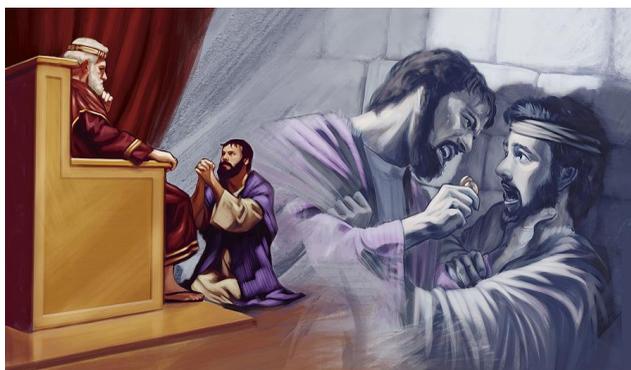


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

(Proper 19 Year A)



*The parable of the unforgiving slave*

**The Parish Mass**  
live streamed from church  
during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

10.15 am



## Order of Service

### ¶ The Gathering

*Music before the service*

**Please stand** at the sound of the bell

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**All Amen.**

### The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**All and also with you.**

*The Priest introduces the service*

### Invitation to Confession

In the Gospel reading today Jesus makes it clear that if we want God to forgive us, we must be willing to forgive others.

As always, we begin this eucharist by asking forgiveness for our sins. As we do so, let us also ask for the grace to forgive those who have sinned against us.

*Silence is kept*

## Confession

*All*      **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
though our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you are slow to anger and rich in mercy:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

You do not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*      **Christ, have mercy.**

As far as the east is from the west, so far do you remove our sins.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
though Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

**All**      **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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.**

**All**      **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

Romans 14.1-12

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103.8-13

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us,  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.

**All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he set our sins from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

**All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

*Please stand*

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 18.21-35

### Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.

**All Alleluia.**

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

**All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Homily

# The Nicene Creed

*Please stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All**      **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may  
bow*      *For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest* God forgives all our guilt and crowns us with love and compassion.  
Let us pray that we may be equally generous in our dealings with others.

***Please be seated***

*The response to each petition*

*Intercessor* Lord, take us by the hand:  
**All** **and lead us.**

*After the final petition*

*Priest* Almighty God,  
you have promised to hear the prayers  
of those who ask in your Son's name;  
we pray that what we have asked faithfully  
we may obtain effectually;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All** **Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

***Please stand***

### Sign of Peace

If, when you are bringing your gift to the altar  
you discover that your neighbour has a grievance against you,  
leave your gift there at the altar,  
go and be reconciled with your neighbour,  
and only then come and offer your gift.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

With an appropriate gesture, let us extend to each other  
a sign of Christ's peace.

*Please sit while the altar is prepared*

## Organ music

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## Invitation to Prayer

*Please stand*

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,  
graciously grant that, through this offering,  
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty  
and, by partaking of this sacred mystery,  
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

**All** Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,  
for Christ has risen from the tomb  
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.  
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,  
unfolds for us your word,  
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.  
And though the night will overtake this day  
you summon us to live in endless light,  
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

**All**      **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

**All** **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,  
Saint Matthew and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All** **Amen.**

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

***Please be seated***

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us ask our heavenly Father to forgive our sins  
and to bring us to forgive those who have sinned against us  
as we pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All**      **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:

**All**      **We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

**All**      **Into one body we were all baptized,  
and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

## Agnus Dei

**All**      **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.**

## Invitation to Communion

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

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

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

*If you are able, please stand at your chair to receive Holy Communion,  
and then sit*

## Spiritual Communion – for those at home

*It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:*

## Act of Reception

**All In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

*(and remembering particularly my own parish)*

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

***Please stand***

God our creator,  
you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage  
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

# Notices for the Community

*Please be seated*

## ¶ Sending Out

*Please stand*

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

## The Blessing

*All*      May you walk without fault and act with justice.  
**Amen.**

*All*      May the words of your mouth, and the thoughts of your heart,  
win favour in the sight of God.  
**Amen.**

*All*      May the Lord keep you safe in his tent in the day of evil.  
**Amen.**

*All*      And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*All*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Voluntary

I Love Thee, My Lord    George Shearing (1919-2011)

Please take this booklet home with you

You are welcome to light a votive candle

Please leave church via the north door,  
facing Collingwood Road.

A monetary offering may be made there.

You are most welcome to join us on the green  
at the east end of the church  
in physically distanced groups of up to six.



*A suggested donation towards the production of this booklet*