, on your phone, or by calling in for an informal time to connect with our clergy. For access and a short Zoom tutorial, visit www.gracestlukes.org/events/catch-up-with-the-clergy-a-weekly-lunch-meeting. Spread the word!

Take Note

**Friday, Special eNews.** Watch for an email at 3 p.m. about what to expect on the upcoming Sunday including service leaflet access, what’s ahead for the coming week, and any updates from the clergy or the senior warden.

**A Message from Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation.** Click here for a timely message to parents about “finding the space for moments we’re not used to having” and an invitation to reach out via email or on the Children’s Formation Facebook page.

**April 2 Message from the Rector regarding COVID-19 and Passion Week to Eastertide at GSL.** Click here for this week’s update from the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher about the pandemic and life at GSL.

**March 31 Message from the Senior Warden.** Click here for the monthly letter from the Senior Warden on behalf of the Vestry.

Worship and Music

**Music for Meditation: Lent, Passion Week and Eastertide.** In addition to music offering during our weekly virtual worship offerings, we are mindful that the community is unable to gather in our sacred space in Midtown. Recently, Director of Music and Organist Patrick Scott, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster Debbie Smith, the Schola Cantorum of the Grace-St. Luke’s Choir, and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher recorded several offerings as gifts for listening and sharing with others. Watch for future offerings in the coming days and weeks.

**Click here for Forty Days and Forty Nights**

1. Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild; forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Should not we thy sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain, fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?
3. Then if Satan on us press, Jesus, Savior, hear our call! Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4. So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be; round us, too, shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.
5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side; that with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

**Recurring**

Set up recurring 2020 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!

**Online Giving**

Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!
Christian Formation

Adults: While small groups such as Education for Ministry (EfM) and the Men’s Thursday 7 a.m. Morning continue virtual gatherings, and the Young Adults Fellowship enjoy resources such as written meditations and shared videos via email. Watch for special events and explore daily devotion resources by forwardmovement.org, in the bcponline.org, and Barbara Crafton’s Living in Lent book at issuu.com/churchpublishing/docs.

Youth: Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Instagram Live, and Sunday EYC via ZOOM: Middle School 5 p.m., High School 6 p.m. Teens also are connecting on Instagram (gsl.youth) and utilizing the “D365” daily devotion.

Children: Households are encouraged to explore Faith at Home and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources at cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources.

Community Life

REALM Connect for GSL Parishioners. Now, more than ever, we need to use all possible means to connect. One way to do this is to setup your REALM profile today. If you did not get your Realm invite, or you need help setting up your profile, contact Parish House Receptionist and Ministry Associate Abby Huber (901-252-6336, ahuber@gracestlukes.org) or Lucy Owens 901-252-6333, lowens@gracestlukes.org). Realm Connect is a ministry platform that functions as a browser-based application for the whole church. That means it isn’t just a database, but an interactive tool designed to integrate members, ministries, and groups. Think of it as the GSL version of Facebook! In Realm, you can update your own profile, keep in touch with others through the member directory, stay involved in groups, manage pledges and giving, and more. For more information about Realm, visit www.gracestlukes.org/realm.

Extra Care during this Temporary Season. The clergy, vestry, and pastoral care leadership are reaching out to all households, especially our seniors and those who may be medically compromised to learn how best to support them: meals, errands and more. If you or another might benefit from such care, or you are available to assist with this ministry, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, orencher@gracestlukes.org).

Prayer Requests, The clergy and members of pastoral care teams are available to offer prayer support. You may submit your request online at www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest/ or via Parish House Receptionist and Ministry Associate Abby Huber (901-252-6336, ahuber@gracestlukes.org). Names of persons who have given consent for their names to be printed will be reflected on the Prayer List for two Sundays, unless a longer period is requested. Intercessions for all concerns are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers.

Pastoral Care: Sharing and Responding to Concerns. To alert the clergy of a pastoral matter concerning yourself or a member, including any medical procedures, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, orencher@gracestlukes.org) for his collaboration with the clergy team. For hospitalizations or emergencies concerning a member, please contact the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334. This protocol is the best way to communicate pastoral needs and ensure a prompt response from a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.

Sustaining Our Common Life at GSL. The clergy-staff team, wardens, and vestry are working daily to support the faith journeys of parish households and to foster connections during this strange season. While all parishioners naturally are practicing self-care and navigating changes that are different and likely complex for each household, the sacred offerings of time, talent, and treasure during this season will keep GSL strong and sustainable. In addition to contacting Stewardship Associate Chapman Morrow to connect and serve, all financial gifts (pledges, alms, one-time contributions) support the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke’s. You may visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving or mail offerings to the church office. For assistance or if circumstances are changing, contact Parish Administrator Linda Stine (901-252-6324, lstine@gracestlukes.org).

Outreach

More Than A Meal continues on Sundays from 4-4:45 p.m. with a “brown bag” plan. The Food Pantry is closed temporarily due to the required physical distancing guidelines and a limited capacity to accommodate the increase of clients that would arrive to our confined space. Fortunately, we have partnered with the Mid-South Food Bank to direct clients to the more than 10 pantries available throughout the region. There are also other ways to serve others while staying safe during the pandemic season. Explore these comprehensive resources guides and we’ll share other ones along the way High Grounds Memphis Area COVID-19 Resource Guide and WMC5’s How To Help People In Need During COVID-19 Outbreak. If you have questions about how to get involved with outreach or know of other COVID-19 resource guides, contact Outreach Team Leader Bill Pichette (picwill at rocketmail.com).
Stay Informed
If you have not already done so, visit gracestlukes.org to subscribe to the parish eNews to receive weekly, seasonal, and emergency pastoral notices from the clergy or other leaders. Visit http://eepurl.com/bj9C5 to subscribe to the West Tennessee Diocesan Communicator, and for access to beyond-local news from The Episcopal Church, visit episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup. Please spread the word about these key communication platforms.

THE PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for Brian, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Charles Chandler, Caroline Clay, Kay, John, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Bob Adrian, Jeannie Ashford, Patrick Burnett, Paul Cowgill, Josh Czupryk, Aaron Eason, Nora Eason, Jake Epperson, Meg Gerber, Ryan Gibbs, Charles Heiter, Rose Hill, Temana Kuo, Blair Mellone, Gini Mitchell, Sadye Moore, Jill Norcross, Andi Orpet, Andrew Phillips, Hunter Rowe, Anna Smith, Ward Smythe, Wayne Van Deveer, Julia Williams; and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Michael & Virginia Rowland, Jim & Caroline Clay, Brian & Lee Schaffler, Robert & Molly Gooch, and Jim Mertzlufft & Carol McCrudden.

About the prayers: Names on the prayer list will remain for 1 month. If you would like your or your loved one’s name to remain longer, please call the church office.