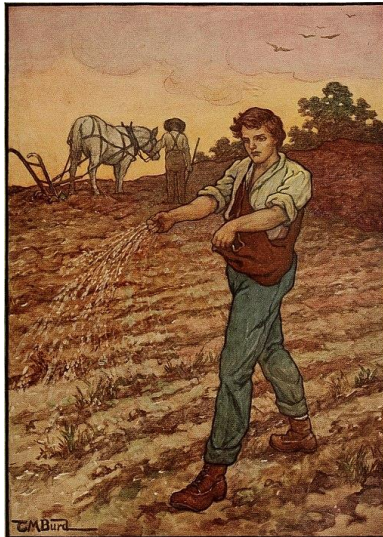


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Proper 6 Year B



Small beginnings: seed and growth

The Parish Mass

Sunday 16th June 2024

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

In Mark 4.1-34 we have a collection of parables, most of which deal with the growth of seed. They serve as a commentary on what has been happening in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom.

The parables of the seed that grows by itself and the mustard seed were meant to encourage the early Church, which was worried about the slow growth of the kingdom. They were telling the disciples to be patient, to trust, and not to expect instant results. Through the power of God, from small and insignificant beginnings, the kingdom will grow into something great.

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

On many an idle day have I grieved over lost time.
But it is never lost, my Lord.
You have taken every moment of my life in your own hands.
Hidden in the heart of things you are nourishing seeds into sprouts,
buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness.
I was tired and sleeping on my idle bed
and imagining all work had ceased.
In the morning I woke up
and found my garden full with wonders of flowers.

Rabindranath Tagore

Settings

Communion Service in F (Gloria only)

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The Salisbury Service

Grayston Ives (born 1948)



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **GLORY** to thee, who safe hast kept
And hast refreshed me whilst I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake
I may of endless light partake.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing
High praise to the eternal King.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
Scatter my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will,
And with thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day
All I design, or do, or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
In thy sole glory may unite.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Words Thomas Ken (1637-1711 NS)

Music Tallis's Canon
Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585)

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

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Life calls for a lot of patience and trust.
We can't plant an acorn today
and expect to sit in the shade of an oak tree tomorrow.

The same holds true for spiritual matters.
We have to make the effort.
Then we must be patient and trust that God's grace will take over.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you make the just flourish like a tree
that is planted by a running stream:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Your sustain them in times of difficulty:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You make their lives fruitful, and keep their hope unfading:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse † you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

○ Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
○ Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Ezekiel 17:22-24


This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**


Psalm

Colin Mawby

Response It is a good thing to give thanks to the



Lord, give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.



Choir

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
To tell of your love early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night-time, **Response**

Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp,
and to the melody of the lyre.
For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts,
and I sing aloud at the works of your hands. **Response**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
Such as are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God. **Response**

They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;
That they may show that the Lord is true;
he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him. **Response**

Psalm 92. 1-4, 12-15

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation

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

Cantor The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
whoever finds the seed will remain for ever.

All **Alleluia ...**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowd, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Mark 4.26-34

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Ray Douglas, Reader in training

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.**

Dedication of a new Humeral Veil

Description

The Veil is made from gold 'Gothic' Silk Damask, with a central orphrey of cream 'Gothic' Silk Damask, trimmed with Old Gold Diamond & Lay braid, and trimmed Gold Cotton Sateen.

The 'Chalice and Host' detail is hand embroidered – the Chalice with appliqué 'Cloth of Gold', the Host is embroidered with appliqué gold and cream 'Gothic' Silk Damask. The outline profile is in red stranded cotton thread. The surrounding sunburst is in Japanese gold thread.

Introduction

A humeral veil is most often seen at the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. When the priest traces the sign of the cross over the people with the monstrance containing the consecrated Host, he covers his hands with the ends of the veil so that his hands do not touch the monstrance. He does so as a mark of respect for the sacred vessel, and as an indication that it is Jesus in his Eucharistic presence who blesses the people, not the priest.

Brothers and sisters, this humeral veil has been brought forward to receive a special blessing, in order to indicate that it is to be used exclusively for divine worship. We do so in thanksgiving for the life of Patricia Sykes, a faithful worshipper who was devoted to her Lord in his sacramental presence. Pat's generosity has made possible the commissioning of this vestment.

Together, then, let us pray that God will also strengthen us by his blessing. Let us ask that he who alone is holy may make us holy and worthy of his presence, so that we may celebrate the liturgy with reverence and devotion.

Prayer of Blessing

Blessed are you, O God,
for making your own Son the eternal High Priest
of the New Covenant,
and for choosing us to be stewards of your holy mysteries.
May your ministers who use this vestment,
prepared for the celebration of your presence
and set apart by your blessing,
wear this veil with reverence
and honour it by inspiring the adoration of your holy people
to our Blessed Lord.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The veil is sprinkled with holy water

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Let us pray for the growth of God's kingdom in our lives and in the world.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord our God,
All **your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.**

After the final petition

Priest Almighty and ever-living God,
help us to have confidence in your unchanging love for us,
so that when things are difficult,
we may have the strength to persevere in goodness.
We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

All **O LORD my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:**

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'**

Words and music Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)

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 God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
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 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.**

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

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

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 the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
St Matthew and all the 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

Amen.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

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

My flesh is food indeed,
and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

All **Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
dwell in me and I in them.**

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

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

I sat down under his shadow

Edward Bairstow (1874-1948)

Hymn

All

**I COME with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.**

**The spirit of the risen Christ,
Unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better known,
Alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
By all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world
The love that makes us one.**

Words Brian Wren (born 1936)
revised by the author 1995

Music University
composer unknown

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

**Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us and all people to serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **YE that know the Lord is gracious,
Ye for whom a cornerstone
Stands, of God elect and precious,
Laid that ye may build thereon,
See that on that sure foundation
Ye a living temple raise,
Towers that may tell forth salvation,
Walls that may re-echo praise.**

**Living stones, by God appointed
Each to his allotted place,
Kings and priests, by God anointed,
Shall ye not declare his grace?
Ye, a royal generation,
Tell the tidings of your birth,
Tidings of a new creation
To an old and weary earth.**

**Tell the praise of him who called you
Out of darkness into light,
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,
Strength renewed and hope restored,
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,
Praise and magnify the Lord.**

Words Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

Music Blaenwern
William Penfro Rowland (1860-1937)

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Lord help you to grow in love,
so that you may live a life worthy of the calling he has given you.
Amen.

All May the Lord guide your steps and confirm your hearts in his love.
Amen.

All May the Lord bless you and keep you in his care now and for ever.
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

Sortie on “Nun danket alle Gott” *Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)*

The procession departs

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

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.

This afternoon at 4.00 pm

Friends of St Matthew’s Music AGM
(in the Parish Centre)

This evening at 5.30 pm

Choral 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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