

9:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy (*V. I. Liturgy*)

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presider & Preacher

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Please join us for a time of fellowship in the Church Hall following the service.

The Service begins in the Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Liturgy of the Palms

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The invitation

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

The Blessing of Palms:

Lon: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: 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. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest.

May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ 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.**

Palms are distributed after being blessed.

The Gospel of the Triumphal Entry

Gil: God be with you

All: And also with you.

Gil: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 21:1-11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”^[a] ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “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.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Response after the gospel: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let us pray: Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our Salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gil: Let us go forth in peace and joy.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The people will make their way into the Church waving their Palms.
Once everyone has found their seats, the Clergy will process as we sing.*

Gathering Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honour (CP #181)

Refrain:

**All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest,
the King and blessed One.**

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present. *Refrain*

To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King. *Refrain*

The congregation may be seated

The Gathering of the Community

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the
W̱SÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

**All: From many places and Peoples we come to this house
in prayer.**

Gil: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the
presence of the living God.

All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus
stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Gil: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the
Spirit moves in and through us.

All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

Gil: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with
the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space
heaven and earth are one.

All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

Gil: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

All: **In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

The Prayer of the Day: Holy and immortal God, as we enter into this holy week turn our hearts to Jerusalem, so that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may enter the city not made with hands, your promised realm of justice and peace, eternal from age to age. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) alt.

The Readings

Psalm 31:9-16 – *Nancy Choat*

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 neighbours, 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.”**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11 – *Marian Towstego*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

A reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew 27:11-54.

See insert of Passion Narrative

*Narrator proceeds to the lectern and other key readers may remain in
their seats using loud voices*

(In order to engage well with this reading, the people may be seated)

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Nicene Creed

Presider Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All 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. With the Father and the
Son he is worshipped 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 – *Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon*

Call to Confession:

Presider: The choice is ever before us: discipleship or rejection, authentic response or play-acting, commitment that will go all the way to a cross or hypocrisy which is a living denial and death. Like the fickle crowds of the first Palm Sunday, we need to examine ourselves and question the genuineness of our commitment.

Confession of Sin:

All: **God of all times and places, we confess that we would rather join the crowds than stand alone. We prefer the popular point of view to a solitary witness for justice and truth. We like safety and security while shrinking from the risk of involvement. We'll sing "hosanna" when everyone else is doing so – but not when the hostile "Good Friday" forces may hear us. We do not like to admit our lukewarm response to you, but neither do we want to be considered fanatics.**

We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We know that means us, not just other folks involved in obvious evils everyone knows about. We ask you to be patient with us, to help us understand our own guilt. Then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Presider: God sweeps into our human scene, redeeming all who turn from evil and do good. There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength for all who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings. Let us rejoice together, for even the stones cry out with good news. God forgives. You are freed from the burden of your sin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

The Peace *All stand*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another

Offertory: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (CP #386)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the cross of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer over the Gifts: Gracious God, the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, makes us pleasing in your sight. Alone we can do nothing, but through his sacrifice, may we receive your love and mercy. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharist Prayer B)

Presider: God is here

People: The Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

People: We lift them to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Holy and eternal One, in whom we live and move and have our being. You are our origin and our fulfillment; we praise and thank you for drawing us to this sacred meal.

From the ocean of your primal love, you fashioned the marvel of creation, and beauty of human life.

From this land of towering forests and mist laden coastlines, you humble us and affirm the sacred gift of all creation, calling us to care for everything given and received.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

Presider: From the earliest days the peoples of these islands and inlets learned their dependence on your provision, salmon and deer, song and ceremony, dance and painted cedar, hallowed these sacred relationships with all life.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

Presider: In Jesus Christ, you came into our world to reveal your glory, reconcile all peoples to yourself, and make all things new in him. Now, gathered from many places, and joining with the saints of every time and place, we raise our thankful voices in songs of unending praise, singing

Sanctus & Benedictus (CP #735) - Schubert

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
heaven and earth are full
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Blessed are you, most holy One: For on the night before he died Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to all gathered, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."
After supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

All: "Behold, I am with you to the end of the age".

Therefore, God of all creation, we lift this Bread of Life, and this Cup of Salvation. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and upon us, that we may know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and follow him in lives of selfless service and courageous love.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

In the fullness of time reconcile all things in Christ, and bring us to that heavenly table, where every tear will be wiped away and we will feast anew. Blessing, praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy and Eternal One, Undivided Trinity, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*said*)

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done**

**On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: He whose cross is a sign of hope for many is now present in this bread. He whose death brings healing to our world is now present in this wine.

All: Here is Christ coming to us in bread and wine.

Administration of Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,
please cross your arms over your chest.
Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

Communion: Ten Thousand Angels

**They bound the hands of Jesus
In the garden where He prayed
They led Him through the streets in shame
They spat upon the Savior
So pure and free from sin
They said, "Crucify Him, He's to blame"**

Chorus:

**He could have called ten thousand angels
To destroy the world and set Him free
He could have called ten thousand angels
But He died alone for you and me**

**Upon His precious head
They placed a crown of thorns
They laughed and said, "Behold the King"
They struck Him and they cursed Him
And they mocked His holy name
All alone He suffered everything**

Chorus:

**He could have called ten thousand angels
To destroy the world and set Him free
He could have called ten thousand angels
But He died alone for you and me**

Prayer after Communion: God our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with this eucharistic food. Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son, we may be led to salvation, for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

All: whose love, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever, Amen.

Blessing

Sending Song: *There is a Green Hill* (CP #202)

**There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.**

Dismissal:

Leader: Go from this place with the cross on your hearts.:

People: We will empty ourselves with Christ for the life of the world.

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for conversation and coffee in the Parish Hall



READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10

Thank you to all who are assisting today

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Music | Joanne Lambert |
| Readers | Gil Shoemsmith, Nancy Choat, Marian Towstego |
| Liturgical Assistant | Gil Shoemsmith |
| 2nd Chalice | Richard Routledge |
| Sidesperson | David Cooper |
| Sound Tech/Bell | Matty Stuart |
| Coffee Hosts | Barb & Bob Baillie |
| Altar Guild | Susan Pullan |

A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR EASTER – If you wish to make a special offering to give thanks to God for all that he has given, please use the envelope enclosed in your Easter letter which was available for pick up last week or was sent by mail. There are also spare Easter envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Your Easter Offering gifts go to the General Operations of the Church

EASTER OUTREACH - You are welcome to remember the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank this Easter by placing a designated offering in the collection plate or, if you would like to bring non-perishable food items, you may bring them to the Hall on Easter Sunday.

CHURCH YARD - Thank you to all St Mary's parishioners who have volunteered to look after various garden areas on the property. We appreciated your work last year and look forward to your continuing efforts this spring. Please feel free to resume the maintenance of your area, as weather permits. If you would like to join in helping to maintain the church grounds over the coming months, please contact John Beresford at beresford@pacificcoast.net or 250-652-8908. Thank you.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JACKIE KOLSON – 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 10th at St. Stephen Church with overflow viewing in the Memorial Hall.

ST. MARY’S OUTREACH – In your offering envelope package you will find special monthly outreach envelopes. For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of ____” with your name and address.

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|------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar. | General Outreach | Monies donated for General Outreach are dedicated at the end of the year to be used for requests received during the year and to “top up” totals in monthly outreach designations. |
| Apr. | Alongside Hope <i>(PWRDF)</i> | We support the Anglican Church of Canada’s agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. |
| May | Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank | Donations in monetary form combined with an ongoing collection of staple foods and hygiene products allow us to help this non-profit, charitable organization support those in need on the Peninsula |
| June | ORCCA Dental Clinic | ORCCA's purpose is to provide children and adolescents under 19 years of age from low-income families access to oral care in a not for profit setting. |



Holy Week and Easter Services – 2026

| Date | Day | Time | Service | Location |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Mar. 30 | Mon. | 4:00 p.m. | Evening Prayer | St. Stephen |
| Mar. 31 | Tues. | 4:00 p.m. | Evening Prayer | St. Mary |
| Apr. 1 | Wed. | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist | St. Mary |
| Apr. 2 | Thurs. | 6:00 p.m. | Foot Washing, Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar | St. Mary |
| After the St. Mary Service – Stripping of the Altar | | | | St. Stephen |
| Apr. 3 | Friday | 10:00 a.m. | Stations of the Cross Walk Meet in the parking lot at Centennial Park at the corner of Hovey and Wallace . We will be walking to St. Mary. Along the way will be a series of prayer stops, including in front of Aurora. If you are unable to walk the complete route, there will be several of the prayer stations on the church grounds so you can participate in the majority of the event. The final meditation and conclusion of the service will be held in the church sanctuary. | |
| Apr. 5 – Easter Sunday 2024. He is Risen!! | | | | |
| | | 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist | St. Mary |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Holy Eucharist | St. Stephen |

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Archbishop Sarah Mullally and the Anglican Church of Melanesia. We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada and Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate; John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Anna, our bishop; for the Parish of Holy Trinity, Sooke.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of the Church of the Advent, Colwood and for those in their Parish and neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of the Saanich Peninsula Catholic Parish and Central Saanich United Church.

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

In our Parish: We pray for Christine & Greg Robinson and Cheyanne Blyth and for their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern, Dennis, Glenda, Dawn, Sybil, Roy, Jillian, Willa, Brett, Lynn S. Jacqueline Stober

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Kristen, Brad, Kim

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Michelle, Cassidy, Carl G., Keith & Lillian, Michael A., Jasmine, Kai, Chris P., Paula, Cathy Swinscoe, Arianne, Chad

For the repose of the soul: of Nancy Jackson, long-time parishioner, and for comfort and strength for her family and friends.

In the greater community: We pray for our upcoming Federal Election.

We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected.

We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

Note: Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.

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