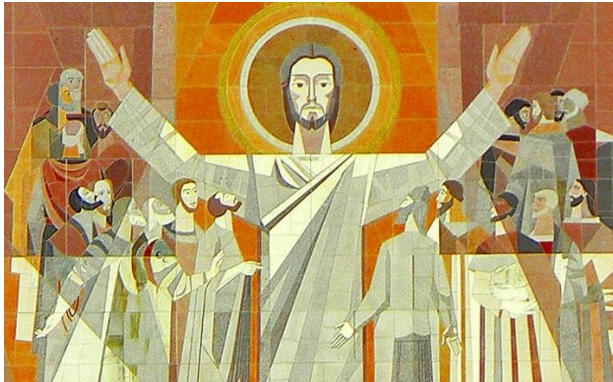


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Year B



*Waiting for the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Prayer*

## The Parish Mass

with the Meeting of Parishioners  
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

10.15 am



No mobile phones



## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells how Matthias was chosen to fill the gap left by the defection of Judas. Jesus had chosen twelve apostles to be the nucleus of the new Israel (the Church). Just as the Jews traced their roots back to the twelve sons of Jacob, so the new Israel is rooted in the twelve apostles. This explains why it was so important to choose a replacement for Judas. In choosing a replacement for Judas they looked for two qualities in particular. First of all: faithfulness. He would have to be someone who had been there from the start – not some recent 'blow-in'. In other words, someone who had proved himself. This was an exterior thing, something they could judge for themselves. Secondly, integrity of heart. This is an interior thing, something that God alone can judge. Hence the need for prayer.

This morning's Gospel reading is part of Jesus' solemn prayer at the last supper. Jesus prays for his present and future disciples who are to carry on his work in the world. He commits them to the Father's care. The disciples will be consecrated in the truth, that is to say, the truth of Jesus. They have accepted him and kept his word; now they must bring him and his word to others.

*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

As I passed the cherry tree in February, it had a bare and forlorn look about it. It contained not a shred of beauty. I passed the tree again in April and found it decked out in a robe of brilliant blossoms. From where had all this beauty come? It had come from within the tree itself. On looking at it back in February, when it was still in the grip of winter, who could have believed that it contained all this? Sometimes we write off people as having no possibilities. Every human being is a well of possibilities. If in some people these possibilities haven't yet manifested themselves, all it means is that for them spring hasn't yet come.

### Settings

Mass of the Altar of Life (Gloria only)     *David Halls (b 1963)*

Communion Service in C and F     *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *All stand at the sound of the bell*

## Hymn

*The procession enters*

*All*            **YE servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad his wonderful name:  
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol:  
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
And still he is nigh, his presence we have:  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son:  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right:  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
All honour and blessing, with angels above  
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

Words Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music Paderborn  
Paderborn Gesangbuch, 1765

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

## The Greeting

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

## The Easter Proclamation

*All*           Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

After Jesus ascended into heaven,  
the apostles gathered in prayer to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.  
We gather in prayer and we wait for a new coming  
of the Spirit at Pentecost.  
Let us reflect for a moment on our need of the Spirit.

## Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus, you wash us more and more from our guilt  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Kyrie eleison.  
*All*           **Kyrie eleison.**

You create a clean heart for us  
and put a steadfast spirit within us.  
Christe eleison.  
*All*           **Christe eleison.**

You give us the joy of your help  
and with a spirit of fervour sustain us.  
Kyrie eleison.  
*All*           **Kyrie eleison.**

## Absolution

May the God of love and power  
forgive † and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*All*      **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

O God the king of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place  
    where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

All      **Amen.**

§ Sit

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### The Acts of the Apostles

*Reader*    A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

All      This is the word of the Lord.  
          **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

Response Andrew Moore



For the Lord knows the way, the way of the right - eous.

*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

§ Stand

## Holy Gospel

## Acclamation

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



Al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir* I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;  
I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.  
*All* **Alleluia.**

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

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



Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17.11-19

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*



## ¶ Meeting of Parishioners

§ Sit

*The live stream is muted for the duration of the meetings*

## ¶ The Annual Parochial Church Meeting



# The Apostles' Creed

§ *Stand*

Brothers and sisters,  
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

*All*     **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest*     Each Pentecost renews the grace of Pentecost in us and in the Church.  
Therefore, let us prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

§ *Kneel*

*After each petition*

*Intercessor*     Lord, as we wait upon you,  
*All*     **hear our prayer.**

*After the final petition*

*Priest* Lord God,  
dispose us to receive the Holy Spirit,  
and may his coming breathe new life into us.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

The risen Lord now reigns at God's right hand.  
He is the Prince of Peace. Alleluia.

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

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

### Hymn

§ *A collection is taken. Please give as you are able.  
(Details of alternative ways of giving are provided at the end of this booklet)*

§ *The bread and wine are received by the presiding priest*

*All* **AT the name of Jesus  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him  
King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
We should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning  
Was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation  
Sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces  
All the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations,  
Stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders  
In their great array.**

**Humbled for a season,  
To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners  
Unto whom he came,  
Faithfully he bore it  
Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious  
When from death he passed:**

**Bore it up triumphant  
With its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures  
To the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead,  
To the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory  
Of that perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him;  
There let him subdue  
All that is not holy,  
All that is not true:  
He is God the Saviour,  
He is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped,  
Trusted, and adored.**

**Surely, this Lord Jesus  
Shall return again,  
With his Father's glory,  
With his angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire  
Meet upon his brow,  
And our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.**

Words Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

Music Evelyns  
William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## 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, accept the prayers of your faithful  
with sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotion  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest  
who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary,  
evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.  
He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing  
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn 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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

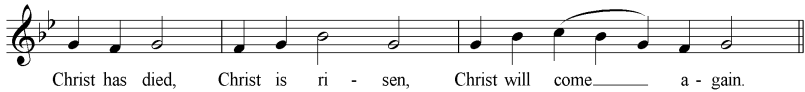
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in company with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,  
and all the apostles and saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All



*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 as our Saviour has taught us:

*All*      **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

*All*      **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## Invitation to Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

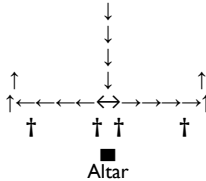
*All*      **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Giving of Communion

Father, I pray the glory that you have given me I have given them,  
so that they may be one, as we are one, alleluia.

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

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



*The choir sing Agnus Dei*

## Spiritual Communion – for those at home

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*      Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor  
Exsulemus et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

*Where charity and love are, there is God.  
The love of Christ has brought us together into one flock.  
Let us rejoice and let us be glad in that love itself.  
Let us fear and love the living God.  
And let us love from a pure heart. Amen.*

Music Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

## Hymn

*All*            **O CHRIST, our hope, our hearts' desire,  
Redemption's only spring;  
Creator of the world art thou,  
Its Saviour and its King.**

**How vast the mercy and the love  
Which laid our sins on thee,  
And led thee to a cruel death  
To set thy people free.**

**But now the bonds of death are burst,  
The ransom has been paid;  
And thou art on thy Father's throne  
In glorious robes arrayed.**

**O may thy mighty love prevail  
Our sinful souls to spare;  
O may we come before thy throne  
And find acceptance there!**

**O Christ, be thou our present joy,  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory may it be  
To glory in the Lord.**

**All praise to thee, ascended Lord;  
All glory ever be  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Through all eternity. Amen.**

Music Latin, c8th century  
translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)

Music Metzler's Redhead no. 66  
Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Eternal God,  
giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Hymn

*All* **ALLELUYA, sing to Jesus!**  
**His the sceptre, his the throne;**  
**Alleluya, his the triumph,**  
**His the victory alone:**  
**Hark, the songs of peaceful Sion**  
**Thunder like a mighty flood;**  
**Jesus out of every nation,**  
**Hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluya, not as orphans**  
**Are we left in sorrow now;**  
**Alleluya, he is near us,**  
**Faith believes, nor questions how;**  
**Though the cloud from sight received him,**  
**When the forty days were o'er,**  
**Shall our hearts forget his promise,**  
**'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluya, bread of angels,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluya, here the sinful  
Flee to thee from day to day;  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluya, King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluya, born of Mary,  
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both priest and victim  
In the eucharistic feast.**

Words William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music Hyfrydol  
Melody by Richard Huw Pritchard (1811-1887)

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May the Lord keep you steadfast in faith  
and courageous in witnessing to the Gospel.  
**Amen.**

*All* May you do all you can to preserve unity  
by the peace that binds you together.  
**Amen.**

*All* May the Lord, who is faithful, strengthen and guard you  
from the evil one.  
**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.**

## Sung Dismissal

*Deacon*

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

*All*

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

*Please turn towards the Madonna and Child sculpture*

## Regina Caeli

*All*      **Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluya**      *9 rings*  
**He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluya**  
**As he promised, hath arisen, alleluya**  
**Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluya.**

Tune Easter hymn

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

God of life, you have given joy to the world      *9 rings*  
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,  
bring us to the happiness of eternal life;  
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary

Sonata de Primo Tono

*José Lidón (1748-1827)*

*The procession departs*

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

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

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

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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. UK tax-payers are asked to use the gift-aid envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may claim an additional 25% of the donation from the government, at no additional cost to the donor. If you wish to give regularly, please contact the Parish Office (01604 791251) and ask for a member of our Stewardship Group.

**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 Olive Stirling  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week’s service booklet.*

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This evening at 5.30 pm  
**Congregational Evensong**

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

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