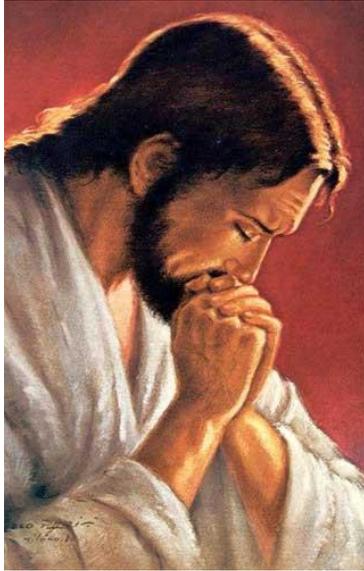


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton



*Jesus praying to his Father*

## Praying at home

Do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

*Isaiah 41:10*

# Prayers for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
for as long as it takes  
wherever you call us. Amen.

Lord Jesus,  
when you walked with us on earth  
you spread your healing power.  
We place in your loving care  
all who are affected by Coronavirus.  
Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.  
Bring relief to our sick,  
console our bereaved,  
protect those who care for us.  
We lift our prayer to you Lord,  
and trust in your infinite mercy,  
as we wait for the daybreak. Amen.

CAFOD

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

God of healing and hope,  
in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear.  
Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus,  
on any who are vulnerable,  
and on all who feel in danger.  
Through this time of global concern,  
by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us.  
Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other,  
and of the strength that comes from being one body in you.  
Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen.

*The Rev'd Dr Sam Wells  
Vicar of St Martin's in the Field*



*Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.*

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus,  
your divine son, dying on the cross,  
confided us to your maternal care.

You are our Mother,  
we desire ever to remain your devout children.  
Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession  
with Jesus Christ.

Make your name again glorious in this place  
once renowned throughout our land by your visits,  
favours and many miracles.

Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England,  
restoration of the sick,  
consolation for the afflicted,  
repentance of sinners,  
peace to the departed.

O blessed Mary, Mother of God,  
our Lady of Walsingham,  
intercede for us. Amen.

This booklet has been prepared in particular to aid those who are self-isolating at this time. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

We are never alone, and we never pray alone. By praying the same words as the rest of the Church, even if we cannot see our brother and sister Christians physically, we know that we join with all the angels and saints of heaven whenever we pray.

Prayers will be still be said daily in St Matthew's Church, for the Church of God, and for all creation.

We are 'streaming' services online via Facebook and our Parish Website, where you will find instruction what to do. Please keep an eye on these electronic outlets.

Please let us know if you are shielding so that we can pray for you, help you in any way we can, and keep in touch by telephone or email. Ring the Parish Office on 01684 791251 (please leave a message if the Office is closed) or [office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk). **Please call one another on the telephone, and stay in contact online, so that we can support and bring succour to each other.**

# ¶ Morning and Evening Prayer

Morning and Evening Prayer is said every day in the parish.

The 'Daily Prayer' app can be downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet, and each service is available to view online at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Using these links means you will be saying the same Psalms and readings as those praying in church day by day.

A simple service can also be followed below:

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

**Let us recognise God's presence with us now.**

*Keep a short silence, still your heart.*

As God's people we have gathered;  
let us worship God now together,  
across the miles yet joined.

Let us pray:

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Keep a short silence, leave your sins at the cross*

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again, have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,  
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

**Amen.**

*Read a passage of the scriptures.*

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.  
Lord, meet us in the silence  
**and hear our prayer.**

*Silence for prayer is kept*

*Pray for yourself in your isolation, that God would sit with you*

*Pray for others in their loneliness*

*Pray for our country*

*Pray for the world*

**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.**

*Silence is kept*

Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship  
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation and hope, who reigns as Lord now and forever.

Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;  
and as you have fed us with your presence,  
so, make us one in heart and mind, in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Spiritual Communion – *short form*

*Please note that a longer form may be found on the parish website*

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:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you have already come,  
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;  
never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

¶ Collects and Readings for each Sunday:

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (6<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

Exodus 12.1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13.8-14

Matthew 18.15-20

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (13<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

Exodus 14.19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35

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.

### **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (20<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

Exodus 16.2-15

Psalm 105.1-6,37-45

Philippians 1.21-30

Matthew 20.1-16

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit  
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:  
grant that your people may be fervent  
in the fellowship of the gospel  
that, always abiding in you,  
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;  
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.

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (27<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

Exodus 17.1-7

Psalm 78.1-4,12-16

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
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.

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (4<sup>th</sup> October 2020)**

Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12-20

Psalm 19\*

Philippians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21.33-46

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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.

### **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (11<sup>th</sup> October 2020)**

Exodus 32.1-14

Psalms 106.1-6, 19-23\*

Philippians 4.1-9

Matthew 22.1-14

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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.

### **St Luke (18<sup>th</sup> October 2020)**

Isaiah 35.3-6 or Acts 16.6-12a

Psalms 147.1-7

2 Timothy 4.5-17

Luke 10.1-9

Almighty God,  
you called Luke the physician,  
whose praise is in the gospel,  
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:  
by the grace of the Spirit  
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,  
give your Church the same love and power to heal;  
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.

### **Weekdays after St Luke**

O God, forasmuch as without you  
we are not able to please you;  
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
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.

### **The Last Sunday after Trinity (25<sup>th</sup> October 2020)**

Deuteronomy 34.1-12

Psalm 90.1-6,13-17\*

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Matthew 22.34-46

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **All Saints' Day (1<sup>st</sup> November 2020)**

Daniel 7.1-3,15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1.11-23

Luke 6.20-31

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living  
that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
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 Souls' Day (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020)**

Philippians 2:1-4

Psalm 131

Luke 14:12-14

Everlasting God, our maker and redeemer,  
grant us, with all the faithful departed,  
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious  
resurrection,  
that, in the last day,  
when you gather up all things in Christ,  
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;  
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.

## **Weekdays after All Souls' Day**

Almighty and eternal God,  
you have kindled the flame of love  
in the hearts of the saints:  
grant to us the same faith and power of love,  
that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,  
we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;  
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.

### **The Third Sunday before Advent (8<sup>th</sup> November 2020)**

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Matthew 25.1-13

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **The Second Sunday before Advent (15<sup>th</sup> November 2020)**

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18

Psalm 90.1-8[9-11]12\*

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Christ the King (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020)

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

Psalm 95.1-7

Ephesians 1.15-23

Matthew 25.31-46

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King;  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## ¶ Compline

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

## Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

**Amen.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.  
Alleluia.**

## Hymn

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

# Psalmody

## Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I  
call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not;  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness  
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers;  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,  
yet it shall not come near you.

Your eyes have only to behold  
to see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge  
and the Most High your stronghold,

There shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

For he shall give his angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them;  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

They will call upon me and I will answer them;  
I am with them in trouble,  
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **Psalm 134**

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you blessing out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Reading

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.  
*Jeremiah 14.9*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.  
*1 Peter 5.8, 9*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

*Revelation 22.4, 5*

## Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

## Prayers

*Prayers are offered, which may conclude with*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.  
**Amen.**

## Angelus Domini

*(Luke 1:28 ff)*

*All* The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,  
**and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
*All* **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
*All* **Be it unto me according to thy word.**  
Hail Mary ...

And the Word was made flesh,  
*All* **and dwelt among us.**  
Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
*All* **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Lord, open our hearts to your grace.  
Through the angel's message to Mary  
we have learned to believe in the incarnation of your Son.  
Lead us by his passion † and cross  
to the glory of his resurrection.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*All*     **Amen.**

