

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Second Sunday of Lent

Year B



*Let them deny themselves take up their cross and follow me*

## The Parish Mass with Solemn Litany

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

10.15 am

## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

Jesus called the disciples to follow him. They left their homes and their work and went around the country with Jesus. It was a wonderful time of miracles and crowds following him. Life was a great adventure.

Jesus did not promise that following him would be easy. He said there would be times when we would have to deny even our own desires. If we are following the crucified one, we too have to take up our cross. Jesus knew that some things are lost by being kept to ourselves. We lose the ability to play the piano or to do well at sport if we do not practise. Practise means denying ourselves the time to go out whenever we feel like it. To follow Jesus means personal discipline. There can be no disciplining without discipline.

*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:*

### Prayer

God, you have called us to work with you  
and to do good for the world.  
Protect us from all evil  
and keep us in the right way today and always.  
Amen.

### Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls (born 1963)



# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *The bell is rung and **all stand***

§ *The sanctuary party and choir enter in silence  
and go to their places*

§ **Sit** with the priest for a period of silent prayer

§ **Stand** with the presiding priest

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.**

## Hymn

§ *The altar is revered and honoured with incense*

All **Lord Jesus, think on me,  
And purge away my sin;  
From earthborn passions set me free,  
And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,  
With care and woe oppressed;  
Let me thy loving servant be,  
And taste thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery  
Be though my health and life.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point thou the heavenly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,  
When flows the tempest high:  
When on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,  
That, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
And share thy joy at last.**

Words Greek, Synesius of Cyrene (c375-430)  
tr Allen William Chatfield (1808-1896)

Music St Paul's  
John Stainer (1840-1901)

## ¶ Prayers of Penitence

### The Litany

*Priest* Let us pray.

*Choir* God the Father,  
*have mercy upon us.*

*Choir* God the Son,  
*have mercy upon us.*

*Choir* God the Holy Spirit,  
*have mercy upon us.*

*Choir* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
*have mercy upon us.*

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred and malice;  
and from all evil intent,



Good Lord, de - li - ver us.

*The congregation remain in their places*

*The procession moves off along the centre aisle, turns left at the baptistery encompassing the congregation in an anticlockwise direction*

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

From famine and disaster;  
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

All

*All* By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

*All* By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.



*All* Hear us, good Lord.

*All* Govern and direct your holy Church;  
fill it with love and truth;  
and grant it that unity which is your will.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,  
and to make disciples of all the nations.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Enlighten John our Bishop and all who minister  
with knowledge and understanding,  
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,  
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

*All* Bring into the way of truth all who have erred  
and are deceived.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen those who stand;  
comfort and help the faint-hearted;  
raise up the fallen;  
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Guide the leaders of the nations  
into the ways of peace and justice.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Guard and strengthen your servant Charles our King,  
that he may put his trust in you,  
and seek your honour and glory.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the High Court of Parliament  
and all the Ministers of the Crown  
with wisdom and understanding.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,  
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,  
and for the good of all creation.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring your joy into all families;  
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,  
watch over children and guide the young,  
bring reconciliation to those in discord  
and peace to those in stress.

*All* **Hear us, good Lord.**

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.



All Lord\_\_ have mer - cy.

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,  
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,  
and all who are in trouble.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,  
and turn their hearts.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died  
in the peace of Christ,  
both those who have confessed the faith  
and those whose faith is known to you alone,  
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Choir *Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.*

*Silence is kept*



## Absolution

*Priest* Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins  
to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him:  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The servers return to their places*

## The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
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 book Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

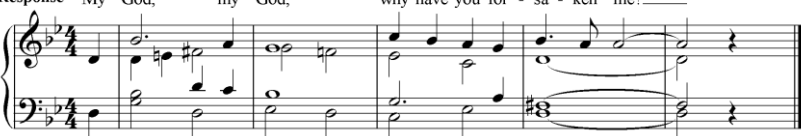
This is the word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm

Christopher Tambling

*Response* My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me? \_\_\_\_\_



*Choir* Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.  
For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;  
neither has he hidden his face from them;  
but when they cried to him he heard them. **Response**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those that fear you.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
their hearts shall live for ever. **Response**

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
For the kingdom is the Lord's  
and he rules over the nations. **Response**

How can those who sleep in the earth  
bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?  
He has saved my life for himself;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.  
They shall come and make known his salvation,  
to a people yet unborn,  
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **Response**

Psalms 22:23-31

§ *Stand*

## Holy Gospel

### Acclamation



*Choir* If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

*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 began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Mark 8.31-38

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Homily

§ Sit

## 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*     Scripture assures us that God our Father  
              hears the prayers of those who come in faith and hope.  
In the power of the Spirit and in the name of the Son,  
let us present our petitions to him.

§ *Kneel*

*After each petition*

*All*     Lord, as you have called us,  
**hear us when we call upon you.**

*Priest* Ever-faithful God,  
you hear the prayers of those who turn to you in faith and trust:  
hear these our prayers  
that our Lenten journey may bring us closer to you  
and each other.

We ask this through 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 and the altar is prepared*

### Hymn

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

*All* **Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
If thou wouldst my disciple be;  
Deny thyself, the world forsake,  
And humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross; let not its weight  
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
The Lord for thee the cross endured,  
To save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
And calmly every danger brave;  
'Twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only they who bear the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the one in three,  
All praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

Words Charles William Everest (1814-1877)

Music Breslau  
Melody from *As Hymnodus Sacer*, 1625  
arranged by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

## 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

Lord, make us holy.  
May this eucharist take away our sins  
that we may be prepared to celebrate the resurrection,  
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 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 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.**

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

Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins  
and bring us to forgive those who sin against 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 upon us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come and receive the living Lord.  
*All* **May we live in him and he in us.**

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered  
at the communion rail.*

## 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

*Choir* Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds.  
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence,  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Text Psalm 51 vv 9-11

Music Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

## Hymn

*All*

**My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine.**

**May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.**

**While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
    Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
    From thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
    Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Saviour, then in love  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
    A ransomed soul.**

Words Ray Palmer (1808-1887)

Music Olivet  
Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
    which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

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

# Hymn

All

**Soldiers, who are Christ's below,  
Strong in faith resist the foe;  
Boundless is the pledged reward  
Unto them who serve the Lord**

**'Tis no palm of fading leaves  
That the conqueror's hand receives;  
Joys are his, serene and pure,  
Light that ever shall endure.**

**For the souls that overcome  
Waits the beauteous heavenly home,  
Where the blessed evermore  
Tread on high the starry floor.**

**Passing soon and little worth  
Are the things that tempt on earth;  
Heavenward lift thy soul's regard;  
God himself is thy reward;**

**Father who the crown dost give,  
Saviour by whose death we live,  
Spirit who our hearts dost raise,  
Three in one, thy Name we praise. Amen.**

Words Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> century  
tr John Haldenby Clark (1839-1888)

Music Orientis partibus  
French melody, 13<sup>th</sup> century  
Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.  
**Amen.**

All May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.  
**Amen.**

All May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.  
**Amen.**

All And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Voluntary

Praeludium in G minor BuxWV149

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)



*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 – 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 Anonymous Donor 5  
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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