

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 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.**

The Celebrant blesses the palms.

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.

People **Hosannah in the highest!**

THE PROCESSION

When the palms have been distributed our musicians will lead the acolytes, choir, people, and celebrant in procession to the church.

Upon reaching the entrance of the church, the people enter and sing together

HYMN *Thou art the King of Israel*

Hymnal 154

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

All remain standing

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.*

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

S 410 Simplified chant setting (S 410)

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

PSALM 31:9-16

In te, Domine, speravi

- 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."

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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 Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew Matthew 26:14-27:66

The People are seated for the reading of the Passion.

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.

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!"

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All who are able, please stand or kneel.

PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

Let us with glad hearts offer the fruits of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *My Song is Love Unknown arr. by Robert J. Powell*

My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but such disdain! So few
the longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend,
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

Sometimes they crowd his way
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

Why? What has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these

themselves displease
and 'gainst him rise.

They rise and needs will have
my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save,
the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffring goes
that he his foes
from death might free.

In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb,
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb
wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing;
no story so divine,
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend!

OFFERTORY HYMN (*All who are able please stand*)
You laid aside your rightful reputation (Intercessor) (WLP 734)

1. You laid a - side your right - ful rep - u - ta - tion
2. You touched the lep - er, ate with those re - ject - ed,
3. Help us to fol - low, Je - sus, where you lead us
4. Draw us to you and with your love trans - form us:

and gave no heed to what the world might say;
 re - ceived the wor - ship of a wo - man's tears:
 to love, to serve, our own lives lay - ing down;
 the love we've seen, the love we've touched and known;

served as a slave and laid a - side your gar - ments
 You shed the pride that keeps us from the free - dom
 to walk your way of hum - ble, cost - ly ser - vice,
 en - large our hearts and with com - pas - sion fill us

to wash the feet of those who walked your way.
 to love our neigh - bor, lay - ing down our fears.
 a cross its end, a ring of thorns its crown.
 to love, to serve, to fol - low you a - lone.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S 130 Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx) (S 130)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na' and 'in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People together say

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. **Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Please stand as you are able.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM S 164 Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert/Proulx) (S 164)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those remaining at home, a Spiritual Communion is offered. This is a personal devotion that anyone can pray (at any time) to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances prevent them from receiving the elements.

For those worshipping with us from home, we pray together with you:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your grace and be renewed for your service. *Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN *When I survey the wondrous cross (Rockingham) (h 474)*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and single of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

SENDING FORTH

(Holy Communion may be sent out to those who are sick.)

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ. **We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

BLESSING

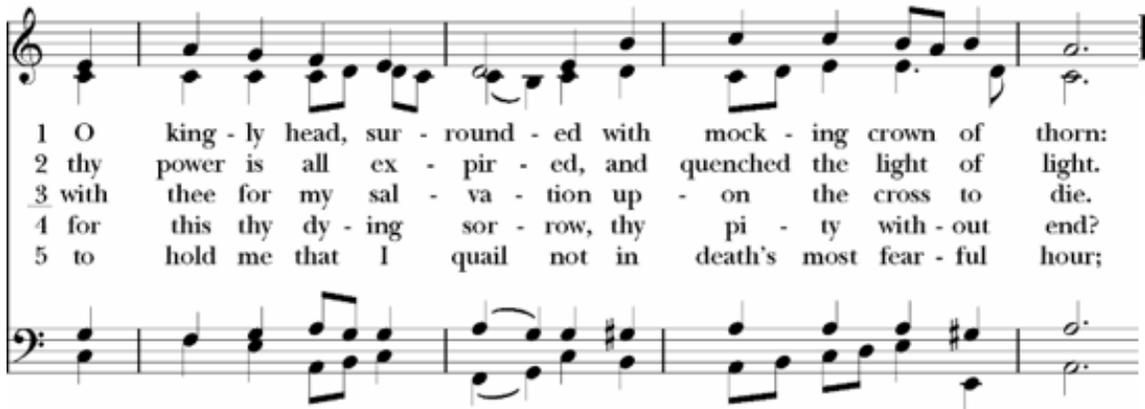
Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The All-Loving God, who creates, redeems and sustains us, be with you and all God's people, this day and always. *Amen.*

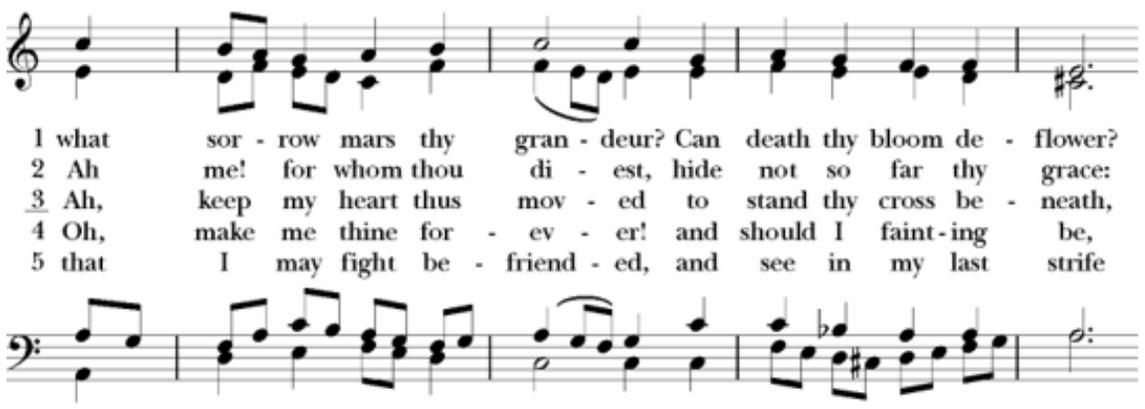
POST-COMMUNION HYMN *O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded* Hymnal 168



1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,



1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;



1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife



1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

DISMISSAL

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

Serving today:

Ministers of Music: Choirmaster Eric Vinciguerra, Choir; Organist Ethan Kindle; Nancy Hartshorne, flute; Jim Thurston, native flute

Lector: Mary Stewart Kiesgen **Prayers:** Jen Dingman

Presider: Rev. Jess Hart **Director:** Alice Ciccu

Greeters: Sharon Bolton and Laura Cochrane **Acolyte:** Adam Baker

Coffee Hour Hosts: Dave and Jen Dingman

St. John’s Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

989.773.7448

E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec, Rector

The Rev. Jessica A Hart, Assistant Priest

Dan Eichinger, Senior Warden

Clancy DeLong, Treasurer

St. John’s Episcopal Church is a parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

The Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Dr. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop

The Worldwide Anglican Communion

The Most Rev. Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury

From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2026 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

All music is reprinted with permission. Print and Streaming: OneLicense.net license # A-727547, CCLI #3146185

Prayers are taken or adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, the Book of Occasional Services 2018, and the New Zealand Prayer Book

+++++

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday – 7PM – Holy Eucharist with foot washing; stripping of the altar

Good Friday – 8AM – 9AM – Quiet Meditation in Chapel Garden

Good Friday - Noon – Good Friday service (Book of Common Prayer) Pastor David Sickelka Preaching

Good Friday – 3PM – Stations of the Cross – adapted from Nancy Casey Fulton

Easter Vigil – 8PM – Great Vigil of Easter – lighting of the New Fire – with Baptisms

Easter Day – 10AM – Holy Eucharist

+++++

We pray this week...

For Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Anne, our Assisting Bishop, our diocese and its Standing Committee; for Bonnie, Bishop of Michigan; and for Rayford, Bishop of Northern Michigan.

For Moisés, Bishop of the Dominican Republic

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Anglican communion

For Yehiel, Bishop of ELCA.

For The Anglican Church of Melanesia

For Donald, our President; Gretchen, our Governor; and all national leaders

For Diane, our Rector; Jess, our Assistant Priest; Eric, our Choirmaster; Ethan, our Organist

For all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, especially Christi

For our lay ministers, lectors, choir, acolytes, greeters, and hospitality hosts

For all non-parochial clergy and Lutheran pastors serving in our congregations

For St. Alban's, Bay City - Nancy Maayhew, Priest-in-Charge

For St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc – Jerry Lasley, Rector

For the members of St. John's, especially: Dennis, Ardent, Ezra, Hazel, and Jess

For those on the Prayer Group's list, especially: Lois, Candi T., Patricia, and Gary

For all who have died.

Easter Flowers

For those who would like to contribute money to provide flowers and/or special music for Easter Sunday, please use this form to designate your contribution. The donations may be made in memory of loved ones, in thanksgiving, or to honor a special blessing. Contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Contributions may be placed in the Sunday offering plate and must be in the church office on or before **MONDAY, March 30th!**



I would like to contribute Easter flowers.

I do so in honor _____ or thanksgiving _____ or in memory: _____ of:
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Contribution given by:
