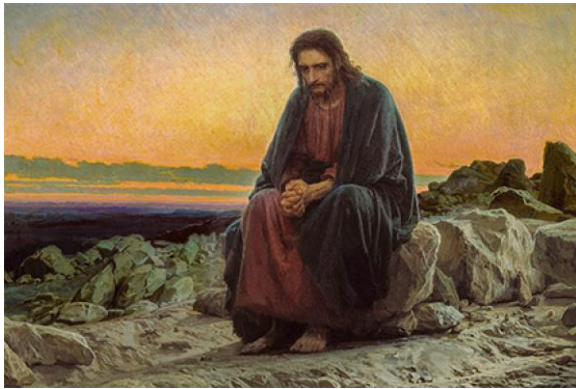


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The First Sunday of Lent

Year B



The Temptations of Christ

The Parish Mass

Sunday 18th February 2024

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

The waters of the flood of Noah's time are a type of the waters of baptism by which we are saved. Like Noah, the Christian is saved by the passage through water – the waters of baptism. It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.

With the emergence of the 'beloved Son a new era has begun. An essential feature of this new era is the overthrow of evil. Confirmed in his divine Sonship and anointed with the Spirit, Jesus went into the desert, no doubt to prepare for his mission. He spent forty days in the desert and was subject to temptation.

This was only the first of many battles Jesus would have with the powers of evil. After his victory over Satan (which is not stated but implied), Jesus takes up the torch from the hand of John the Baptist who has been arrested. As the light of John wanes the light of Jesus dawns.

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 prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

In pruning a fruit tree, the aim is not to inflict damage on the tree,
but to rid it of dead or superfluous branches,
so that it can produce more and better fruit.
Lent is a kind of spiritual pruning time.
There may be things in our lives that sap our energy,
and diminish our spiritual fruitfulness.
What do we need to prune ourselves of this Lent,
so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine?

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

- § **STAND** at the sound of the bell
- § *The sanctuary party enter in silence and go to their places*
- § **Sit** with the priest for a period of silent prayer and recollection

- § **Stand** with the priest

Hymn

- § *The priest reverences the altar and honours it with incense*

All

**LEAD us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

Words James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Music Mannheim
Friedrick Filitz (1804-1876) *Choralbuch*, 1847
Harmony by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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

The Greeting

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


The service is introduced

Prayers of Penitence

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
in this holy season of Lent
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
let us firmly resolve to keep God's commandments,
and confess our sins in penitence and faith:

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.

All 
Lord have mer-cy up - on us.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,**

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.

All 
Lord have mer-cy up - on us, and in-cline our hearts to keep these laws.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

All Honour your father and mother.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not commit murder.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.**

All You shall not commit adultery.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not steal.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not be a false witness against your neighbour.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.**

All You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.



Lord have mer-cy up - on us, and write all these your laws in our hearts.

A period of silent reflection

Confession

All **Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive † you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.**

Dear friends, in his forty days in the desert wilderness
the Lord Jesus sought to draw close to the Father.
Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and minds
as the Word of God is proclaimed to us.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

1 Peter 3:18-22

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response Stephen Moore

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Cantor To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **Response**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long. **Response**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love. **Response**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right
and teach his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **Response**

For your name's sake, O Lord,
be merciful to my sin, for it is great. **Response**

Psalm 25.1-10

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir 2. All

Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan;
and he was with the wild beasts;
and the angels waited on him.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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

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



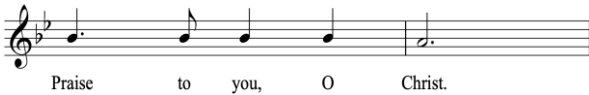
Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.9-15

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Homily

§ Sit

At the end, there may be a time of quiet reflection

Affirmation of Faith

§ Stand

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

§ Kneel

Intercessor For the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church
throughout the world;
Lord of compassion,
All **in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church:
that in faithful witness she may preach the Gospel
to the ends of the earth;
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

For the people of God throughout the world,
and for this household of faith under the care of John our Bishop,
and Debbie, Bishop designate;
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world:
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among peoples and nations;
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer ...
for refugees, prisoners, and all in need and danger:
that they may be relieved and protected;
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

For all who have gone from this world,
that they may be received into eternal life ...
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

For the Parish,
and for a blessing on our prayer, our life and our work:
that we may have grace to amend our lives
and to further the reign of God;
Lord of compassion,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

Priest Almighty God,
you have promised to hear those who pray
in the name of your Son:
grant that what we have asked in faith
we may obtain according to your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

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

The Offertory

The Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared.

Hymn

§ *A collection is taken. Please give as you are able.*

All **JESU, Lord of life and glory,
 Bend from heaven thy gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee,
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:
 By thy mercy,
 O deliver us, good Lord.**

**From the depth of nature's blindness,
From, the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
From the pride that lurks within:
 By thy mercy,
 O deliver us, good Lord.**

**When temptation sorely presses,
In the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
In each dark and trying hour;
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**In the weary hours of sickness,
In the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
When the creature's help is vain:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**In the solemn hour of dying,
In the face of judgement day,
May our souls, on thee relying,
Find thee still our rock and stay:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**Jesu, may thy promised blessing
Comfort to our souls afford;
May we now, thy love possessing,
And at length our full reward,
Ever praise thee,
Good and ever-glorious Lord.**

Words John Cummins (1795-1867)

Music Helmsley
Melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)
in John Wesley's *Select Hymns (Sacred Melody)*, 1765
Harmony from The English Hymnal, 1906

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, give us the right disposition
to make these offering with a sincere heart,
for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable
and sacred time.

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 and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Deacon

Je - sus Christ is Lord:

Response

Lord, by your cross and re - sur - rec - tion you have set us free.


You are the Sa - viour of the world.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.


Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,

President




in songs of e - ver last - ing praise

Response



Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and power



be yours for e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

There is no temptation that we cannot overcome with God's help.
Let us pray 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 Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes
from the mouth of 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.

Hymn

All

**GLORY be to Jesus,
Who, in bitter pains,
Poured for me the lifeblood
From his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion,
Infinitely kind.**

**Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream,
Which from endless torment
Doth the world redeem.**

**Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as it is sprinkled
On our guilty hearts,
Satan in confusion
Terror-struck departs.**

**Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Hell with terror trembles,
Heaven is filled with joy.**

**Lift ye then your voices;
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.**

Words Anonymous Italian
translated Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music Caswall
Friedrich Filitz (1804-1876)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us to hunger for him
 who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven
 and cup of salvation.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

BE thou my guardian and my guide;
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.

Words Isaac Willams (1802-1865)

Music Abridge
Isaac Smith (1733/4-1805)

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God's word be a lamp for your steps and a light upon your path.
Amen.

All May the Lord keep your feet from stumbling
and your hearts from straying.
Amen.

All May the Lord strengthen you against evil,
and enable you to live in the freedom of the children of God.
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 the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Psalm Prelude Set I, no 1 *Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

*“Lo the poor crieth and the Lord heareth him:
yea and saveth him out of all his troubles”*

The procession departs

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

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 - £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 Mandy and Mark Ludlow
who have generously financed
the production of this week’s service booklet.*

This evening at 5.30 pm
Congregational Evensong and Benediction

**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