



THE PARISHES OF  
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR

*Worshipping God,  
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



## READINGS

CHRISTMAS EVE  
CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
THE FEAST OF S<sup>T</sup> STEPHEN (BOXING DAY)



Readings for 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021: *Midnight Communion*

### Old Testament Reading:

**Isaiah 52: 7 – 10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### New Testament Reading:

**Titus 3: 4 – 7**

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup>He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### Gospel Reading:

**John 1: 1 – 14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life and the life was the light of men.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

<sup>11</sup>He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him.

<sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive Him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God, for whom we wait, You have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021: *Christmas Day*

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of His burden and the staff for His shoulder, the rod of His oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**New Testament Reading: Titus 3: 4 – 7**

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup>He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1 – 14**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear.

<sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, you have given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; 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**

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021: *S. Stephen*

**Old Testament Reading:****2 Chronicles 24: 20-22**

<sup>20</sup>Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the LORD’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has forsaken you.’”

<sup>21</sup>But they plotted against him and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD’s temple. <sup>22</sup>King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, “May the LORD see this and call you to account.”

**Gospel Reading:****Matthew 10: 17 – 22**

<sup>17</sup>Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup>On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup>for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

## New Testament Reading:

Acts 7: 51 – 60

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup> Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him — <sup>53</sup> you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

<sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.



### COLLECT

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against Him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to Him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord, we thank You for the signs of Your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of Your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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The Church Office is closed until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.  
The office will then be open Tuesday, Wednesday 9am to 4pm and Thursday 9am to 1pm.

Please visit our website [www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk)

**Facebook – The church’s facebook page: [fb.me/stmichaelsledbury](https://fb.me/stmichaelsledbury) –**

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