

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2026 (Fifth Sunday of Lent, Lectionary Year A)

COLLECT

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his
passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's
blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LESSON EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

PSALM 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

ROMANS 8:6-11

(A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans)

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45

(Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I

believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

(This is the Gospel of the Lord)

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our
brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 22nd March 2026

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP for SUNDAY 29th MARCH – Palm Sunday

9.30am Boylestone Holy Communion
9.30am Church Broughton Holy Communion
9.30am Hatton Songs of Praise
11.00am Hilton Holy Communion

READINGS: Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

EVENTS AND SERVICES FOR WEEK OF THE 22nd MARCH

- Monday 1.00pm: Hatton Core Team Meeting
- Tuesday 10.00am: Boylestone Core Team Meeting
- Tuesday 1.15pm: Little Saints, All Saints' Hatton
- Tuesday 5.30pm: Dove Club, All Saints' Hatton
- Wednesday 9.30am: Mid-week Morning Prayer at All Saints' Hatton
- Wednesday 7.30pm: Evening Bible Study
- Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm: Hub Community Café, at All Saints' Jubilee Hall, Station Road, Hatton

APPLETREE CHURCHES MORNING PRAYER

Zoom morning prayer will usually be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 8am. On Wednesdays Morning Prayer will be held at All Saints Church, Hatton at 9.30am. Once a month at 9.30am there will be a service of Holy Communion.

The Zoom link for Morning Prayer can be found in the Teamup entry, or contact Vickie for the link. If you would like help with setting up Zoom for Morning Prayer, please also contact Vickie: vickie@appletreechurches.org / 07977 067 585.

All are welcome.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Lauren Hewings and Ryan James Anthony Oakley both of the Parish of Hilton with Marston on Dove.

Lauren and Ryan are to be married at Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross on 18th April 2026. Please pray for Lauren and Ryan in all their preparation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER MEAL, ST MARY'S SCHOOLROOM,

Thursday 2nd April

Thank you for all who have booked already. If you have not booked and you like to attend, please can you let the office know as soon as possible.

The Passover Seder Meal is on the evening of Thursday 2nd April between 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Schoolroom at St Mary's Hilton with Marston on Dove; this is a family event and all are welcome.

Tickets for the event are £11 for adults £5.00 for children (to cover the food etc).

Contact Vickie at office@appletreechurches.org or 07977067585 if you'd like more information or you would like to book.

Please also let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements.

SCHOOLS AND EXPERIENCE EASTER

Heath Fields and Church Broughton Schools were at All Saints Hatton and St Michaels and All Angels, Church Broughton this week to Experience Easter, where stations of Easter are set up around the church and volunteers tell a portion of the story of Easter at each station.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the experience real for the children, and staff, who attended.



PRAYERS

Please pray for the family and friends of the late Margaret Bagnall whose funeral is on Monday 23rd March at St Mary's Church and also for the family and friends of the late Keith Woodhead whose funeral is on Friday 27th March, also at St Mary's Church.

Pray also for the family and friends of the late Frances Toye, whose funeral is on Tuesday 31st March at All Saints' Church.

Continue to pray for Julian and Dulcie who are to be married at Church Broughton Church on April 10th.

VISITING PARISHIONERS

Do you know anyone who would like a visit from Rev Ed? If yes, please can you let Rev Ed know. Ed's contact details are at the top of the page.