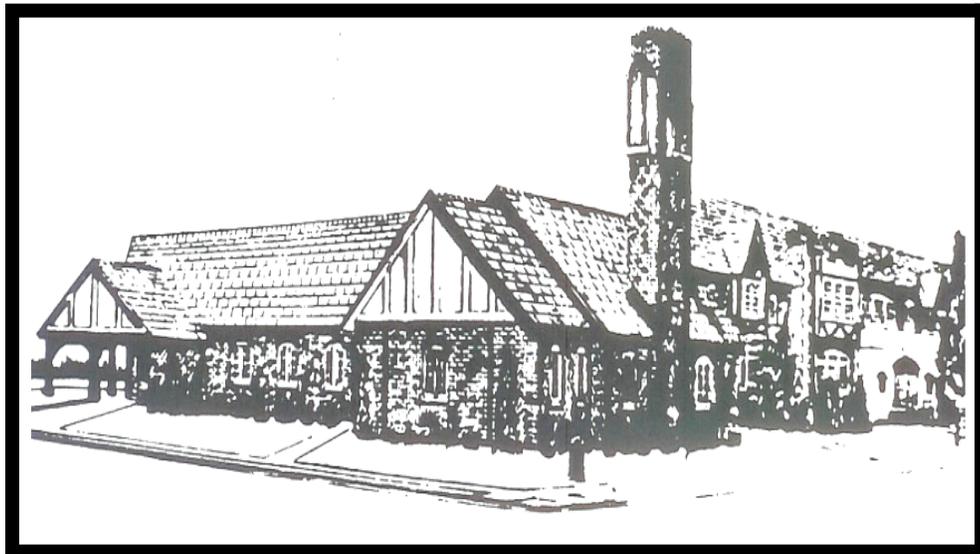


March 29, 2026

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY



Christ Episcopal Church, 157 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Today, if the weather is good, we start outside.

The Liturgy of the Palms

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

Here a Deacon or other person appointed reads one of the following

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."

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 in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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.**

Processional. Hymnal No. 154. All glory, laud and honor

Refrain: All glory, laud, 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, who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]
2. The company of angels is praising thee on high; and we with all creation in chorus make reply. [Refrain]
3. The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present. [Refrain]
4. To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. [Refrain]
5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. [Refrain]

Words: Theodulph of Orleans

Music: Melchior Teschner

The Collect

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.

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 Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm 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 Second 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.

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

Gradual: Hymnal No. 168. O sacred head, sore wounded

1. O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn; O kingly head, surrounded with mocking crown of thorn: what sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower? O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heaven adore!

2. Thy beauty, long-desired, hath vanished from our sight; thy power is all expired, and quenched the light of light. Ah me! for whom thou diest, hide not so far thy grace: show me, O Love most highest, the brightness of thy face.

3. In thy most bitter passion my heart to share doth cry, with thee for my salvation upon the cross to die. Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath, to mourn thee, well-beloved, yet thank thee for thy death.

4. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? Oh, make me thine for ever! and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love for thee.

5. My days are few, O fail not, with thine immortal power, to hold me that I quail not in death's most fearful hour; that I may fight befriended, and see in my last strife to me thine arms extended upon the cross of life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt

Music: Hans Leo Hassler

THE GOSPEL- SEE GOSPEL PAMPHLET FOR GOSPEL READING

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.
We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.*
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.
Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.
We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(The priest gives a concluding prayer)

The Peace

The Offertory Anthem: Sung by Choir

The Eucharistic Prayer C

In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler 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: the vast expanse of
interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
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 memory, reason, and skill. You made us
the rulers of 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 only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open 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: Hymnal S- 123

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, 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 Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he 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, he 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 many 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 his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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. 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. Accept these prayers and praises, Father, 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, 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.**

The Fraction

Hymnal S-153

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Hymnal S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your, peace, give us your peace.

The Communion

Post Communion Hymn: Hymnal. No. 337. And now, O Father, mindful of the love

1 And now, O Father, mindful of the love that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree, and having with us him that pleads above, we here present, we here spread forth to thee, that only offering perfect in thine eyes, the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

2 Look Father, look on his anointed face, and only look on us as found in him; look not on our misusings of thy grace, our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim: for lo! between our sins and their reward, we set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

3 And then for those, our dearest and our best, by this prevailing presence we appeal; O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast! O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal! From tainting mischief keep them pure and clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most patient Savior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so awesome and so sweet, deliver us from every touch of ill: in thine own service make us glad and free, and grant us nevermore to part from thee.

Words: William Bright

Music: William Henry Monk

Post Communion Prayer

Let us Pray.

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional: Hymnal. No. 435. At the Name of Jesus

1 At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season, to receive a Name from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came, faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;

3 bore it up triumphant, with its human light, through all ranks of creatures, to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

4 Name him, Christians, name him, with love strong as death, name with awe and wonder and with bated breath; he is God the Savior, he is Christ the Lord, ever to be worshiped, trusted, and adored.

5 In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true; crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour; let his will enfold you in its light and power.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory, o'er the earth to reign; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Dismissal



Flowers in the sanctuary are given for the glory of God

Last week's Sunday attendance:

Saturday 5:30 pm: 10 Sunday 10:00 am: 57

form our hearts and make them thine.



Memorials & Thanksgivings: Altar Flowers for Sunday - \$50-Bulletin memorial- \$50; Altar candles- \$15- Mass cards- \$15- contact parish secretary for available dates

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<https://egiving.ministryone.com/landing/294y>

- **Choir-** meets Sundays at 9am in the choir room (parish house)
- **Altar Guild-** weekly preparations for Services
- **Brotherhood of Saint Andrew-**meets third Thurs. of the Month (except August) 6pm in the parish living room (parish house)
- **Adelaide's Place-** is a ministry of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary
- **Knit Wits-** Working on projects from home
- **BSA Troop 55-** Wednesdays at 6pm in the Scout Room or Parish Hall
- **Cub Scouts, Pack 87-** Mondays, 7-8pm, Church undercroft
- **Both BSA Troop 55 and Cub Scout Pack 87 are Sponsored by our parish**
- **Ecumenical Food Pantry-** our parish staffs the pantry Thursdays (except 1st full week of month closed) from 9am to 11:30am at 11 E/ Dawes Ave., Somers Point.
- **Sunday School Sundays,** begins Sept. 8, 9am -9:45am (see registration form in narthex or church website) in the church class rooms, undercroft
- **Youth Forum,** 9am-9:45am (in the undercroft)

If you have questions or need further information about ministries or participation please contact our Secretary, who will be happy to help you at 609-927-6262 or Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com.

Church Information

Capital Campaign- To help us pay off this loan, we are doing two things:

- 1) We are holding a 3-year capital campaign to raise the money for this loan. If you need pledging information please check with a vestry member or call the church office.
- 2) We will be holding 3-4 fundraisers a year to help us with the cost of the loan. This includes our organ concert and other future fundraisers.

Memorial Garden Bricks- Bricks are a great way of preserving the memory of a loved one. They are also a great way to honor an achievement that a loved one has accomplished. Bricks are \$100 dollars to order and need to be sent in batches of 10 bricks at a time. These bricks were installed early last year. Forms to order bricks are on a table in the narthex. If you would like more information, please see Pat Conte.

Flower Donations- Donating funds for the altar flowers is a way to share your dedication of thanksgiving or to remember a loved one. These dedications are printed in the church bulletin. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. There are still many Sundays available to provide donations.

Prayer List- Please email the office at ChristChurchsp1971@gmail.com with your prayer requests. Each individual will stay on the prayer list for approximately 30 days, unless you specifically request longer.

The prayer list will continue to be important to our community.

The Rev. George Anne McDonnell, Rector

Pat Conte (2027)

Karen Geller (2027) and Nancy Austin (2027) Co-Wardens

Carol Drumm, Parish Administrative Asst.

Arlene Santhouse, Treasurer

Michele Cianci, Asst. Treasurer

Carlos Torres, Sexton

Doug Murdock, Director of Music

Vestry:

Joe Zeigenfus (2028), Marie Bates (2028), Dennis Huey (2029),

Cecelia Khoury (2029) and Michele Cianci (2029)

Head of Altar Guild: Barbara Keown

Christian Education

Sunday School

Led By: Kirsten McMahan & Laura Napoli

Youth Forum

Led By: The Rev. George Anne McDonnell

Sundays

9:00am to 9:45am

Additional Events and ministry activities will be posted on our Website and Facebook Page

Our Church app: Ministry ONE

<https://egiving.ministryone.com/landing/294y>