

# **St Thomas**

We strive to share God's Love through Welcome, Outreach & Worship



# **Palm Sunday**

## **Parish Eucharist**

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**10am**

**GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION** – If you are Coeliac or Wheat Intolerant and would like to receive G/F Communion, please speak to a sidesperson or server before the service. You will be given a green card, which you should carry to the communion rail and show clearly to the priest. Please leave your card at the end of the service.

**A COLLECTION** is not taken, however there is an offertory plate by the door for use either before or after the service. Please fill in a Gift Aid envelope if possible, so we can reclaim the tax. Alternatively, if you would like to join the PARISH GIVING SCHEME there are forms at the back of the church. If you need assistance please see one of the stewards or churchwardens.

***We now have a card reader available for contactless payment by card - please speak to a steward***



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**The Parish Office** can be contacted on

Telephone: 672335 Email: [office@stthomaswells.co.uk](mailto:office@stthomaswells.co.uk)



*When all have gathered*

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,  
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

Ride on in the cause of truth  
and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;  
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

You have loved righteousness and hated evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

## **THE GREETING**

*The president greets the people*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY AND BLESSING OF PALMS

*The president introduces the celebration using these or other appropriate words*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*The people hold up palms or branches while this prayer is said by the president*

God our Saviour,  
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem  
as Messiah to suffer and to die;  
let these palms be for us signs of his victory  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE PALM GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 21:1-11**

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you O Lord**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, '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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, '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.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **THE PROCESSION**

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

*All follow the cross from the hall to the church*

**Hymn: All glory, laud and honour**

*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. Refrain**

**The company of angels  
are praising thee on high;  
and mortals joined with all things  
created, make reply. Refrain**

**The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present. Refrain**

**To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King. *Refrain***

*Please remain standing*

## **THE 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.**

*Please sit*

**OLD TESTAMANT READING:**            Isaiah 50:4-9a

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.

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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:**           Philippians 2:5-11

*A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians*

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.

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**

**Hymn: There's a man riding in on a donkey**

**There's a man riding in on a donkey;  
there's a man and they say he's king;  
and the palm leaves are waving a welcome  
and the voices of the people sing:**

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings.  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King.*

**Why a king riding in on a donkey?  
Why a king wearing no fine crown?  
Where the drums, where the high sounding cymbals,  
if a king is riding into town?**

**Hear the voice of the King on a donkey.  
Hear the joy of the news he brings.  
He is Jesus, the Son of the highest;  
he is Jesus and the King of kings.**

*Please sit*

## **THE PASSION READING**

Matthew 26:14-27:66

*When the Passion is announced the reader says*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*At the end*

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*Silence is kept*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean  
spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome  
them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity  
there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem – and other cities – a battleground, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Then...

Holy God

**Holy God, holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

*Please stand*

## **THE PEACE**

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  
**and also with you.**

## **PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

**Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning**

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:**

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:**

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:**

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:**

**So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up unto the Lord**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God**  
It is right to give thanks and praise

Now is the time to give you thanks  
when rage and spite deface your image.  
You are the undying one whose gift of life never ceases;  
you journeyed with your people to break the bonds of slavery;  
you gave the law of justice to free them from lifeless idols;  
you called the prophets and judges to speak for the dispossessed.

When empires ruled, you gave your Beloved  
to systems which silenced what they could not control  
and wormed their way into our colluding hearts.  
In his self-offering love, the wound of torment became a healing  
spring, the place of execution, a gateway into life.  
Therefore, we stand with all victims, the faithless and the  
treacherous, and the ones who only followed orders,  
knowing we depend on grace to sing of life renewed:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and these gifts,  
that these fragile, earthly things may be to us  
the body and blood of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ;

who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his  
wavering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.  
Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks,  
broke it and said:

‘This is my body, which is given for you.  
Do this to remember me.’

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:  
‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this,  
whenever you drink it, to remember me.’  
As on that night, so here and now he offers himself  
in touch and taste beyond all our words can hold:

Jesus Christ is Lord

**Lord by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, we come in memory and hope, responding  
to your call and the promise that echoes from the dawn  
of all time. May mind and heart be held by your self-giving love  
as we stand before the cross, approach the empty tomb  
and praise the one whose name is lifted high  
above all earthly power.

Receive our broken offering through his all-powerful grace  
and bind us in communion with all who share your gifts;  
through Jesus Christ in whom all ages and all worlds  
are drawn into the ceaseless love of  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we say:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*Then we sing*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The Priest and people receive communion.*

*All are welcome at God's table.*

*If you cannot come forward for communion, we can bring the  
bread and wine to you.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of bread and wine,  
please bring this booklet with you.*

***Please indicate by pointing right if you'd prefer to drink from the  
common cup, otherwise your wafer will be dipped in the wine by  
the priest.***

*During the distribution, music will be played and/or singing.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*All say together*

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

## NOTICES

*Please stand*

**Hymn: Meekness and Majesty**

**Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,  
in perfect harmony the man who is God.  
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,  
kneels in humility and washes our feet.**

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship for this is your God,  
this is your God.*

**Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,  
yet learns obedience to death on a cross.  
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,  
and as they crucify prays, "Father forgive".**

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship for this is your God,  
this is your God.*

**Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,  
Love indestructible in frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly,  
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.**

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship for this is your God,  
this is your God, this is your God.*

## **BLESSING**

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of..... **Amen**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**