

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

In the face of the wickedness of the actions of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham prays. In this prayer, we see Abraham's compassion for the people; and we hear his holy argument with God, on their behalf.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15

A reminder of who we are – children of God – and who God is – our merciful and faithful Saviour. Rooted in Christ, we can grow strong. In all this we are called to lives of abundant gratitude.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

The disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. He gives them the Lord's Prayer, and tells them stories about persistence in bringing human need to God.

FIRST READING Genesis 18.20–32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre

20 and said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin!

21 I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

22 So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

23 Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?'

26 And the LORD said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.'

27 Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

28 Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.'

29 Again Abraham spoke to the LORD, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.'

30 Then Abraham said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' The LORD answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.'

31 Abraham said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' The LORD answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.'

32 Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more.

Suppose ten are found there.' The LORD answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

SECOND READING Colossians 2.6–15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters,

6 as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him,

7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.

9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

11 In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

12 when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,

14 erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

GOSPEL Luke 11.1–13

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

1 Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'

2 He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

5 And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him."

7 And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything."

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?

12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

COLLECT

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

Pray for the people of Gaza as we continue to bear witness through the media of their desperate situation – the devastation of homes, preventing of food aid to be delivered, difficulty of medical support and much more.

Remember in your prayer, the continuing war in Ukraine. Pray for all those involved in the negotiation process to try and find a satisfactory solution to the conflict.

As the school summer holidays have begun, pray for families who struggle during this time.

Pray for those who work in our community to help those who are homeless, suffering from addiction or financial hardship.

Pray for our clergy, reader, retired clergy, churchwardens and deputy churchwarden, parish administrator and the volunteers who work very hard to ensure that the work of the parish continues.

Remember Sherine and her family in your prayers as they prepare to move to St Albans and settle into a new routine here.

Those who are acutely sick: Martin Banister, Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Mary Green, Jill McMahon, Allan Medforth Jan Price, Carole Sharp, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Jackie Briggs, Margaret Coles, Dorothy Duncanson, Pat Elves, Kathy Gheradi, Matt Gherardi, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Julia Sherlock, Nancy Smith, Pam Smith, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild, Sandra Wild.

Those who have died: Joe Gherardi

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY 9.15am *No Morning Prayer* at St Stephen's
7.30pm Home Group meets at St Stephen's

WEDNESDAY 9.15am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
10.30am Summer Tots at St Julian's

THURSDAY 9.15am *No Morning Prayer* at St Julian's
10.30am Community Café at St Julian's

FRIDAY 9.15am Morning Prayer via Zoom

SATURDAY 2.30pm A service of prayer & reflection commemorating Hiroshima at St Stephen's



St Stephen
with St Julian

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

27 July 2025

Welcome to St Stephen's and St Julian's. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from, you are welcome! If this is your first visit, please do introduce yourselves to the clergy and stay for coffee after the service to meet others.

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
President & Preacher: Geoff Lackey
9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's
President & Preacher: Charlie Hudson
10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
President & Preacher: Geoff Lackey

Next Sunday –Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephens
9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's

Link for 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Julian's

<https://youtube.com/live/US5fay7hVhk?feature=share>.

The service is livestreamed and then kept online afterwards, if you do not wish to appear on screen, please speak to the Churchwarden or deputy Churchwarden.