

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 18



A Syrophenian woman begs Jesus to heal her daughter

The Parish Mass

Sunday 5th September 2021

10.15 am

¶ Let's keep protecting each other

We're so grateful for everything you've done to help keep each other safe. Every time you've sanitised your hands, worn a face covering and kept a safe distance, it's made a real difference. So from all of us, thank you. We all hope and pray brighter days are coming. But we want to reassure you that your safety is still our top priority.

The Government guidance, endorsed by the Church of England, 'expects and recommends' that we continue to:

Wear a face covering whilst in church *unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This should cover your nose as well as your mouth.*

Maintain physical distancing *Couples, households and former 'bubbles' may sit together. Otherwise, we ask you to respect one another's space, spread out, and avoid sitting directly behind or in front of others. As far as possible, we ask you to avoid physical contact with other people and surfaces.*

Sanitise your hands *on arrival - pick up an order of service (large print editions may be requested in advance via the parish office) – and sign in for 'Test and Trace' purposes.*

The church toilet facilities *are available for use.*

Holy Communion *will be administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at one or two 'stations' at the front of the nave. Please approach via the centre aisle and return via the side aisles. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.*

If you have difficulty being mobile please let us know, sit on the end of a row, and we will come to you.

After the service *Please depart via the main porch sanitising your hands as you leave. In fine weather, we invite you to join us for social interaction on the green at the east end.*



Before the service ...

Good morning, and welcome to St Matthew's Church.

Please use this precious time to prepare yourself spiritually for our worship, and gather together in your heart and mind those things you wish to bring to God.

The reflection offered below may be found helpful. It is based on the themes of today's mass, and may also help us to maintain a recollected and reverent silence before we begin.

Reflection

Priceless gifts

The gift of hearing is a priceless gift.
But it is only with the heart that we can hear rightly.
The cry of the needy person may reach our ears,
but unless it reaches our heart
we will not feel the person's pain,
and it is unlikely that we will respond.
And the gift of speech is a priceless gift.
But again it is only with the heart that we can speak rightly.
For our words to ring true, they must come from the heart.
If they come only from the lips,
they will have a hollow sound and will have little effect.
They will be like a wind that ruffles the surface of the water
but leaves the depths untouched.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only) *Thorne*

Communion Service in E flat *White*

*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor No. 1
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.*

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

The procession enters from the west end.

Hymn

All may sing

**We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.**

**The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.**

**So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.**

Words: John L Bell (born 1949)
and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

Music: St Patrick's Breastplate
Melody from the Petrie Collection of *Irish Music* 1903
edited by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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

The Greeting

All The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak.
Let us turn to the Lord now,
and ask him to touch our ears so that we may hear his word,
and to touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
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 open our ears so that we can hear your word:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You touch our tongues so that we can profess our faith:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You touch our hearts so that we can love you and love one another:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive † you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through 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 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 sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Isaiah 35.4-7a

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being,
I will sing praises to my God.
Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.
When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish.

All The Lord shall reign for ever.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.

All The Lord shall reign for ever.

The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

All The Lord shall reign for ever.

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the good news of the kingdom
and cured every disease and every sickness among the people.

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

From the land of Gennesaret, Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Mark 7.24-37

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

Please sit

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 All of us are poor in the things that matter in the sight of God.
With faith in God's goodness, let us now turn to him
in our many needs.

Please sit

After each petition

Intercessor God, ever with us,
All **be our strength and our Saviour.**

Priest Lord God,
grant that we may listen patiently,
speak kindly,
see truly,
and act rightly.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

Sign of Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with his saints.

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

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Hymn

*(As a precautionary measure, no collection will be taken during the service.
A monetary offering may be made at the end of the service)*

All **Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
 And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
 For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
 Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
 As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
 In the body and the blood:
He will give to all the faithful
 His own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
 Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
 From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
 As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;
 Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the Presence,
 As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya,
 Alleluya, Lord most high!**

Words: Liturgy of St James,
anonymous Greek, *Sigesato pasa sarx brateia*
translated Gerard Moultrie (1829-85)

Music: Pacardy
French carol, probably 17th century

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

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 you
and, by partaking of these sacred mysteries
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:

Choir *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.

All

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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

The Lord's Prayer

God has no favourites.

To him all of his children are important and precious.

Let us 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

All We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Choir *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

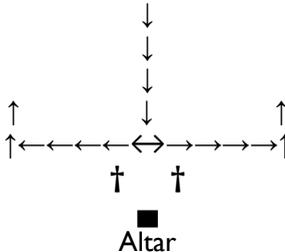
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Giving of Communion

As a deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God.

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated. Please approach the priest via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing.



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.**

Motet

Light of the world

Dankworth

Prayer after Communion

Please stand

Let us pray.

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Notices for the Community

Please sit

Sending Out

Please stand

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

All

Solemn Blessing

May the Lord, who conquered the evil one,
keep you brave and strong.

All **Amen.**

May your love for one another be such
that the world will recognise you as disciples of Christ.

All **Amen.**

May the peace of God reign in your hearts and minds.

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

Nun danket alle Gott *Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)*

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.

Collection

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church using the receptacle provided at the back of church.

If you are a tax payer, please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may in addition benefit from the Gift Aid associated with your giving.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.

Next Sunday

Battle of Britain Sunday

10.15am All Age Service for the Parish Family

5.30pm Choral Evensong and Benediction

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4LB
Tel: 01604 791451 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk