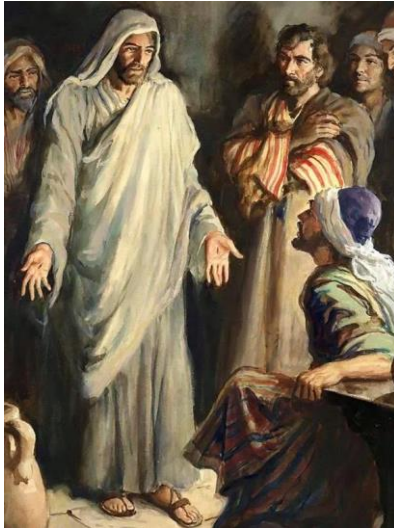


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday of Easter

Year B



*Behind closed doors Jesus appears to the disciples
and shows them his wounds*

The Parish Mass

Sunday 14th April 2024

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

This morning's Gospel shows the apostles locked in the upper room. But the risen Jesus appears to them and brings them peace and joy. This passage comes immediately after the story on the road to Emmaus. It completes Luke's resurrection appearance stories. It closely resembles John's appearance story (20.19-23). The location is the same – the upper room. Jesus' greeting is the same. There is the same emphasis on the reality of Jesus' bodily resurrection. And Jesus gives the apostles a mission – the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus shows the apostles his hands and his feet and invites them to touch him. Thus, Luke makes it clear that the risen Jesus is not simply a spirit. But what is unique is Luke's emphasis on the scriptures.

It was only by combining various passages from the prophets that the early Christians came to accept the idea that a suffering Messiah was part of God's plan of salvation. Hence, Luke has the risen Lord showing the disciples how the scriptures had foretold that the Christ would suffer and so enter into his glory.

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

The wounds of love

The wounds of Jesus show us how costly love can be.
Those who care about others pick up a lot of wounds.
There may be no great wounds, only a multiplicity of little ones.
But there can also be a lot of invisible wounds:
the furrows left on the mind and heart by hardship, worry, and anxiety.
These wounds are not things to be ashamed of.
They are more like badges of honour.
They are the proof of our love.



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

All **THOU hallowed chosen morn of praise,
That best and greatest shinest;
Lady and queen and day of days,
Of things divine, divinest!
On thee our praises Christ adore
For ever and for evermore.**

**Come, let us taste the vine's new fruit,
For heavenly joy preparing;
Today the branches with the root
In resurrection sharing:
Whom as true God our hymns adore
For ever and for evermore.**

**Rise, Sion, rise! And looking forth,
Behold thy children round thee!
From east and west, from south and north,
Thy scattered sons have found thee;
And in thy bosom Christ adore
For ever and for evermore.**

**O Father, O co-equal Son,
O co-eternal Spirit,
In persons three, in Godhead one,
And one in power and merit;
In thee baptized, we thee adore
For ever and for evermore. Amen.**

Words Greek, St John of Damascus (c675-749)
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music Mach's mit mir Gott
adapted by Johann Hermann Schein (1586-1630)
from a melody by Bartholomäus Gesius (c1550-1613)
harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

A pause for reflection

Confession

All **God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life
in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, with the gift of your peace you calm our troubled minds
and ease our fearful hearts.

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Through your gracious forgiveness
you enabled us to walk in the joy and freedom of the children of God.

Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

You are the good shepherd leading us
to the green pastures of eternal life.

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.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord;
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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

The Acts of the Apostles

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Peter saw the lame man walk, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.’

Acts 3.12-19

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

Psalm

Response It is you, O Lord, who make me dwell in safety
Stephen Moore

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety. **Response**

Psalm 4

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation



Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff, with a long horizontal line under the 'ia' portion.

All The Lord Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures.
Alleluia.

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Glo - ry to you, O Lord, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff.

Jesus himself stood among the eleven and their companions and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Let us bring our needs before God,
who raised his beloved Son to the glory of heaven,
where he now pleads our cause.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

All Lord, you set us free when we are hard-pressed.
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father,
grant that we may walk with courage
in the footsteps of our risen Lord on earth,
and come to share his glory in heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you'.
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. 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.

The Offertory

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

All

ALLELUYA! Alleluya!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise:
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At his second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine,
From the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with our hearts in heaven,
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with thee.

Alleluya! Alleluya!
Glory be to God on high;
To the Father, and the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluya! Alleluya!
To the triune majesty. Amen.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Music Lux eoi
Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

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, receive these offerings from your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in your service and perpetual happiness.
We ask this 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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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 ri - sen, 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 company with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Thomas, 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



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

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

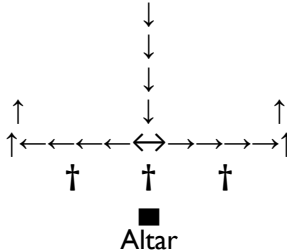
All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Giving of Communion

It is written, 'The Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations', alleluia.

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

Alternatively, if you wish to receive God's blessing, please bring this booklet with you.



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

**COME, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
Nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
Thyself at thine own board make manifest,
In this our sacrament of bread and wine.**

**We meet, as in that upper room they met;
Thou at the table, blessing, yet dost stand:
'This is my body' - so thou givest yet:
Faith still receives the cup as from thy hand.**

**One body we, one body who partake,
One Church united in communion blest;
One name we bear, one bread of life we break,
With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.**

**One with each other, Lord, for one in thee,
Who art one Saviour and one living head;
Then open thou our eyes, that we may see;
Be known to us in breaking of the bread.**

Words George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)

Music Adoro te devote (Plainsong, Mode v)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **LOVE'S** redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo! Our sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?**

**Soar we now where Christ has led?
Following our exalted head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the Resurrection thou!**

Words Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

*Music Savannah (Herrnhut)
Melody from Choralbuch Herrnhutt, c1740
as given in John Wesley Foundery Collection, 1742*

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May the risen Lord inflame your hearts and raise your spirits.
Amen.

All May he bless you with a peace this world cannot give.
Amen.

All May he fill your hearts with joy
and make you courageous witnesses for his Gospel.
Amen.

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

All

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.

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 eternal life;
 we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Music The Easter Hymn

Organ Voluntary

An Easter Alleluya

Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

The procession departs

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the music

§ *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.*

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 Anonymous Donor 17
who has generously financed the production of this week’s service booklet*

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

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