

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Proper 20



'Whoever welcomes one such child welcomes me'

Christ Blessing the Children
St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

The Parish Mass

Sunday 19th 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

Ambition in itself is a good thing.
The question is: what are we ambitious about?
St Paul says:
'Be ambitious for the higher gifts.
And the greatest of these is love.'
Lord, fill our hearts with your love,
so that we may be capable of serving others,
and this service will guarantee us
a place of honour in your kingdom.

Settings

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)	<i>Thorne</i>
The Mass of St Cedd (Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei)	<i>Nardone</i>

**Our thanks are due to *Anonymous Donor No. 2*
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

**Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.**

**O magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt his name;
When in distress to him I called,
He to my rescue came.**

**The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just;
Deliverance he affords to all
Who on his succour trust.**

**O make but trial of his love:
Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide.**

**Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight,
Your wants shall be his care.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.**

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726)

Music: Wiltshire
George Smart (1776-1867)
in his *Collection of Sacred Music*, 1795

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

The Greeting

Through Christ let us offer our sacrifice of praise to God.
All **Let us worship him in spirit and in truth.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.'
As brothers and sisters in God's family,
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.
So let us call to mind our sins,
and ask the Lord to help us live by his values.

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 heal the wounds of sin and division:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You teach us to be gentle and humble of heart:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You give us a spirit of willing service of you and of 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, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.**

**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.
*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.***

**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.
*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.***

The Collect

Let us pray.

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 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 Letter of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

James 3.13 – 4.3,7-8a

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name
and vindicate me by your power.

Hear my prayer, O God;
give heed to the words of my mouth.

All Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.

For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless seek after my life;
they have not set God before them.
Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who upholds my life.

All **Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.**

May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me;
destroy them in your faithfulness.
An offering of a free heart will I give you
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious.
For he has delivered me out of all my trouble,
and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

All **Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

God called us through the proclamation of the good news,
so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.**

Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and

servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9:30-37

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
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 Those who serve are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
Let us pray to God for our own needs,
for the needs of the Church and of the world.

Please sit

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, as we draw near to you,
All **help us to know you are ever with us.**

Priest God of love and mercy,
fill our hearts with your love.
Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness,
and keep us faithful to you and to one another.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,
'The greatest among you is the one who serves.'
Cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and give us a spirit of loving service,
so that we may enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.

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

With an appropriate gesture,
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 **And now, O Father, mindful of the love
That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
And having with us him that pleads above,
We here present, we here spread forth to thee
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.**

**Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
And only look on us as found in him;
Look not on our misusings of thy grace,
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:
For lo, between our sins and their reward
We set the passion of thy Son our Lord.**

**And then for those, our dearest and our best,
By this prevailing presence we appeal:
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
From tainting mischief keep them white and clear,
And crown thy gifts with grace to persevere.**

**And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,
Most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
And by this food, so awful and so sweet,
Deliver us from every touch of ill:
In thine own service make us glad and free,
And grant us never more to part with thee.**

Words: William Bright (1824-1901)

Music: Unde Et Memores
William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

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 Lord, receive with favour the offerings of your people
that what they profess with devotion and faith
they may obtain through these heavenly mysteries,
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

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.*

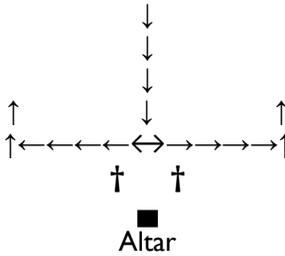
Invitation to Communion

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

You, O Lord, have charged that we should diligently keep your commandments. O that my ways were made perfect that I might keep your statutes.

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

Ave verum corpus

William Byrd (1539-1623)

Ave verum corpus,
Natum de Maria virgine;
Vere passum immolatum
In crucis pro homine.
Cuius latus perforatum
Unda fluxit et sanguine.
Esto nobis praegustatum
In mortis examine.

*Hail, true body,
Born of the virgin Mary;
Who has truly suffered, slaughtered
On the Cross for humanity.
Whose side was pierced,
Pouring out water and blood.
Be a foretaste for us
During our ordeal of death.*

Prayer after Communion

Please stand

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

**Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for thee.**

**A man that looks on glass
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.**

**All may of thee partake:
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, 'For thy sake'
Will not grow bright and clean.**

**A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.**

**This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.**

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: Sandys
From W Sandy's *Christmas Carols*, 1833

Notices for the Community

Please sit



Sending Out

Please stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Lord help you to grow in his love,
so that you may live a life worthy of the calling he has given you.
Amen.

All May the Lord bless you with a joyful spirit and a loving heart.
Amen.

All May the Lord keep you in his care now and for ever.
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.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Alla Breve BWV 589

J S Bach (1685-1750)

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.

On Tuesday

128th Patronal Festival – St Matthew's Day

7.30pm The Parish Mass

President and Preacher
The Rt Revd Andrew Proud

Next Sunday

128th Dedication Festival

10.15am The Parish Mass

5.30pm Solemn Choral Evensong

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

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