

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



*Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and they follow me.'*

The Parish Mass

Sunday 8th May 2021

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Church

To hear is to obey. Not only do Jesus' believers hear him, they obey him. He knows them. He has a relationship with them. He loves them and cares for them. They are his followers. Just as sheep follow their shepherd to new pastures, we follow Jesus into newness of life. Unlike ordinary sheep, those who follow Jesus will not perish: they receive the gift of eternal life.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following reflection, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

The deepest wound of all is that which affects the heart:
the feeling that one has not been loved,
that one is not precious to anyone.

Many people today are wounded at heart.

Each of us can do something to heal their wounds.

We have hands that can make things,
and minds that can understand things.

But above all we have hearts that can give life.

We are not sterile people.

We can give life to people who are inwardly broken.

We can show them that they are important,
and so bring life to them.

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is also Vocations Sunday.

But all vocations are vocations to love.

Setting

The Salisbury Service (Gloria only) *Ives*

Missa de Angelis (plainsong)



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *All stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

The procession enters

All **Alleluya! Alleluya!**
 Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
 Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the Cross a victim
 For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
 Now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
 Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
 At his second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
 Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine
 From the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
 Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory
 From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven
 Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
 And be ever safe with thee.

Alleluya! Alleluya!
Glory be to God on high;
To the Father, and the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluya! Alleluya!
To the Triune Majesty.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Music: Lux eoi
Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

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

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

A pause for reflection

Confession

All **God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life
 in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

 Lord Jesus, you call us to be your people, the sheep of your flock.
 Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

 You help us to listen to your voice and follow you.
 Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

 You lead us to the green pastures of eternal life.
 Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

 May the God of love and power
 forgive † 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

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 Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he 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

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

There was in Joppa a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Acts 9:36-43

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



The Lord_ is my shep-herd, there is no thing I shall want. The



Lord_ is my shep-herd, there is no thing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **Response**

hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

John 10.22-30

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 Let us now bring our needs before the Lord, who is faithful from age to age, and whose love is eternal.

§ *Please be seated*

After each petition

Intercessor Good Shepherd, guide us
All **and help us always.**

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father,
grant that what we have said with our lips,
we may believe with our hearts,
and practise with our lives.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Please stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you'.
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

A sign of peace may be exchanged; please respect the needs of those who prefer to do so without physical contact

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*

*The bread and wine are received by the presiding priest
and the altar is prepared*

All

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.**

**How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains
The long-imprisoned dead.**

**From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.**

**Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.**

**While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.**

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

Words: *Chorus novae Jerusalem*
St Fulbert of Chartres (c.960-1028),
Trans Robert Campbell (1814-1868)

Music: St Fulbert
Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876)

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,
grant that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the causing of our unending joy;
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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

<i>Choir</i>	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
	Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine. Osanna in excelsis	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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 ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain.

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 company with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
and all the apostles and 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



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Please kneel or sit*

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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 Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

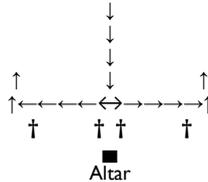
Giving of Communion

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion, as shown below.

*The Blessed Sacrament is available in both kinds (bread and wine).
If you prefer to receive the consecrated bread only, please feel free to do so.*

Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you.



Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

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

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Choir

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death*

*Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

Hymn

All

**Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand.**

**Loving Saviour, thou didst give
Thine own life that we might live,
And the hands outstretched to bless
Bear the cruel nails' impress.**

**I would praise thee every day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessèd ones above
Happy in thy precious love.**

**Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.**

**Where thou leadest I would go,
Walking in thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.**

Words: Jane Eliza Leeson (1808-1881)

Music: Buckland
Leighton George Hayne (1836-1883)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Please stand*

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **Thine for ever! God of love,
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine for ever may we be
Here and in eternity.**

**Thine for ever! O how blest
They who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, Guardian, heavenly Friend,
O defend us to the end.**

**Thine for ever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife;
Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way,
Guide us to the realms of day.**

**Thine for ever! Shepherd, keep,
Us thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath thy care,
Let us all thy goodness share.**

**Thine for ever! thou our guide,
All our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins by thee forgiven,
Led by thee from earth to heaven.**

Words: Mary Fawler Maude (1819-1913)

Music: Newington
Archbishop William Maclagan (1826-1910)

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

§ *Please stand*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

All God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's 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.**

Sung Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

All

In the name of Christ, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Please turn towards the Madonna and Child sculpture

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.

Tune: Easter hymn

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

God of life, you have given joy to the world 9 rings
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.**

Organ Voluntary

Paeon from 'Five Short Pieces'

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

The procession departs

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

Refreshments are served in the parish centre after Mass, please do join us

If you are a newcomer to the parish or area please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.

Collection – responding to God’s generosity

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £3, £5, or £10, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 9
who has generously financed
the production of this week’s service booklet

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

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