

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Last Sunday after Trinity

Proper 25 Year A



*The two greatest commandments*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023

10.15 am Greenwich Mean Time



## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

This morning we have the third of four clashes between Jesus and the various representatives of Judaism. A Pharisaic lawyer questions Jesus as to which commandment is the greatest. The question as to which commandment was the greatest was one frequently discussed among the rabbis. Jesus was asked to name one, but responded by naming two. Both are found in the Old Testament: the first in Deuteronomy 6.4, the second in Leviticus 19.18.

What Jesus did was to put the two together, thus emphasising their essential relatedness. No rabbi had previously done this. The emphasis on love for Christians is the identifying characteristic of their religion.

*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

To separate the two great commandments goes clean contrary to the Gospel.  
Yet unfortunately this often happens.  
Those who have faith often have no love,  
and those who love often have no faith.  
Thus, the Gospel has been torn in two.  
Jesus spoke of two great commandments.  
The first – that we should love God.  
The second – that we should love our neighbour.  
If we want the total Gospel, we must have both.  
He himself showed us how to do this.

### Prayer

Lord, open our hearts when they are closed,  
soften them when they are hard,  
warm them when they are cold,  
fill them when they are empty,  
heal them when they are wounded,  
and mend them when they are broken,  
so that we, your disciples, may bear the fruits of love.

### Settings

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)  
Little Organ Mass

David Thorne (b.1950)  
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

## Order of Service

### ¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, **all stand***

### Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

*All*                    **Through the night of doubt and sorrow  
                          Onward goes the pilgrim band,  
                          Singing songs of expectation,  
                          Marching to the promised land.**

**Clear before us through the darkness  
                          Gleams and burns the guiding light;  
                          Brother clasps the hand of brother,  
                          Stepping fearless through the night.**

**One the light of God's own presence  
                          O'er his ransomed people shed,  
                          Chasing far the gloom and terror,  
                          Brightening all the path we tread;**

**One the object of our journey,  
                          One the faith which never tires,  
                          One the earnest looking forward,  
                          One the hope our God inspires:**

**One the strain that lips of thousands  
                          Lift as from the heart of one:  
                          One the conflict, one the peril,  
                          One the march in God begun:**

**One the gladness of rejoicing  
                          On the far eternal shore,  
                          Where the One Almighty Father  
                          Reigns in love for evermore.**

Words *I gjennem Nat og Traengsel* Bernhardt Severin Ingemann (1789-1862)  
translated by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music Marching  
Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

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

## The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
*All*      **and also with you.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

Jesus tells us that the two greatest commandments are  
love of God and love of neighbour.  
Here, in a nutshell, we have the whole teaching of the Bible.  
The only real failure for a Christian is the failure to love.

*Silence for reflection*

## Confession

*All*      **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly;  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you teach us how to love God with all our heart  
and all our soul:

Lord, have mercy.

*All*     **Lord, have mercy.**

You teach us how to love our neighbour as ourselves:

Christ, have mercy.

*All*     **Christ, have mercy.**

You teach us that these two commandments  
sum up the essence of religion:

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

*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.

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God  
in the holy scriptures,  
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds  
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the book Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18

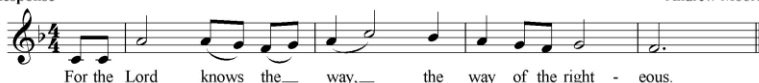
This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Response

Andrew Moore



*Choir* 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. **Response**

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

Psalm 1

## Holy Gospel

§ Stand

### Acclamation

1. *Choir only*  
 2. *Choir and Congregation*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir* Those who love me will keep my word, says the Lord:  
 and my Father will love them, and we will make our home with them.  
*All* **Alleluia.**

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

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,



“The Lord said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22.34-end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

*f*  
Praise to you, O Christ.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody begins with a quarter note on C4, followed by quarter notes on D4, E4, F#4, and G4. The next measure contains a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. The final measure consists of a half note on C5, followed by a whole rest. The piece concludes with a double bar line. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure.

## The Homily

## The Nicene Creed

§ 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*     As we bring our needs before God, we are mindful of the two great commandments of love, and of how much we need God's grace to be faithful to them.

§ *Kneel*

*The response to each petition*

*Intercessor*     God of love,  
*All*                 **hear us and help us.**

*After the final petition*

Priest All-loving God,  
grant that we may make love the foundation of our lives.  
May our love for you express itself  
in our eagerness to do good to others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

Jesus said:  
'Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.'

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

*A collection is taken. Please give as you are able.  
Your generosity is much appreciated.*

*The Gifts are presented and the altar is prepared*

All **Hail to the Lord's Anointed!  
Great David's greater Son;  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**He comes, with succour speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth:  
Before him on the mountains  
Shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness in fountains  
From hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest:  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever;  
That name to us is Love.**

Words James Montgomery (1771-1854)  
Adapted by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Music Crüger  
from a chorale by Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

## 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,  
look favourably on the offering we make to your majesty,  
that whatever is done by us in your service  
may be directed above all to your glory.  
We ask this 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 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 hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body † and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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* Musical notation for the phrase 'Great is the mystery of faith'. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of the following notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). Dynamics are indicated as *mf* above the first two notes, *cresc.* above the next four notes, and *f* above the final note. The lyrics 'Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.' are written below the staff, with hyphens under 'ris - en' and 'a - gain'.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,  
Saint Matthew and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

§ *Kneel*

## The Lord's Prayer

God is love, and anyone who lives in love lives in God.  
Let us pray with confidence to the God of love as Jesus 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

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

## 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

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## 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.

*The choir sing Agnus Dei*

## Motet

*Choir*            Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
                      Holy wisdom, Love most bright,  
                      Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring  
                      Soar to uncreated light.  
                      Word of God our flesh that fashioned  
                      With the fire of life impassioned,  
                      Striving still to truth unknown,  
                      Soaring, dying round thy throne.

                      Through the way where hope is guiding,  
                      Hark, what peaceful music rings,  
                      Where the flock, in thee confiding,  
                      Drink of joy from deathless springs.  
                      Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure,  
                      Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
                      Thou dost ever lead thine own.

From Cantata 147  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life  
and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your true and living bread;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*All* **Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three, and God is One;  
And I next acknowledge duly  
Manhood taken by the Son.**

**And I trust and hope most fully  
In that Manhood crucified;  
and each thought and deed unruly  
Do to death, as he has died.**

**Simply to his grace and wholly  
Light and life and strength belong,  
And I love supremely, solely,  
Him the holy, him the strong.**

**And I hold in veneration,  
For the love of him alone,  
Holy Church as his creation,  
and her teachings as his own.**

**Adoration ay be given,  
With and through the angelic host,  
To the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Words St John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

*Music Halton Holgate  
Version of a melody by William Boyce (1711-1779)  
in Samuel Sabastian Wesley's *European Psalmist* 1872*

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May you be blessed with an unshakable trust in God's love for you.  
**Amen.**

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

*All* May you be good witnesses for the Gospel by the love and joy you radiate.  
**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

Tocatta in Seven

*John Rutter (born 1945)*

*The procession departs*

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

*This evening at 5.30 pm*

## Congregational Evensong

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## Collection – our response 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 - £5, £10, or £20, 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 11  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.*

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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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