

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

The prophet is shown that his dream signifies that the saints will have a share in God's eternal kingdom – a kingdom that will outlast and supersede all passing earthly empires.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:11-23

Paul declares that Christians are chosen by God and destined as his saints for a glorious heavenly inheritance. He prays that the Spirit's power will enable them to grow in hope and knowledge of Christ.

Gospel Luke 6:20-31

Jesus declares that the blessedness of those who serve him cannot be measured in earthly plenty and contentment. He calls his disciples to express his unconditional love, even towards their enemies.

FIRST READING Daniel 7. 1–3, 15–18

1 In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream:

2 I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea,

3 and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

15 As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me.

16 I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter:

17 'As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever – for ever and ever.'

SECOND READING Ephesians 1. 11–23

11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him

who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,

12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;

14 this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Luke 6. 20–31

20 Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

27 But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.'

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:

may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

Pray for all those who have lost their lives in the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa as it passed through Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba. Pray that the people whose homes have been destroyed are able to restore some of their properties and possessions and adjust to some normality.

Continue to pray for the citizens of Ukraine, Gaza and Israel as they fluctuate between a status of ceasefire and renewed fighting. Remember all who work tirelessly with relief organisations to provide support.

Pray for all those known to us who may be struggling with their own lives whether it be with ill health, financial worries or bereavement. May they find strength in the words of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Allan Medforth Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

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

Those who have died: Ann Croker, Gordon Westwick, Sandra Wild.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY 9.15am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

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

THURSDAY 9.15am Morning Prayer at St Julian's
10.30am Community Café at St Julian's

FRIDAY 9.15am Morning Prayer via Zoom

SATURDAY 9.00am – 12noon Churchyard Tidy Up at St Stephen's

There are arrangements in St Stephen's church today in memory of two members of our church community

The table arrangement is in memory of John Mayne.

The window arrangement is in memory of Brenda Merlino

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every Friday
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzlPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZIYt3V.1>

Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768
Passcode: 792910



St Stephen
with St Julian

**All Saints Sunday /
Fourth Sunday before Advent**

2 November 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 Stephens
President: Sherine Angus
Preacher: Hamish Hamilton

9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's
President: Sherine Angus
Preacher: Michael Elves

10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
President & Preacher: Clare Baynes
Sunday Explorers meet at St Stephen's
Sunday Tots meets at St Stephen's

12noon Parish Walk in Harpenden – meet in the car park at St Stephen's

Next Sunday – Remembrance Sunday / Third Sunday before Advent

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 10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
<https://youtube.com/live/G0wsWwTa31M?feature=share>