

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

## The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 17



*It's the heart that matters*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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 prayer/reflection offered below may be found helpful. Typically it rehearses the themes of today's mass, and may also help us to maintain a recollected and reverent silence before we begin.*

## Prayer/Reflection

Today pollution is a big issue, and rightly so.  
People want clean water, clean air, and so on.  
But the most dangerous pollution of all is evil.  
So what must we do?

We must purify the source; the heart is the source.  
It is the wellspring from which all our thoughts, words,  
and deeds flow.

Lord, cleanse our hearts with your grace  
so that all our thoughts, words and deeds  
may be like water flowing from a pure spring.



# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

*Please stand at the sound of the bell*

## Hymn

*All may sing*

**My God, accept my heart this day,  
And make it always thine,  
That I from thee no more may stray,  
No more from thee decline.**

**Before the cross of him who died,  
Behold, I prostrate fall;  
Let every sin be crucified,  
And Christ be all in all.**

**Anoint me with thy heavenly grace,  
And seal me for thine own  
That I may see thy glorious face  
And worship near thy throne.**

**Let every thought and work and word  
To thee be ever given:  
Then life shall be thy service, Lord,  
And death the gate of heaven.**

**The vision of thy glory there  
Shall be my hope and song,  
That where thou dost a place prepare,  
I may at length belong.**

**All glory to the Father be,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
While endless ages run.**

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

Music: St Peter  
Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799-1894)

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

We are here to worship God.  
Jesus said to the Pharisees, “This people honours me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.”

It is only with the heart that we can worship God rightly.  
Let us reflect for a moment on the attitude we bring to our worship.  
Let us ask God to help us give him the kind of worship  
that will honour him, and transform our lives.

*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 help us to worship you with a sincere heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*     **Lord, have mercy.**

You help us to worship you with a humble heart:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*     **Christ, have mercy.**

You help us to worship you with a joyful heart:  
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,  
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.

*All*

**Amen.**

***Please sit***

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

James 1.17-27

*Reader*      A reading from the Letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life

and does the thing that is right;

**All Through the greatness of your mercy,  
I will come into your house.**

Who speaks the truth from the heart

and bears no deceit on the tongue;

Who does no evil to a friend

and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

**All Through the greatness of your mercy,  
I will come into your house.**

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,  
but who honours those who fear the Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour

and never goes back on that word;

**All Through the greatness of your mercy,  
I will come into your house.**

Who does not lend money in hope of gain,  
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;  
Whoever does these things  
shall never fall.

*All*      **Through the greatness of your mercy,  
I will come into your house.**

*Please stand*

## Holy Gospel

Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

In fulfilment of God's own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth,  
so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

*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.**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

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* Standing before the Lord with humble and receptive hearts,  
let us bring before him our own needs, the needs of the Church  
and of the world.

***Please sit***

*After each petition*

*Intercessor* Make our hearts clean, O God;  
*All* **renew a right spirit within us.**

*Priest* Ever-loving God,  
give us pure hearts that we may see you,  
humble hearts that we may hear you,  
loving hearts that we may serve you,  
and trusting hearts that we may abide in you.  
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*                   **O for a heart to praise my God,  
                          A heart from sin set free;  
                          A heart that always feels thy blood  
                          So freely spilt for me:**

**A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
                          My dear Redeemer's throne;  
                          Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
                          Where Jesus reigns alone:**

**A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
                          Believing, true, and clean,  
                          Which neither life nor death can part  
                          From him that dwells within:**

**A heart in every thought renewed,  
                          And full of love divine;  
                          Perfect and right and pure and good,  
                          A copy, Lord, of thine.**

**My heart, thou know'st, can never rest  
Till thou create my peace;  
Till of mine Eden repossess,  
From self, and sin, I cease.**

**Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,  
Come quickly from above,  
Write thy new name upon my heart,  
Thy new best name of love.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Stockton  
Thomas Wright (1763-1829)

## 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, may this sacred offering confer on us always  
the blessing of salvation,  
that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power,  
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:

*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.**

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

All good gifts come from 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

*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

*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

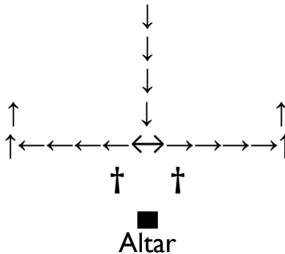
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

## Giving of Communion

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,  
which you have paid up for those who fear you.

*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:*



## 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 bless you with a courageous and joyful spirit.  
**Amen.**

*All*      May the Lord bless you with a noble and generous heart.  
**Amen.**

*All*      May the Lord watch over you, keep you in his care,  
and bless you with his peace.  
**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

Choral Song *Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)*

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

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## 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 yellow envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid associated with your giving.*

*Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.*

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

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