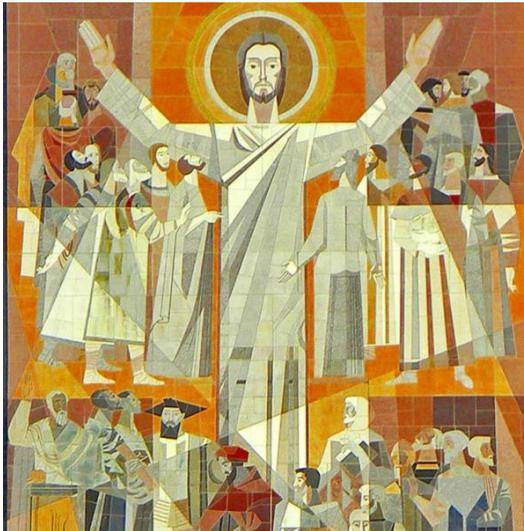


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Seventh Sunday of Easter



*Jesus prays for his present and future disciples
who are to carry on his work in the world*

The Parish Mass
during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday 16th May 2021

10.15 am

¶ Keeping everyone safe at St Matthew's

If you have any of the recognized Covid-related symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and seek a test.

For all others, and in accordance with Government guidance and local decision, we respectfully require you to:

Go directly to a chair where there is an order of service booklet, and remain there. Please fill up the chairs in the centre of the nave and transepts first - some chairs in the side aisles have a restricted view - and do not move the chairs, handle any other furniture, move from chair to chair, or remove a service booklet.

The wearing of a **face covering is mandatory** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This must cover both your mouth and your nose. (Plastic visors are not a substitute for a face covering and do not protect others).

The church **toilet facilities are available** for use. Please follow the instructions on the signs, leave the cubical light on, and the door open after use.

At communion - remain at your chair. You are respectfully asked to ensure that your face covering remains in place until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

After the service - please **depart directly via the north door** whilst maintaining physical distancing. A monetary offering may be made there. Please sanitize your hands as you leave. Assistance is available for those who require help negotiating the steps. You may remove your face covering when you are clear of the building.

We may gather on the green at the east end of the church building in physically distanced groups of up to six people, or two households. We ask that you do not congregate either at the side of the church or the end of the Lady Chapel where ashes have been interred. Thank you.

Reflection

As I passed the cherry tree in February,
it had a bare and forlorn look about it.
It contained not a shred of beauty.
I passed the tree again in April
and found it decked out in a robe of brilliant blossoms.
From where has all this beauty come?
It had come from within the tree itself.
On looking at it back in February,
when it was still in the grip of winter,
who could have believed that it contained all this?
Sometimes we write off people as having no possibilities.
Every human being is a well of possibilities.
If in some people these possibilities
haven't yet manifested themselves,
all it means is that for them spring hasn't yet come.

Setting

The Mass of St Cedd

Peter Nardone (b 1965)

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

Please stand at the sound of the bell

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Easter Proclamation

All Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

The Spirit of truth will convict the world of guilt
about sin, righteousness and judgement.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.
In sorrow we confess our sins.

Confession

All **O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir *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.

O God the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place
 where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
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

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1.15-17 & 21-26

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known

as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and night.

All The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

All The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

All The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Please stand

Holy Gospel

John 17.6-19

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you'.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord. Alleluia.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.

The Homily

Please be seated

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Lord, you are always with us and ready to hear our prayers.
You have called us by name and chosen us to work with you.
As we turn to you in prayer fill us with your Holy Spirit:

After each petition the following is used

Intercessor
All Lord, as we wait upon you,
hear our prayer.

After the final petition

Priest Lord God, dispose us to receive the Holy Spirit,
and may his coming breathe new life into us.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

The risen Lord now reigns at God's right hand.
He is the Prince of Peace. Alleluia.

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

With an appropriate gesture, let us offer one another
a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

*The altar is prepared, **please be seated***

Anthem

A prayer of St Richard of Chichester *Leonard J White (1910-1973)*

Choir *O holy Jesus,
Most merciful redeemer,
Friend and brother,
May I know thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
And follow thee more nearly.*

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 Lord, accept the prayers of your faithful
with these sacrificial offerings,
that through these acts of devotion
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through 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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,
who calls us to be united in prayer
as were his disciples in the upper room
while they awaited his promised gift,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn 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 apostles, 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

God is love, and anyone who lives in love lives in God.
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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

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

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, alleluia.
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**All Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
Alleluia.**

Giving of Communion

Father, the glory you have given me I have given them,
so that they may be one, as we are one, alleluia.

Please stand at your chair to receive Holy Communion or a blessing

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

He prayeth best who loveth best *Morfydd Llwyn Owen (1891-1918)*

Choir *He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small:
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Please stand

Eternal God,
giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
and 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.

Solemn Blessing

All God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
Amen.

All God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
Amen.

All God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
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.

Regina Caeli

All Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia (9 rings)
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.

All Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia
for the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia. (9 rings)

God of life, you have given joy to the world
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,
bring us to the happiness of eternal life;
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

All The mass is ended. Go in peace. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Organ Voluntary

Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 J S Bach (1685-1750)

The procession departs

Please take this booklet home with you

After the service - please **depart directly via the north door** whilst maintaining a two-metre distance. A monetary offering towards parish funds may be made there. Please sanitize your hands as you leave. Assistance is available for those who require help negotiating the steps. You may remove your face covering when you are clear of the building.

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