Today the solemnity of Lent is interrupted by the joyful celebration of Palm Sunday. Our service begins with a procession of the palms to recall the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, fulfilling an ancient prophecy of the coming Messiah. The palms we wave reflect the fragility of the celebration—since a mere five days later, the crowd’s adulation turns to hatred. The King of Kings humbly rides on a donkey’s colt, and in so doing he fulfills an ancient prophecy that proclaims him as Lord and Savior. When some press Jesus to make his disciples stop their proclamation, he declares that even if all were silent, the stones of the city themselves would still cry out in joy.
Gathering
Organ Prelude

*Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit, BWV 672
Christe, aller Welt Trost, BWV 673
Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV 674

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Choral Introit

I Was Glad

C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Psalm 122:1-3, 6-7

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Blessing of the Palms

Leader: God our Savior, your Son Jesus entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
People: Let these palms be for us signs of his victory.
Leader: Grant that we who bear these palms in his name may ever hail him as our King;
People: And give us grace to follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

*Opening Processional Hymn 280

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ST. THEODULPH

*Prayers of Confession and Words of Assurance | In unison

Eternal God: In Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess that we have not hailed you as King, or gone before you in the world with praise. For brief faith that fades in trouble, for enthusiasms that fizzle out, for hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy on us. Forgive us, God, and give us such trust in your power that, in every city, we may live for your justice and tell of your loving-kindness; for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

* All who are able may stand
Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Humble King Jesus, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: as we hear your word proclaimed today, grant us the faith to know you and love you, so that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 640 in the pew Bible

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Christus factus est

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God also has exalted him and given him a name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:8-9

*Gradual Processional Hymn 278 (Stanza 1)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 78 in the pew Bible


Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Processional Hymn 278 (Stanzas 2-3)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Sermon

Victory of Descent
Response

Recognition of New Members | New members stand before the congregation. All worshipers are invited to respond to the questions of faith.

Minister: Do you believe that God has reached out to us with love and forgiveness?
People: We do.
Minister: Will you seek to grow in faith through participating in worship, study, service, and celebration?
People: We will.
Minister: Will you strive to embody Christ’s compassion and holiness?
People: We will.

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Mission of the Month

Offertory Anthem

Ride On in Majesty

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes Hosanna cry!
Thine humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scatter’d garments strow’d.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
O Christ! Thy triumphs now begin
O’er captive death and conquer’d Sin!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes,
To see the approaching sacrifice!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on His sapphire throne
Expect’s His own anointed Son!

Grayston Ives
(b. 1948)
Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain!
Then take, O God! Thy power, and reign!

Text: Henry Milman

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Sending Forth

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English version is number 895 in the hymnal.

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn 161

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Choral Benediction

God Be in My Head

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

Text: Sarum Primer

Organ Voluntary

Final, from Symphony 1, Op. 14

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today's worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the pastor will be available to anoint and pray.
TODAY’S FLOWERS | The Palms and Greenery are given by Walter L. Deane in memory of his parents, Marjorie S. Deane and Disque Dee Deane. Our palms today are from Eco-Palms, a “fair trade” palm producer that seeks to promote environmental and social justice in its practices. Eco-Palms pays a fair wage to producers and harvesters of palms who utilize sustainable practices in growing the palms. This is part of our ongoing effort to be a Green and Fair Chapel.

MISSION OF THE MONTH | Today’s mission of the month offering recipient is Walltown Children’s Theatre. Walltown Children’s Theatre inspires positive social change by empowering and reconnecting young people from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. The Theatre seeks to create a new expression of community and to enrich the lives of young people and their families and communities through exemplary performing arts instruction and youth development programming. Following worship, one of Walltown's students will perform a dance in front of the Chapel.

ACCESSIBILITY | Large print hymnals and bulletins are available at the front desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the back left sound desk.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN | Children four and younger are welcome to visit the nursery (capacity limited), located in the Chapel's lower level, beginning at 10:45 a.m. each week.
**ENGAGE**

**WELCOME TO DUKE CHAPEL** | If you have questions about the ministries of Duke Chapel or the Congregation at Duke Chapel, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the narthex. Those staffing the table will be happy to answer your questions.

**CHAPEL TOUR** | For a tour of Duke Chapel, meet today’s docent near the front steps of the Chapel following the service.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** | Please welcome Lynne Arden, Parker Betts, Kohl and Hilary Boydston, Caroline Craig, Diane Garber, Jeffrey Huo, Sharon Jones, Shawn Proffit, and Ben Wechsler as new members of the Congregation at Duke Chapel. These individuals are wearing a corsage or boutonniere this morning. For information about joining the Congregation in the future, please contact Carol Gregg at carol.gregg@duke.edu or 919-684-3917.

**SERMON TALK BACK TODAY** | Following the worship service today, students have an opportunity to engage with Dean Luke Powery about the sermon. Students are invited to bring comments, questions, and wonderings, and meet with the Dean in Room 110 Gray of Duke Divinity School. The conversation will begin fifteen minutes after the service ends, and snacks will be provided. Come talk back to the preacher!

**LUNCH TODAY** | Plan to stay after worship on today to have lunch in the Brodhead Center, which is a short walk from the Chapel. Participants will purchase their own meal at one of the many food vendors, then gather in the Great Hall for conversation. Volunteers will provide directions to the Brodhead Center.

**ST. JOHN PASSION CONCERT TODAY** | Join us today at 4:00 p.m. as the Duke Evensong Singers perform J.S. Bach’s *St. John Passion* with instrumentation by composer Robert Schumann. In 1851, Schumann undertook a revival of St. John Passion which he described as "bold and poetic." As Mozart did with Messiah, and Mendelssohn with the St. Matthew Passion, Schumann replaced Baroque instruments with more modern alternatives; fortepiano, cello, and bass feature prominently in the recitatives and telling of the Passion narrative. Chapel Organist Christopher Jacobson, FRCO, directs the performance. Tickets can be purchased immediately before the concert in the Page Box Office.

**MUSIC FOR HOLY SATURDAY CONCERT** | As the darkness of Good Friday gives way to the joy and gladness of Easter, the Duke Vespers Ensemble sings music that reflects on the momentous happenings of these pivotal days in the Christian calendar. Music includes Franz Liszt’s "Via Crucis," a dramatic portrayal of the Stations of the Cross. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, and is directed by Dr. Philip Cave, associate conductor for Chapel Music. Admission is free.
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER | Holy Week begins today and will include these Chapel services and concerts:

St. John Passion Concert: April 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Midday Holy Week Services: April 15–18 at 12:00 noon
Organ Meditation of Dupré’s Stations of the Cross: April 17 at 9:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship Service: April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Procession of the Stations of the Cross: Chapel Quad on April 19 at 11:30 a.m.
Good Friday Noon Service: April 19 at 12:00 noon
Service of Tenebrae: April 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Music for Holy Saturday Concert: April 20 at 4:00 p.m.
Easter Sunrise Service at Duke Gardens: April 21 at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Day Communion Service: April 21 at 9:00 a.m.
Easter Day Worship Service: April 21 at 11:00 a.m.
Easter Day Choral Evensong Worship Service: April 21 at 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES | Classes for all ages will resume on April 28, after taking an Easter recess. Classes are offered on Sundays 9:45 a.m. in the lowest level of the Westbrook building, Duke Divinity School. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m. Classes are:

Wee Praise: For children ages 0-3 with parents or caregivers in 0011 WB
Godly Play: For ages 4 through 5th graders in 0050 Langford
Youth Bible Study: For youth in 6th–12th grade in 0013 Westbrook
Adult Forum: On April 28, The Rev. Dr. Frank Yamada, Executive Director, The Association of Theological Schools and guest preacher in Duke Chapel, will present “Ch- Ch- Ch- Changes: Trends within the Changing Landscape of Theological Education” in 0012 Westbrook