

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The First Sunday of Lent



*He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan;  
... and angels waited on him.*

## The Parish Mass with The Litany

live streamed from the Vicarage  
during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

10.15 am



# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

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

## The Greeting

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

## ¶ Prayers of Penitence

### The Litany

Let us pray.

*All* God the Father,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* God the Son,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* From famine and disaster;  
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Govern and direct your holy Church;  
fill it with love and truth;  
and grant it that unity which is your will.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,  
and to make disciples of all the nations.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Enlighten Donald and John, our Bishops, and all who minister  
with knowledge and understanding,  
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,  
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Bring into the way of truth all who have erred  
and are deceived.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Strengthen those who stand;  
comfort and help the faint-hearted;  
raise up the fallen;  
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Guide the leaders of the nations  
into the ways of peace and justice.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Guard and strengthen your servant Elizabeth our Queen,  
that she may put her trust in you,  
and seek your honour and glory.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the High Court of Parliament  
and all the Ministers of the Crown  
with wisdom and understanding.

**All** **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,  
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

**All** **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,  
and for the good of all creation.

**All** **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

**All** **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring your joy into all families;  
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,  
watch over children and guide the young,  
bring reconciliation to those in discord  
and peace to those in stress.

**All** **Hear us, good Lord.**

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,  
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,  
and all who are in trouble.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,  
and turn their hearts.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died  
in the peace of Christ,  
both those who have confessed the faith  
and those whose faith is known to you alone,  
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

**All**      **Lord, have mercy.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**All**      **Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept*

## Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins  
to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him:  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**      **Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 9.8-17

*Reader*        A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25.1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame,  
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

**All Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.  
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

**All Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.**

Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.  
Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

**All Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.**

He will guide the humble in doing right  
and teach his way to the lowly.  
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**All Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.**

# Holy Gospel

Mark 1.9-15

## Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan;  
and he was with the wild beasts;  
and the angels waited on him.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

**All** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Homily

*At the end, there is a time for quiet reflection*

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All**      **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.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church  
throughout the world;  
Lord of compassion,

**All**      **in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church:  
that in faithful witness she may preach the Gospel  
to the ends of the earth;  
Lord of compassion,

**All**      **in your mercy hear us.**

For the people of God throughout the world,  
and for this household of faith under the care of Donald our Bishop;  
Lord of compassion,

**All**      **in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world:  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among peoples and nations;  
Lord of compassion,

**All** **in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer ...  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in need and danger:  
that they may be relieved and protected;

Lord of compassion,

**All** **in your mercy hear us.**

For all who have gone from this world,  
that they may be received into eternal life ...

Lord of compassion,

**All** **in your mercy hear us.**

For the Parish,  
and for a blessing on our prayer, our life and our work:  
that we may have grace to amend our lives  
and to further the reign of God;

Lord of compassion,

**All** **in your mercy hear us.**

Almighty God,  
you have promised to hear those who pray  
in the name of your Son:

grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may obtain according to your will,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Sign of Peace

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

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

As we are able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

## The Offertory

*The altar is prepared*

## Invitation to Prayer

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

Lord, make us worthy to bring you these gifts.  
May this sacrifice help to change our lives,  
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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

*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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in song of everlasting praise:

**All** **Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
**be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins  
and bring us to forgive those who sin against us, as we say:

**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

*All*            Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## 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

*All*            Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## Giving of Communion

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.

## 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:

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us to hunger for him  
    who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Notices for the Community

### ¶ Sending Out

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All*      May God the Father,  
            who does not despise the broken spirit,  
            give to you a contrite heart.  
**Amen.**

*All*      May Christ,  
            who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
            heal you by his wounds.  
**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**All**            **Amen.**

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

**All**            **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**