

Week 9

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Bible Readings:
Matthew 26:36-46
& Psalm 55
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's
collection is received
electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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00490436

If you are a visitor please
don't feel obliged to
contribute financially.

Sunday 29 March 2026

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

Welcome! We're so glad you're with us as we come to Palm Sunday and continue our series Learning to Pray Like Jesus. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week, where we turn our attention to the final days of Jesus' life.



Connect Card

In Matthew 26, we are brought into the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prays in deep distress: "My Father... not as I will, but as you will." Here we see prayer at its most honest and costly. Psalm 55 gives voice to that same experience—fear, anguish, and yet trust in God. Prayer is not always calm or easy. Sometimes it is wrestling, surrender, and entrusting ourselves to God in the hardest moments.

As we begin this week leading to Easter, we are invited to follow Jesus—not only in celebration, but in dependence. We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, shaped and sustained by the prayers of our Saviour.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next [Newish Morning Tea](#) on 22 February. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on 14 June from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Nothing... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

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
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Praying in the Garden | Matthew 26:36-46 and Psalm 55

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Jesus praying whilst feeling real agony (v. 36-39)

2. Jesus praying whilst experiencing real temptation (v. 40-42)

3. Jesus praying whilst facing real betrayal (v. 43-46 cf. Psalm 55)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

When you're under pressure or stress, how do you tend to respond?

- a) Do you push through and take control?
- b) Avoid or put it off or distract yourself/procrastinate?
- c) Beg for help or relief?
- d) Something else?

Going deep in God's Word

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

1. Discuss the similarities and differences between all three accounts. What stands out for you?

2. What is unique about Matthew's account? How does this sharpen your understanding of Jesus's humanity—the temptation, betrayal, agony He faced?

Read Genesis 3:1-7

3. Summarise in your own words how Jesus succeeds where Adam fell. How does wrestling in prayer help Jesus surrender and submit to His Father's will (in contrast to Adam)?

4. In Gethsemane, what is Jesus preparing Himself to face on our behalf—and what does that show us about our need for grace rather than just trying harder?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's word and the victory won by Christ's faithfulness to His Father under real temptation, pray together using the following questions as a guide.

1. Where in your life right now do you need to stop avoiding or depending on your own strength—and instead wrestle in praying: “not my will, but yours be done”?
2. How has your adoration and thanks for Jesus's strength to drink the cup of wrath been enriched?
3. Who is someone you could bring along to Easter?

Spend time with God each day!

As we go through Matthew on Sundays, we want to help you spend time with God each day. The Psalms are song-prayers about Jesus. He prayed these words as a man, and they speak about Him as the Messiah, the Son of David. Use these questions to guide your reflection and prayer:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus when you imagine Him praying this Psalm on earth?
2. What does this Psalm show you about God your Father?
3. How can the Spirit use this Psalm to shape your prayers now?
 - what you confess to God,
 - what you thank Him for,
 - what you ask Him for

Monday - [Psalm 46](#)
Tuesday - [Psalm 47](#)
Wednesday - [Psalm 48](#)
Thursday - [Psalm 49](#)
Friday - [Psalm 50](#)

Notices

Square One Camp Rego is open!

Registrations are now open for Square One Winter Camp (29–31 May) — an unforgettable weekend for kids in Years 3–6!

Packed with engaging Bible teaching, fun activities, and time with friends, it's a chance for kids to grow in their understanding of Jesus and build lasting relationships.

With big gatherings, small groups, and plenty of adventure, this camp creates space for real conversations and lasting impact.

Don't miss it—secure your spot and start inviting friends!



Alpha - Good News Stories

Praise God for His saving work through our Alpha course this month.

Each week, we've heard about and discussed various pillars of the Christian faith—Who is Jesus, Why did He die, What does it mean to be a Christian.

Praise God that three guests have professed faith in Jesus and have a new relationship in Him!

What a joy it is to see people come from death to life.



Notices

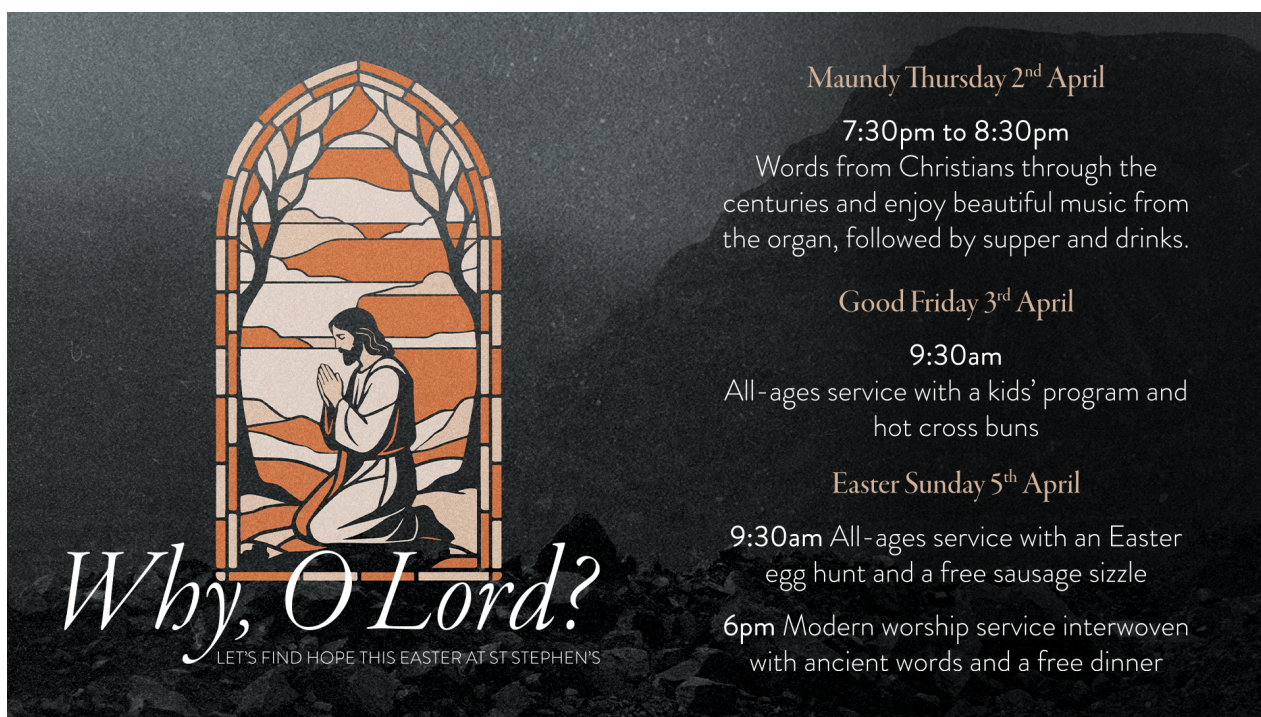
Easter - Invite Your Friends

Easter is this week! It's one of the best opportunities we have all year to invite others to hear the good news of Jesus. In a world that often feels uncertain, the message of Easter offers real hope, love, and a sure foundation in Christ.

Across the weekend, we'll gather for Maundy Thursday (a reflective service with supper, shaped by Scripture, liturgy, and music), as well as Good Friday and Easter Sunday, where we'll clearly and joyfully proclaim the heart of the gospel.

We're finding that many people—both older and younger—are increasingly drawn to the depth and timelessness of the Christian faith. People are already searching, already open.

So why not invite someone this Easter? A simple invitation could make all the difference.



Why, O Lord?
LET'S FIND HOPE THIS EASTER AT ST STEPHEN'S

Maundy Thursday 2nd April
7:30pm to 8:30pm
Words from Christians through the centuries and enjoy beautiful music from the organ, followed by supper and drinks.

Good Friday 3rd April
9:30am
All-ages service with a kids' program and hot cross buns

Easter Sunday 5th April
9:30am All-ages service with an Easter egg hunt and a free sausage sizzle
6pm Modern worship service interwoven with ancient words and a free dinner

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Every year we hold our Annual General Meeting on the final Monday of March. If you are baptised and have been attending our church for 3 months or more you are entitled to attend and vote. Come hear about the ministry, needs and opportunities that lie ahead for 2026/27. We will be considering such things as the church refurbishment, new staffing, office holders and plans for the year ahead - Monday 30 March at 7:30pm in the Church.

What's Coming Up

2 April	Maundy Thursday Concert and Supper from 7:30pm
3 April	Good Friday Service at 9:30am
5 April	Easter Sunday Services - 9:30am and 6pm
16 April	Alpha for Retirees Starts
24 -26 April	Kyck

For more on what's happening this summer at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/summer

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