

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

PALM SUNDAY

24th March 2024

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist

10:30 am Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday

Hymns: 159; 147; 181; 161

6:00 pm *Sung Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene*

THIS WEEK

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

8:45 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am Church open

7:00 pm Holy Week Mystery Play

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

8:45 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am Church open

11:00 am Chrism Eucharist at Lincoln Cathedral

7:00 pm Said Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

8:45 am Morning Prayer


9:30 am Said Eucharist

10:00 am Church open

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

MAUNDY THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

 9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS Play, Worship, Coffee & Friendship for young children and those who have care of them.

10:00 am Church open

7:00 pm Liturgy of Maundy Thursday & Watch

GOOD FRIDAY

9:30 am Good Friday Crafts and Buns

10:00 am Church open

11:30am Good Friday Walk of Witness

2:00 pm Liturgy of Good Friday

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

8:00 pm Easter Vigil & Confirmations – Lincoln Cathedral

NEXT SUNDAY – EASTER DAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist

10:30 am Parish Eucharist for Easter Sunday

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL

Acts 3:1-10

Psalms 105:1-9

Luke 24:13-35

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Friends,

On Monday evening in Holy Week we are hosting a performance of a modern adaptation of the Lincoln Mystery Play which tells the story of Holy Week. Church and the Theatre have not always had the easiest of relationships. During the Commonwealth period in England, Puritan hostility led to the closure of theatres.

But there has been a more positive approach. Mystery plays were a popular feature of medieval life and religion, when the liturgy was in Latin, and so not understood by most people. There has been a revival of these in a number of places; the most famous being the Oberammergau Passion Play.

The Passion Story, with its scenes, events, and characters, is one which lends itself to dramatization. One of the great theologians of the last Century entitled one of his multi-volume works the "Theodrama," dealing with the drama of God's relationship with his creation. As well as dramatic presentations, there have also been musical works: the most famous being Bach's Matthew and John Passions. These, like his Christmas Oratorio, were composed for performance in the liturgy of the German Lutheran Church.

While the principal services of Holy Week are not theatrical performances in the same sense, they do lead us into the drama of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection in word and sacrament and ceremony, which do more than simply tell the story. Like any powerful drama, they have the capacity to draw us in, involve us in the action, and so to explore the depths of its meaning, year after year. The Procession of Palms which re-enacts Jesus' entry into Jerusalem; the solemn singing or reading of the Passion by a group of readers, the washing of feet at the Eucharist of Maundy Thursday; the stripping of the altar; the watch at the Altar of Repose after the Eucharist, praying with Jesus as he did in the Garden of Gethsemane; the stark Good Friday Liturgy, with the St. John Passion, the Proclamation and Veneration of the Cross, the Solemn Prayers of Intercession; the Stations of the Cross in which we retrace in imagination, movement and prayer, the journey of Our Lord to Calvary and his burial; even the emptiness of Holy Saturday; the Great Vigil of Easter in the Cathedral, with its kindling of the new fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle, the chanted Easter Proclamation, the long series of readings from the Old Testament, its baptisms and confirmations (including three people from our parish this year), and renewal of baptismal promises, then the first Eucharist of Easter. Many of these ceremonies have their origins in the Church in Jerusalem in the 4th century when it became possible for Christian pilgrims to visit the sites associated with the last week of Jesus' life. The war in Gaza which has followed the October 7th Massacre has cast a long shadow over the celebrations of local Christians in Jerusalem this year, and we should remember them in our prayers.

It is indeed, to borrow a Hollywood title, "the Greatest Story Ever Told," and as Christians we should never tire of hearing it and taking part in the telling of it.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2024

Please see the Dairy and the notes below for details of Holy Week and Easter services and events. We join with St Mary Magdalene for some services, and with the deanery and diocese for the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral.

LITURGY OF MAUNDY THURSDAY & WATCH 'TIL MIDNIGHT

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, with washing of feet and the stripping of the Altars, begins at 7:00 pm. It is followed by the Watch until Midnight. It would be lovely if members of the congregation could support this for part or all of the evening. If you're able, do please sign up on the list at the back of church.

GOOD FRIDAY: CHILDREN'S CRAFT SESSION 9.30AM - 11AM

As the church is prepared for Easter morning, come and join us for some Easter crafts and a hot cross bun. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult please.

LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY – 2:00 PM

We will be joined here at St Nicholas' Church by folk from St Mary Magdalene as we sit at the foot of the Cross.

GOOD FRIDAY WALKS OF WITNESS AND CIVIC SERVICE

Churches Together in Lincoln and District invite you to join one of the four Walks, which combine at the Stonebow to walk together to St Benedict's Church, for an open air Civic Service at noon. **From the north, gather at Bailgate Methodist Church in time to set out at 11:30 am, on Friday 29th March.**

EASTER VIGIL & CONFIRMATIONS SATURDAY 30TH MARCH, 8 PM

Three members of our congregation will be confirmed at this year's Easter Vigil at Lincoln Cathedral. The service is always a journey of drama and joy – and it would be super if lots of folk from St Nick's could go along to support Vera, Sue and Ron.

LINCOLN MYSTERY PLAYS HOLY WEEK PLAYS 2024

Medieval plays in a modern translation – the tale of Holy Week in a fast paced, thought provoking and moving 1 hour performance. Do come along to support Mother Julia, of St Mary's, and our own Su Toogood, who takes the part of Mary Magdalene.

Sunday 24th March, 3pm at St Mary Magdalene
Monday 25th March, 7pm at St Nicholas, Newport
Wednesday 27th March, 7pm at St Mary Magdalene
Friday 29th March, 4pm at Lincoln Cathedral

Entry is free, but donations would be welcomed, and will help to stage the 50th Anniversary revival of the Lincoln Mystery Plays, in 2028.

WATERAID LENTEN APPEAL - "JARS OF CHANGE"

If you've collected change for the **WaterAid "Jars of Change" Lenten Appeal**, please remember to bring your jars to church in time for Easter Sunday, to be blessed at the 10:30am service. The money donated will help to provide overseas communities with a supply of clean water on which they can rely all year round whatever the changing climate brings.

Sue Humphrey

HOLIDAY CLUB IN A BAG

By Good Friday, the Easter activity bags will have been delivered to 200 children in and around Uphill Lincoln! St Nick's and St Mary's have worked together for our activity preparing the ingredients to make a Hot Cross Bun in a bag! It really works too, because we've tried it! Thank you to those who prepared our resources and to those who joined our friends at St John's for the 'bag packing', where all of the different activities are collated & prepared for delivery. We have been very blessed so far with several financial donations to assist with the cost of the various resources; however, funds are now running low. If you would like to offer a donation, please pass this to a Warden, to Sandra or Adele. Don't forget to gift aid, if you can. Many thanks.

PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES

1st and 3rd Mondays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

1st Mondays: Board Games and refreshments

3rd Mondays: Speakers and refreshments

APRIL 2024

TUESDAY 2nd: Games Afternoon (note change of day)

Monday 15th: Lincoln Waites

MORE PHOENIX GROUP TALKS IN 2024:

May 20th: Rev. Pauline Makin. 'Living in a world of Silence'

June 17th: Strawberry Tea

July 15th: Harriet Winspear, Natural Environmental Project Officer for Trees and Woodland Creation

For further information, please contact Betty Brown
email address: bettybkbrown@yahoo.co.uk

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Evening services at St Mary Magdalene are on second and fourth Sundays, starting at **6:00 pm.**

MARCH

Sunday 24th: Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

APRIL

Sunday 14th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 28th: Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com

Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Grant, we pray, Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may grow in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

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

PALM GOSPEL

MARK 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus 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.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

The servant of the Lord said:

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 awakens—

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?

PSALM

PSALM 31:9-16

Refrain: I have trusted in you. You are my God.

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow,

my soul and my body also.

For my life is wasted with grief,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of my affliction,

and my bones are consumed. **R**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies

and even to my neighbours,

an object of dread to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they flee from me. **R**

I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind;

I have become like a broken vessel.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;

fear is on every side;

they scheme together against me,

and plot to take my life. **R**

But my trust is in you, O Lord.

I have said, 'You are my God.

'My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

'Make your face to shine upon your servant,

and save me for your mercy's sake.' **R**

SECOND READING

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.

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.

PASSION GOSPEL

MARK 14:1-END OF 15

POST COMMUNION

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**

Wednesday 27th March

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

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

The servant of the Lord said:

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?

PSALM

PSALM 70

Refrain: Come to me quickly, O God.

O God, make speed to save me;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life

be put to shame and confusion;

let them be turned back and disgraced

who wish me evil.

Let those who mock and deride me

turn back because of their shame. **R**

But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'

As for me, I am poor and needy;

come to me quickly, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer;

O Lord, do not delay. **R**

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 13:21-32

Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.'

POST COMMUNION

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**