



Prayers - week 3

Palm Sunday

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of all time,
as we prepare to worship you on
Palm Sunday and during this Holy
Week of lock down,
help us call to mind the final
days in Jesus' life
so that we can see their significance
for our present lives
and for the future you are preparing
for all creation.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

JESUS THE SACRIFICIAL SERVANT KING

Matthew 16:13-21 & 21:1-13

When Jesus came to the region of
Caesarea Philippi, he asked his
disciples, 'Who do people say the
Son of Man is?'

They replied, 'Some say John the
Baptist; others say Elijah; and still
others, Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.'

'But what about you?' he asked.
'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the
Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you,
Simon son of Jonah, for this was not
revealed to you by flesh and blood,
but by my Father in heaven. And I
tell you that you are Peter, and on
this rock I will build my church, and

JESUS ASKS, "Who do you say I am?"

Matthew 16:15

the gates of Hades will not
overcome it. I will give you the keys
of the kingdom of heaven; whatever
you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on
earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then
he ordered his disciples not to tell
anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on Jesus began to
explain to his disciples that he must
go to Jerusalem and suffer many
things at the hands of the elders,
the chief priests and the teachers of
the law, and that he must be killed
and on the third day be raised to
life...

As they approached Jerusalem and
came to Bethphage on the Mount of
Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
saying to them, 'Go to the village
ahead of you, and at once you will
find a donkey tied there, with her
colt by her. Untie them and bring
them to me. If anyone says anything
to you, say that the Lord needs
them, and he will send them right
away.'

This took place to fulfil what was
spoken through the prophet:

'Say to Daughter Zion,
"See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.””

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’

‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,” but you are making it “a den of robbers.””

THE GLORY OF PETER’S CONFESSION

From JC Ryle’s Expository Thoughts

It is this... Peter made it when few were with Christ and many were against him. He made it when rulers and religious leaders were all opposed to his master. He made it when our Lord Jesus was in the form of a servant without wealth or royal dignity. To make such a confession at such a time required great faith. With all his faults,

Peter was a true-hearted, fervent, single-minded, servant of Christ. Zeal like his may at times be ill-directed, or make mistakes, but zeal like his is not to be despised. It awakens us from sleep. It stirs us from being sluggish. It provokes us to apply our faith in worship and the service of Christ.

JESUS THE SACRIFICIAL KING

From JC Ryle’s Expository Thoughts

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

It was not fitting that the Lamb of God should come to be slain on Calvary privately and silently. Before the great sacrifice for the sins of the world was offered up, it was right that every eye should be fixed on the victim. This crowning act of our Lord’s earthly public ministry should be done with as much notoriety as possible.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and
love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.

PALM SUNDAY CONFESSION *Ian Cowie*

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure
heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false.

Psalms 24:4

O living God,
age after age the children of dust

make their way to holy places to
seek you,
yet you are closer than hands or
feet.

In temples and in churches
people make sacrifices and offerings,
but what you seek
is the love and well-being of your
children.

Your Word promises
that those whose hands are clean
and whose hearts are pure
can climb the heavenly hill;
but who are we to do that?

On our journey through life
our hearts and our hands
have become stained and dirtied.

If we have stretched out our hands
in greed, or lust, or love of money,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

If our hearts have been sullied by
pride or resentment,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

If we have turned aside from our
pilgrimage
to follow the world's ways,
or to seek false gods,
or spirits other than your Holy Spirit,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

Lord, you forgive the sins of all who
turn to you in sincerity;
you cleanse the penitent heart from
all uncleanness.

Lord, set our course according to
your word
so that we may take up afresh the
challenge of the journey to the holy
city.

Give us new strength to follow you
on your way,
so that even we may ascend the hill
of the Lord

and stand in the holy place.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
the King who came, and died, and is
risen and ascended.

Amen.

COME, OUR KING *St Dimitirii of Rostow*

Come, our Light, and illuminate our
darkness.

Come, our Life, and raise us from
death.

Come, our Physician, and heal our
wounds.

Come, Flame of divine Love, and
burn up the thorns of our sins,
kindling our hearts with the flame
of your love.

Come, our King, sit upon the throne
of our hearts and reign there.

For you alone are our King and our
Lord. Amen.

FATHER GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Love Maria Willis

Father, hear the prayers we offer.
Not for ease that prayer shall be
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be.
But by steep and rugged pathways
Would we strive to climb to thee.

Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly quiet stay.
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along the way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness.
In our wanderings be our Guide
Through endeavour, failure, danger
Father be thou at our side.

Prayer topics for the week

If you would like the vicar to pray with you on the phone, call him on 01902 827214; or alternatively you can place a prayer request on our 'Prayer Chain' by phoning Joan on 01902 754526. She will have several people pray, in confidence, for your request.

**Seek the favour of him who is, 'The same yesterday, today, and for ever' Hebrews 13:8.
Christ never changes. Those whom he loves, he loves to the end. His favour endures for ever.**

For the World and our Nation and our City

For millions of refugees and internally displaced people

- Pray for them and their fears, due to the global spread of COVID-19. In cramped conditions in tents, limited food, medical resources & shared sanitation; pray for their protection.

For our nation at this time

- Pray for wisdom in leaders making decisions – may their leadership be for the good of all.
- Pray for doctors, nurses and medical researchers. Lord strengthen them with your spirit, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health.
- Pray for the vulnerable and the fearful.
- Pray for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:
- Lord, hear our prayers.

For St Jude's Church

- Give thanks for responses to the *Hello Neighbour!* card – thanks from those glad that we have made contact with them and provided them with the comfort of knowing someone cares about them, thanks for the offers of help non-church folk have made, thanks we can help those requesting help.
- Pray for clergy in our city responding to requests for pastoral end of life visits, and for managing funerals in ways that respect guidance on constraints and offer meaningful support to bereaved families.

Merciful God, as we enter a Holy Week of lock down, gathering before you in our separate places of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city, not made by human hands, but the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. Amen.

For our Mission Partners

Barnabas Fund

- Pray for the **Barnabas Coronavirus Emergency Network** of Christian organisations & agencies in coronavirus-affected countries, focusing on practical support to Christians who face poverty, discrimination & persecution.
- Pray for Christians in Iran, Nigeria, Myanmar & Pakistan under persecution.

Tearfund

- Praise God 'We are seeing that the poor and most vulnerable people have new-found hope as the church has reached out to their neighbours.' (from Ethiopia).
- Access to clean running water is essential in keeping people safe – pray for Tearfund's Tap-Twinning fund raising campaign.
- Pray for people in East Africa, Horn of Africa, Sudan & Yemen where there is food poverty, crops decimated by locust swarms, and ill equipped for Covid-19. Pray for God's mercy on those in need.

CONTACTING ST JUDE'S

Vicar	Rev Philip Robertson	827214	philipsrobertson@virginmedia.com
Church Wardens	James Sturgeon	269743	jmmsturgeon@gmail.com
	Pradip Sudra	334257	pradipsudra@gmail.com
Occasional Minister	Rev Ivor Saunders	751162	ivor.john@outlook.com
Children	Nicky Robertson	827214	nicky_is@hotmail.com
Parish Office	Alita Caine – Secretary	753360	sjudeschurch@virginmedia.com

Our building is shut. For current news visit our Facebook Group and Website
St Jude's Church, % The Vicarage 21A St Jude's Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0EB
www.achurchnearyou.com/wolverhampton-st-judes
[Facebook.com/ St Judes Church Community](https://www.facebook.com/StJudesChurchCommunity)