

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Palm Sunday - 28th March 2021

Collect:

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.**

Psalm 118.1-2,19-end

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from the letter to the Philippians (2.5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (11.1-11)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.



25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Passion Gospel: Mark 15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

This week's hymn:

All glory, laud, and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring

Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest
The King and Blessed One

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went
Our praise and love and anthems
Before Thee we present

To Thee, before Thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise
To Thee, now high exalted
Our melody we raise

Thou didst accept their praises
Accept the love we bring
Who in all good delightest
Thou good and gracious King

A prayer for the journey of Lent

You were a man of suffering
acquainted with grief,
loved and despised in equal measure.
You understand humanity, know our failings,
love us despite the people that we are.
When we, like Peter, deny you
by word or action, forgive us.
When we, like Judas, are tempted
to follow a different path, forgive us.
When we, like those in the crowd
allow you to be crucified, forgive us.
Bring us to the foot of the Cross
to stand next to the one who,
looking into your eyes declared
'Surely this is the Son of God'
Amen.

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Rosemary, Eric Dickerson, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Andrew, Peggy, Margaret Christian, Natacha, Rex & Jill, Christine, Stephen, Samantha, Jean Dominy

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Katie, Gloria Elmer, Leslie Bloomfield, Roger Dickerson, Vicky & Matt, Dagmar, Roy

All who are affected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world: *For all who have lost their jobs due to Covid19; all who are despairing. For all who have lost their lives; the injured, the bereaved. For hospital and health care workers*

For our government & MPs', and local councillors: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all. For refugees across the world & diplomats and peace makers, working to end conflicts

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Sally Carson. RIP

Prayer for our new Priest-in-Charge:

Lord, give us all wisdom and guidance as the search process goes ahead. We know that you have plans for us as a church - and we trust you. We pray that the right person will be drawn to us, that your Spirit will be at work.

Grant us a vision, Lord, to see what we can achieve, to reach out beyond ourselves, to stretch our capabilities, to increase our sense of purpose, to be sensitive to your presence at all times and listen to your call.

Amen.

Scriptures for our new priest:

We are hoping for a priest who can aspire to Philippians 2, and offer joy and humility in serving the Lord at St Thomas. To lift up holy hands in prayer (1 Timothy 2: 8) - and to keep hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Timothy 3:9).

Notices:

Church Open for Prayer: 11.30-1.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday of Holy Week. From Thursday 8th April, church will be open for prayer 11.30-1.30 on Mondays & Thursdays.

New Vicar Search: Advertising has begun! Please pray that the right person will be attracted to apply for the position. Rev Jackie is collecting scripture verses / words of encouragement & inspiration for our prayers. Do email anything you'd like to share. jackie@jbsears.com

Zoom link for Taizé & Stations of the Cross services: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87239676344?pwd=SWZ6d0FpaHlxOHdJVThQZHZHJ4dTFFoZz09> (this will be emailed out as well)

Electoral Roll: will be on display outside after the service today.



HOLY WEEK:

Sunday 28th March

10am: Palm Sunday Eucharist with livestream and Zoom

Monday 29th March

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer
7.30pm: Taize service on Zoom, hosted by STPC.

Tuesday 30th March

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer
7.30pm: Stations of the Cross reflections on Zoom, led by Canon Chris & Malcolm.

Wednesday 31st March

10am: Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 1st April

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer
8pm: Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Good Friday 2nd April

1-3pm: Meditations followed by Liturgy of the Cross.

Holy Saturday 3rd April

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer
8pm: Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday 4th April

10am: Easter Eucharist with livestream and zoom

Booking for in-person services: other than the Wednesday 10am Eucharist, all services must be booked into.

Online booking forms are sent out via email.

To book by phone, call **01473 742973** and leave a message saying which service/s you are booking for, your name, and how many (including yourself) you are booking for.

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation

Sylvia & Russell Dickerson; Susan Dickerson & family; Amanda Di Benga with Dale & Luke; Lucy Drake; Caren Elwis, Patrick, Emma Louise, William & Daniel; Keri & Justin Harrison & family



29th: Harvey Dunnett

30th: Pat Wright

31st: Aaron Brendt

1st April: James Pratt

Contacts:

Acting Priest-in-charge: Revd Cat Connolly

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Cat's day off: Mondays

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs

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Director of Music: Simon Clark BA (Hons) FLCM ARCO

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Stephen Marginson 01473 258791

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135

Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639

Revd Pat 464748

Rev Canon Chris 462109

Church website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>