

TODAY'S READINGS

LITURGY OF PALMS

GOSPEL Matthew 21.1–11

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

- 1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
- 2 '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.
- 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.'
- 4 This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
- 5 '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.'
- 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
- 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.
- 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
- 9 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!'
- 10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'
- 11 The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

FIRST READING Isaiah 50.4–9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
The servant of the LORD said:

- 4 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.
- 5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.
- 6 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.
- 7 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;
- 8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
- 9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

SECOND READING Philippians 2.5–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
- 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
- 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
- 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL Matthew 26. 14 – 27.end

This is read in dramatic form at the 10.00am Parish Communion service but is included as a separate sheet for those of you who wish to refer to the readings during the service and afterwards as it is very long.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

Pray for our new Archbishop of Canterbury as she begins her ministry in the Church of England and wider Anglican Communion.

Pray for Bishop Andrew Rumsey as he prepares to be to become the new Bishop of St Albans, remember his

wife, Rebecca and his family as they begin the process of packing up and moving to St Albans.

Pray that there may be a resolution for the introduction of peace in the areas of the world where there is continued conflict and an uncertainty of the outcome of the aggression shown by the protagonists. Remember in your prayers all who have been displaced from their homes as a result.

Pray that as we begin the period of Holy Week and Easter that we may welcome anyone into our churches, some of whom may be visiting for the first time.

As the Easter holidays approach, pray for local families who may find this time particularly challenging and a worry without the routine of school and the support given to them.

Remember in your prayers, our clergy, retired clergy, reader, churchwardens, duty churchwarden, organist, treasurer, parish administrator and the many volunteers who work hard tirelessly and quietly to enable our parish to function.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Margaret Moyce, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Lindsey Westcott, 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, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: Vera O'Neill.

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZiYt3V.1>

Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768

Passcode: 792910

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
	8.00pm	Compline with Reflection talk at St Stephen's
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	Compline with Reflection talk at St Stephen's
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Holy Communion at St Stephen's
	10.30am	No Tots & Teddies at St Julian's
	4.30pm	Organ Practice at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	Compline with Reflection talk at St Stephen's
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Julian's
Maundy Thursday	10.30am	Community Café open at St Julian's
	7.30pm	Holy Communion with footwashing at St Julian's followed by The Watch
FRIDAY	10.00am	South St Albans Churches Walk of Witness starts at St Bart's
Good Friday	10.30am	No Community Shed at St Stephen's
	12noon – 2.00pm	A reflective service at the Foot of the Cross
	2.00pm	The Liturgy of the Cross
SATURDAY	8.00pm	Baptism and Confirmation Service at St Albans Abbey
Easter Eve		



St Stephen
with St Julian

Palm Sunday

29 March 2026

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 & Preacher: Charlie Hudson
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's President & Preacher: Sherine Angus
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's ** President: Charlie Hudson Preacher: Sherine Angus Palm Sunday activities in the hall for children

Next Sunday – Easter Sunday

6.10am	Easter Fire Sunrise service at St Stephen's
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephens
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's followed by Easter Egg hunt

Link for 10.00am service at St Stephen's Church
<https://youtube.com/live/tmYLW88LaZk?feature=share>

**** Please note there may be some flexibility for the start time of this service (10.15am) due to the arrival of the walkers from St Julian's**