

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 24 Year A



God and Caesar

The Parish Mass

Sunday 22nd October 2023

10.15 am



Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

In the Gospel we have the first of four clashes between Jesus and the various representatives of Judaism. The Pharisees (with the Herodians) confront Jesus about the tribute to Caesar. The question put to him was a test question to see whether he would declare himself on the side of those who opposed paying taxes to the Romans (eg the Pharisees), or on the side of those who collaborated with the Romans (eg the Herodians). If he said yes, he would lose the esteem of the people, and would be regarded as a traitor to the Jewish cause and the Jewish religion. (To a Jew, God was the only king; their nation was a theocracy). If he said no, he could be denounced as fermenting rebellion against Rome.

Jesus said that the money for the tax bore the emperor's portrait and name, and was therefore his; so, it should be paid to him. But then he goes beyond the terms of the question, and demands that the Jews should also render to God the fruits, the just works, due to him. They should worry less about what was due to Caesar and more about giving God his due.

Jesus does not give a detailed theory of church-state relations. How the two obligations are reconciled is not explained. Such an explanation would be useless when the audience is so insincere. Jesus recognises that the State (Caesar) has a role, but its power is limited and does not supplant God.

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:

Prayer

We can't separate our faith from our actions,
or our belief from our occupations.
We can't spread our hours before us, saying,
'This is for God and this is for myself;
this is for my soul and this is for my body.'
Our daily life is our temple.
Lord, help us to live in such a way
that we may be good servants of the State but your servants first.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne (b.1950)

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

**All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th' Almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

Words *Meine Hoffnung stehet feste* Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
paraphrased by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Music Michael
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

All † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
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 says, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar,
and to God what belongs to God.'
We give something to God when we worship him in spirit and in truth.
Let us reflect for a moment on the place our merciful God has in our lives.

Silence for reflection

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 are kind and full of compassion:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

You are slow to anger, abounding in love:
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

You are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your deeds:
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.

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
 the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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 First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

I Thessalonians 1.1-10

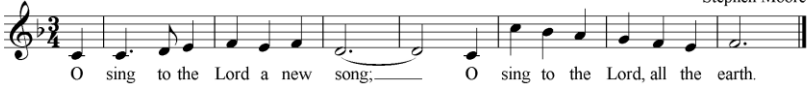
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore



Reader Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day. **Response**

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods. **Response**

For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary. **Response**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him. **Response**

Psalm 96.1-9

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only

2. Choir and Congregation



All You word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All

Musical notation for the phrase "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." The notation is on 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 G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The next measure contains a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note C5. The final measure contains a half note B4. The piece concludes with a double bar line. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure, and a hairpin crescendo symbol is placed above the final measure. The lyrics "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." are written below the staff, with a line under the "O" to indicate a breath mark.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Matthew 22.15-22

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Musical notation for the phrase "Praise to you, O Christ." The notation is on 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 G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The next measure contains a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note C5. The final measure contains a half note B4. The piece concludes with a double bar line. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure, and a hairpin crescendo symbol is placed above the final measure. The lyrics "Praise to you, O Christ." are written below the staff, with a line under the "O" to indicate a breath mark.

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 Let us pray that we may not be afraid to stand up and be counted in a world that often ignores the values of Christ.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord God, maker of heaven and earth,
All **in your love hear us.**

After the final petition

Priest Lord God, creator and ruler of all,
to serve you is perfect freedom.
Guide us in this present life,
and lead us to that unfailing light in which you have your dwelling.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ
and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

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

**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 (177601867)

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

Grant us, O Lord, a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
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:

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.**

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.

Christ is the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a *mf* dynamic marking, followed by a *cresc.* marking, and ends with a *f* marking. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

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 musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a *f* dynamic marking. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, Eb5, C5.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

As Christians our first and deepest loyalty is to God.
Let us pray with confidence to our heavenly Father
in the words our Saviour gave 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

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

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.

Hymn

All

**O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb.**

**Return, O holy Dove! return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.**

**The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.**

**So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.**

Words William Cowper (1731-1800)

Music Caithness
Melody from the Scottish Psalter 1635

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ Stand

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world
from the darkness of ignorance:
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**City of God, how broad and far
Outspread thy walls sublime!
Thy free and loyal people are
Of every age and clime:**

**One holy Church, one army strong,
One steadfast, high intent;
One working band, one harvest-song,
One King omnipotent.**

**How purely hath thy speech come down
From man's primeval youth!
How grandly hath thine empire grown
Of freedom, love and truth!**

**How gleam thy watch-fires through the night
With never-fainting ray!
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,
To meet the dawning day!**

**In vain the surge's angry shock,
In vain the drifting sands:
Unharm'd upon the eternal Rock
The eternal city stands.**

Words Samuel Johnson (1822-1882)

*Music Richmond
Melody by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820)
Harmony by S Webbe the younger (c.1770-1843)*

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May you walk without fault and act with justice.
Amen.

All May the words of your mouth, and the thoughts of your heart,
win favour in the sight of God.
Amen.

All And when your earthly life is ended,
may the Lord bless you with the vision of his glory.
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

Prelude and Fughetta in C

Henry Smart (1813-1879)

The procession departs

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary. Refreshments are being served in church, please do stay if you can.

This evening at 5.30 pm
Congregational Evensong

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 10
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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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk