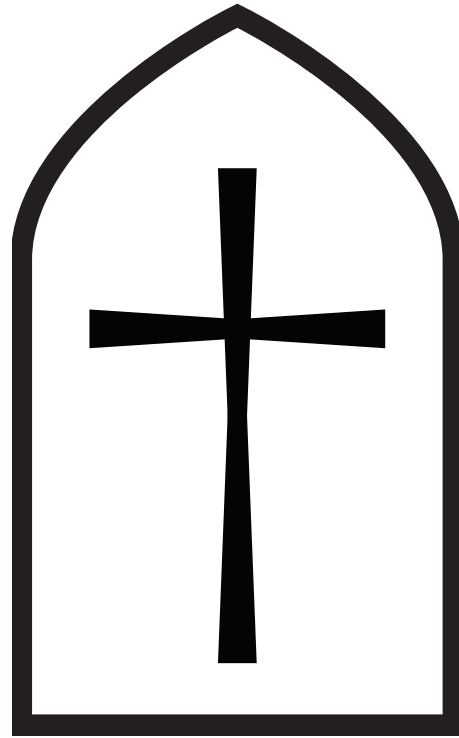


# SAINT ♦ PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

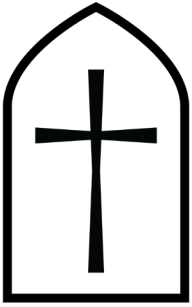


## GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18, 2025

12:00 PM

LIVE FAITHFULLY.



# Good Friday Liturgy

Good Friday

April 18, 2025 • 12 PM

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

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••• Live Faithfully

*Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.*

*In the Christian tradition, there are a few dates in the liturgical calendar that are especially appropriate for baptism. These days are The Baptism of Our Lord, The Easter Vigil, The Day of Pentecost, and All Saints' Day. If you or a member of your family would like to receive the rite of baptism, please contact the church office.*

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

*When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.*

*On this day, the minister enters in silence.*

*The people kneel as able for silent prayer.*

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 276

Blessed be our God.

**Forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*This collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

Let us pray.

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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

# THE WORD OF GOD

*The propers of the service are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel, and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of readings shared by many mainline denominations. Each year we retell the Christian story from Advent through Pentecost.*

## THE FIRST LESSON • Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*Our first lesson is usually from the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Scriptures. The exception to this is in the Easter season, when we read lessons from the life of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles.*

A Reading from Isaiah.

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
-so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals-

so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

## THE RESPONSE • Psalm 22

*The psalms are sung or spoken prayers that cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and often it relates to the themes read in the lesson.*

*Read responsively by whole verse.*

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? \*  
and are so far from my cry  
and from the words of my distress?
- 2 **O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; \*  
by night as well, but I find no rest.**
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, \*  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 **Our forefathers put their trust in you; \*  
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; \*  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 **But as for me, I am a worm and no man, \*  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; \*  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 **“He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; \*  
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”**
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, \*  
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 **I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; \*  
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \*  
and there is none to help.
- 12 **Many young bulls encircle me; \*  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, \*  
like a ravening and a roaring lion.

- 14 I am poured out like water;  
all my bones are out of joint; \*  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-herd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; \*  
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in,  
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; \*  
they pierce my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; \*  
they divide my garments among them;  
they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O Lord; \*  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, \*  
my life from the power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, \*  
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; \*  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 **To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 **They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.**

## THE SECOND LESSON • Ephesians 1:3-10

*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

A Reading from Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain seated for the first part of the Passion.*

## THE GOSPEL • John 18:1-19:42

*The Gospel of John, the last Gospel to be written, uses the term “the Jews” throughout its account of the life of Jesus. Jesus was a Jew, his apostles were Jews, and his original disciples and followers were Jews. They observed the Jewish customs of the day, they followed Torah, and Jesus never breaks a commandment or instructs others to do so. As Jesus says in Matthew 5, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.” Heaven and earth have not passed away, nor has the Jewishness of our Messiah. In our Passion reading, hear the distinction of “the Jews” not as a designation that Jesus is outside of, but as someone who Jesus also is. And, let us remember our own grafting into Jesus’ vine as gentiles. Paul reminds us in Romans 11, “You, a wild olive shoot, were grafted among the others to share the rich root of the olive tree [the covenant people of God, the Jews], do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember: you do not support the root [that is, the Jews], but the root supports you [that is, the gentiles].” Should the reading from John trouble you, your clergy are happy to discuss it prayerfully alongside you.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.



Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him,

they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

*The people stand as able.*

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

THE SERMON • The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby, Retired Priest Associate

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel and helps illuminate the scriptural readings and relate them to daily life.*

*The people stand as able at the invitation of the celebrant to recite the Solemn Collects.*

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

*The people kneel as able.*

Let us pray for the holy catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service  
 For all bishops and other ministers  
 and the people whom they serve  
 For our Bishops, and all the people of this diocese  
 For all Christians in this community  
 For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For the President of the United States  
 For the Congress and the Supreme Court  
 For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
 For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people who possess an eternal covenant with the Lord, who delivered them from bondage to freedom;

For continued faithfulness to God's covenant with them;  
For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;  
For safety from all malice and harm;  
For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.

That unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians in obedience to God's will.

*Silence*

God of Abraham, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted Gentiles as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born. So bless the children of your covenant that we together may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For those who are hungry and homeless, destitute, and oppressed  
For those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit  
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish  
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair  
For those who are sorrowful and bereaved  
For those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ  
For prisoners, refugees, and captives  
For victims of war, genocide, and trafficking, and all those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation  
For those who have lost their faith  
For those hardened by sin or indifference  
For the contemptuous and the scornful  
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples  
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

*Silence*

Merciful God, the source of life and fountain of mercy, let the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ be preached with grace and love; turn the hearts of the followers of Jesus who have harmed others in his name; lead all to repentance and amendment of life; and sustain by your loving grace all who lift their eyes to you. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A wooden cross is now brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people. While the anthems are said, the people may approach the cross to venerate it by kneeling before it, kissing it, or laying a hand upon it.*

## ANTHEM 1

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come to the whole world.**

May God be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

**Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come to the whole world.**

## ANTHEM 2

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;  
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## ANTHEM 3

O Savior of the world,  
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:  
**Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The ministers and the people depart the church in silence.*





## The Good Friday Offering

Lent 2025

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

For 103 years, the Good Friday Offering has supported the ministry of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This Lent, the need is almost unfathomable, and I ask you to join me in making a generous gift at [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](http://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering).

We do not know what the political future of the Holy Land will be; but whatever that future, our siblings in Christ in The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East will continue to serve God's people through their congregations, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These vital ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Your gift to the Good Friday Offering will support ministry at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which has continued to provide essential health care services despite the violence of war; St. George's in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center; an eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen; and the powerful Christian presence of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria, and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

It is easy to feel powerless in the face of the human suffering we have witnessed in the Holy Land, but with a gift to the Good Friday Offering at [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](http://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering), we can help The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East turn despair into hope for thousands of God's people across their region.

Thank you for your generous support this Lent.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe  
The Episcopal Church

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To make your gift today:

- Scan the QR code at right
- Visit [iam.ec/goodfridayoffering](http://iam.ec/goodfridayoffering)
- Send a check with "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line to:  
The Episcopal Church (DFMS)  
PO Box 958983  
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983



# TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Officiant	The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby, Retired Priest Associate
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector The Rev. Gavin E. Tomlin, Associate Rector
Vestry Host	Richard Karr
Lector & Intercessor	Carolyn Turner
Ushers	Cyndie Burgess, Mc Hickman, Sarah Kathryn Ricci
Altar Guild	Team II: Cindie Lehr, Trisha Brindley, Ann Campbell, Judy Cofer, Pam Comp-ton, Betty Flowers, Gina Ford, Pat Gilliam, Mandy Kuehl, Sara Richie, Carl Ballew

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY • April 18

12 PM Good Friday Liturgy\*

7 PM Robert and Betty Young Sacred Arts Series Concert in the Chapel

*tickets available at [saintpaulswaco.org/events](http://saintpaulswaco.org/events)*

HOLY SATURDAY • April 19

10 AM Holy Saturday Service

*in the courtyard*

7 PM Easter Vigil\*†

Feast of Milk & Honey

EASTER SUNDAY • April 20

6:45 AM Sunrise Service of Holy Eucharist

*in the courtyard*

8 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II\*†

11 AM Easter Egg Hunt

*\*indicates livestreamed service*

*†childcare available*



SAINT • PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

### OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM-4 PM

Closed Federal Holidays

601 Columbus Ave

Waco, TX 76701

254-753-4501

### SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

517 Columbus Ave

Waco, TX 76701

[office@speswaco.org](mailto:office@speswaco.org)

254-753-0246

## SAINT PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith  
Rector

The Rev. Preston Yancey  
Interim Associate Rector

The Rev. Gavin E. Tomlin  
Associate Rector

The Rev. Alberto Melis  
Deacon

The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby  
Retired Priest Associate

Lisa Terry-Ickles  
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Sara Allison  
Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Martin  
Director of Communications & Membership

Iona Easterwood  
Accountant

Paul Hicks  
Sexton

Charles Watson  
Assisting Sexton

Willie Sergent  
Retired Sexton Emeritus

Dr. Will McLean  
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson  
Organist

Liz Dover  
Nursery Attendant

M'Lissa Howen  
Head of School