

# Holy Eucharist Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026—10:00 a.m.



**Saint Luke's Episcopal Church**

Los Gatos, California

# The Liturgy of the Palms

*The congregation gathers in Town Plaza Park. The branches of palm to be carried in the procession are distributed to the people after the prayer of blessing.*

*Celebrant*      Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord;  
*People*          **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Clergy*          The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*          **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*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.”

*Clergy*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Blessing of the Palms**

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

*Celebrant*  
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.**

*Palm branches are distributed to the congregation.*

*Celebrant*        Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*People*            **Hosanna in the highest.**  
*Celebrant*        Let us go forth in peace.  
*People*            **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*All join the procession, carrying palm branches in their hands. At the door of the church the procession halts while the following Psalm and Collect are said.*

## Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
“His mercy endures for ever.”
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 “This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
he who is righteous may enter.”
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord’s doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! \*  
Lord, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 “You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

### *Celebrant*

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

During the procession into the church, the congregation sings the following hymn.

## Opening Hymn 154

“All glory, laud and honor”

*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.

*The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.*

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

# The Liturgy of the Word

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

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

## The First Lesson

*Isaiah 50:4-9a*

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.**

## **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 Lesson**

Philippians 2:5–11

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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 Gospel

Matthew 26:14–27:66

### Hymn 458 (verses 1–2)

*“My song is love unknown”*



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -



me, love to the love-less shown that they might love - ly  
stow, but men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would



be.            Oh, who am I            that for my sake  
know!        But oh, my friend,        my friend in - deed,



my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
who at my need his life did spend!

*Celebrant*      The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*Please be seated and listen to the reading of the Passion. The following is not a full text; only text relevant to the congregation is excerpted below.*

*... Jesus*            “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

*Narrator*            Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### **Hymn 458**

*My song is love unknown, v. 3*

**Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his strong praises sing,  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

*... Narrator*        At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

*Jesus*                “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

*Narrator*            And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

### **Hymn 458**

*My song is love unknown, v. 4*

**Why, what hath 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.**

*... Narrator* 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,

*Pilate* “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

*Narrator* And they said,

**Congregation** “**Barabbas.**”

*Narrator* Pilate said to them,

*Pilate* “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

*Narrator* All of them said,

**Congregation** “**Let him be crucified!**”

*Narrator* Then he asked,

*Pilate* “Why, what evil has he done?”

*Narrator* But they shouted all the more,

**Congregation** “**Let him be crucified!**”

*Narrator* 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,

*Pilate* “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

*Narrator* Then the people as a whole answered,

**Congregation** “**His blood be on us and on our children!**”

*Narrator* 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,

*Soldier* "Hail, King of the Jews!"

*Narrator* 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.

## **Hymn 458**

*My song is love unknown, v. 7*

**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.**

*Narrator* As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

*(The Congregation stands.)*

*Narrator* 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.

*... Narrator* 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,

*Bystanders* "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

*Narrator* Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*(The Congregation kneels in silence, standing when clergy stand.)*

*Narrator* At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

*... Narrator* So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

**The Prayers of the People**

Form II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;  
for our Bishops, Sean and Lucinda;  
for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;  
and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry,  
the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God,  
or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence.*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## The Peace

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

## Welcome and Announcements

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Anthem

*Recordare:*  
*Drop, Drop, Slow Tears*

Howard Goodall

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet  
Cease not wet eyes His mercy to entreat:  
Which brought from Heav'n the news and Prince of Peace:

*Recordare Jesu Pie,  
quod sum causa tuae viae,  
Ne me perdas illa die.*

In your deep floods  
Drown all my faults and fears:  
Nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears,

*Recordare Jesu Pie, quod sum causa tuae viae,  
Ne me perdas illa die.*

## Prayers Over the Gifts

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, **and of your own have we given you. Amen.**

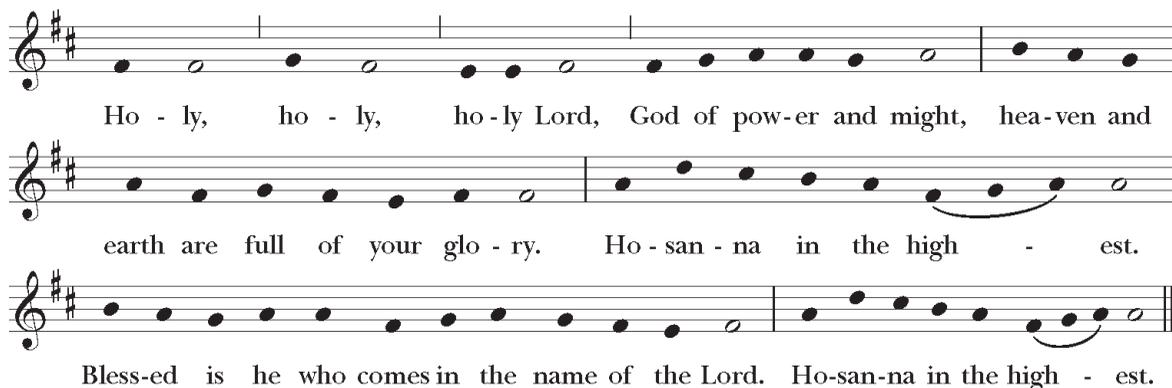
Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven. **Blessed be God for ever.**



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 124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Holy and gracious Father: 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you

drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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 Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*Said by all*

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 Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

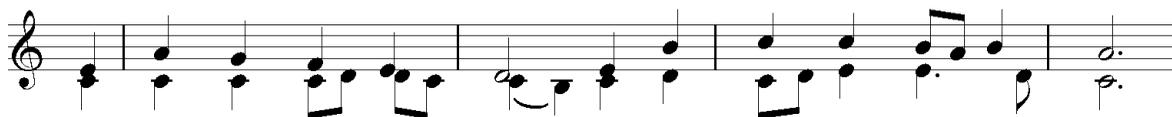
*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those receiving Holy Communion may partake of both bread and wine or in just one kind. If partaking from the chalice, please only drink, do not dip your wafer into the*

*cup. You may also touch the wafer to the outside of the chalice if desired. If you wish to receive a Blessing rather than Communion, come forward and stand or kneel with your arms crossed over your chest.*

## Communion Hymn 168

“O sacred head, sore wounded”



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.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); sts. 1-3 and 5, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); st. 4, tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859), alt.  
Music: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* [*Passion Chorale*], Hans Leo Hessler (1564-1612); adapt. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Said by all*

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 singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Solemn Prayer over the People

*Celebrant* Bow down before the Lord.

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.**

## Closing Hymn 172

*“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”*

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you  
 \*3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you  
 4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!  
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!  
 there when they pierced him in the side? Oh!  
 there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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## Dismissal

*The clergy dismisses the People and they respond*

**Thanks be to God.**



## Servers—March 29, 2026

Celebrant	The Rev. Ricardo Avila
Preacher	The Rev. Ernest Cockrell
Lay Assistant	Ariana Bates
Acolyte	Indy Howie & Pablo Alvarez
Thurifer	Roger Fleming
Lectors	Lilian McMath & Doug Kuhlmann
Organist	Laura Green
Bagpiper	Bruce Cotter
Singers	St. Luke's Choir
Live-stream Team	Art Feather, Glenn Katz, & Girault Jones
Ushers	Nate Wilson & John McDonald
Altar Guild	Linda Walton, Bruce & Darlene Friesen

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Cover: *Palm Sunday* by Kai Althoff (1966– ) b. Germany

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty,  
and relationship that reflects God's saving presence  
through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity,  
and our work in the wider community.*

## **Saint Luke's Clergy & Staff**

Rector	The Rev. Ricardo Avila revrico@stlukeslg.org
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Ernest Cockrell The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D. The Very Rev. William S. Stafford, Ph.D.
Music Director	Ms. Laura Green lauragreen@stlukeslg.org
Parish Administrator	Mr. Michael King office@stlukeslg.org
Treasurer	Mr. Art Feather afeather@stlukeslg.org
Altar Guild Coordinator	Ms. Carol Graham
Acolyte Coordinator	Mr. Roger Fleming
Outreach/Pantry Director	Ms. Jo Greiner
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. David R. Breuer

## **Saint Luke's Vestry • [vestry@stlukeslg.org](mailto:vestry@stlukeslg.org)**

John Cleveland (Senior Warden)	Joanie Smith
Ron Victor (Junior Warden)	Janet Souza
Glenn Katz (Clerk)	Steve Sullins
Ariana Bates	Stephen Wells
Paul Fait	

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