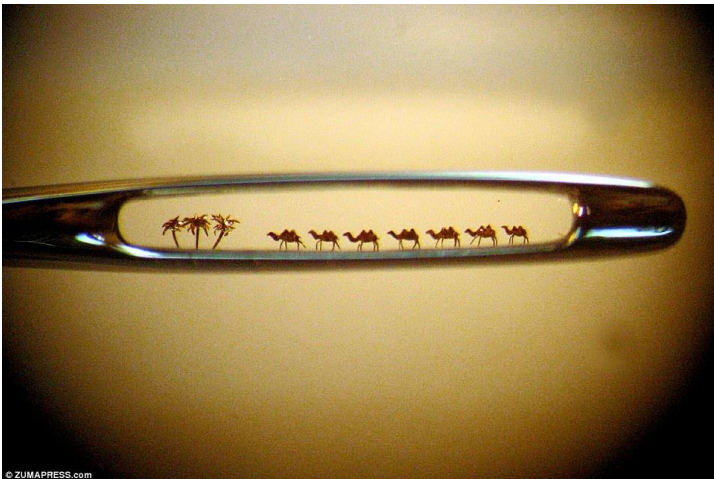


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 23 Year B



*Wisdom is better than riches*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024

10.15 am

## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

**Safeguarding** St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

**Live streaming** Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

**Toilet and baby changing facilities** may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

**For younger children** In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-appropriate Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of it.



This morning's Gospel reading is a discipleship story. Love of material possessions and comforts is one of the chief obstacles in the way of discipleship.

The Jews believed that the prosperity of the rich was a sign of God's blessing. But Jesus presents wealth as a stumbling block to the kingdom. Those who rely on themselves and their possessions cannot be saved. Salvation is always God's achievement, not ours.

However, it is not renunciation of wealth *per se* but the life of discipleship that leads to eternal life.

When Jesus says, 'Sell what you have ...' he doesn't mean that a disciple must be destitute. The life of the poor, with its hardship and suffering, is not set forth in Mark's gospel as an ideal for the Christian disciple. But neither is the desire for possessions and the accumulation of wealth.

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

Jesus invited the young man to follow him,  
but riches got in the way.  
Even though Jesus was sad to see him go,  
nevertheless, he let him go.  
There's no point in forcing people to make sacrifices.  
If you take things from people, they are impoverished;  
but if you can get them to give them up, they are enriched.  
People are essentially good,  
but this goodness has to be awakened and called forth,  
if they are to enter the kingdom of love.

## Settings

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)      *David Thorne*

Communion Service in F      *William Harris (1883-1973)*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

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

## Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

*All*           **BEFORE the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea:  
A great high priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on his hands,  
My name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Saviour died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! The risen Lamb!  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace!**

**One with my Lord, I cannot die;  
My soul is purchased by his blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

Words Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841-1923)

Music Bow Brickhill  
Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

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

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
*All*      **and also with you.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

In the gospel we read how riches kept a young man from becoming a  
disciple of Jesus.

We are disciples of Jesus. But we don't follow him as closely as we should.  
Let us reflect for a moment on what is preventing us.

*Silence is kept*

## Confession

*All*      **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you help us to take care of our material needs  
without neglecting our spiritual needs:

Lord, have mercy.

*All*     **Lord, have mercy.**

You help us to take care of others without neglecting ourselves:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*     **Christ, have mercy.**

You help us to live joyfully in this world  
without losing sight of the world to come:

Lord, have mercy.

*All*     **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon † and peace,  
now and for ever.

*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.

God, the giver of life,  
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:  
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ  
and make us eager to do your will,  
that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;  
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 Letter to the Hebrews.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the

throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4.12-16

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

## Psalm



*Choir* So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.  
Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay?  
Have compassion on your servants. **Response**

Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us,  
and for the years in which we have seen adversity. **Response**

Show your servants your works,  
and let your glory be over their children.  
May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands. **Response**

Psalm 90.12-17

## Holy Gospel

§ *Stand*

Acclamation



Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth,  
because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent  
and have revealed them to infants.

*All* **Alleluia ...**



§ Please turn to face the Book of the Gospels

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

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



As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

Mark 10.17-31

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.



# Homily

§ Sit

## 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.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest* Let us turn to God for the wisdom and grace we need  
to use the things of this world in a way that will help us to gain eternal life.

§ *Kneel*

*The response to each petition*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your love and goodness,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*After the final petition*

*Priest* Lord, help us to see you more clearly,  
to follow you more nearly,  
and to love you more dearly,  
so that under your gentle urging we may make steady progress  
along the road that leads to your kingdom.  
We make this prayer through you, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Sign of Peace

As we have a great High Priest who has passed into the heavens,  
let us approach the throne of grace with boldness.

*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* **SON of God, eternal Saviour,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Son of Man, whose birth amongst us  
Hallows all our human race,  
Thou, our head, who, throned in glory,  
For thine own dost ever plead,  
Fill us with thy love and pity;  
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

**As thou, Lord, hast lived for others,  
So may we for others live;  
Freely have thy gifts been granted,  
Freely may thy servants give.  
Thine the gold and thine the silver,  
Thine the wealth of land and sea,  
We but stewards of thy bounty,  
Held in solemn trust for thee.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign above us,  
King of Love, and Prince of Peace,  
Hush the storm of strife and passion,  
Bid its cruel discords cease;  
By thy patient years of toiling,  
By thy silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
Shame our selfish greed of gain.**

Dark the path that lies behind us,  
Strewn with wrecks and stained with blood;  
But before us gleams the vision  
Of the coming brotherhood.  
See the Christlike host advancing,  
High and lowly, great and small,  
Linked in bonds of common service  
For the common Lord of all.

Son of God, eternal Saviour,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Son of Man, whose birth amongst us  
Hallows all our human race,  
Thou who prayedst, thou who willest  
That thy people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
Here on earth thy will be done.

Words Somerset Carry Lowry (1855-1932)

Music Everton  
Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

## 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 people  
who bring these sacrificial offerings,  
that, through these acts of devotion,  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
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 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:

*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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

A musical score for the phrase 'Jesus Christ is Lord'. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo (*cresc.*) and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Lord, by your cross and re sur rec -tion you have set us free. You are the Sa viour of theworld.' are written below the staff, with hyphens under 're sur rec -tion' and 'Sa viour'.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,  
Matthew, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

§ *Kneel*

## The Lord's Prayer

Jesus says that nothing is impossible to God.  
Let us then 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

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:

*All*     **We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

*All*     Into one body we were all baptized,  
**and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

## Agnus Dei

*Choir*     O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy 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

The rich may lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord  
lack nothing that is good.

## 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 Jesus, joy of man's desiring  
Holy wisdom, love most bright  
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned  
Striving still to truth unknown  
Soaring, dying round thy throne Jesus, joy of man's desiring.

Holy wisdom, love most bright  
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned  
Striving still to truth unknown  
Soaring, dying round thy throne.

From the Advent cantata, *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*  
(Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life) BWV 147  
J S Bach (1685-1750)

## Hymn

All

**FATHER of heaven, whose love profound  
A ransom for our souls hath found,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy pardoning love extend.**

**Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
Our prophet, priest, Redeemer, Lord,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy saving grace extend.**

**Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
The soul is raised from sin and death,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy quickening power extend.**

**Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, three in one,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

Words Edward Cooper (1770-1833)

Music Rievaux  
John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

§ *All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God our Father,  
whose Son, the light unfailing,  
has come from heaven to deliver the world  
from the darkness of ignorance:  
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding  
that we may know the way of life,  
and walk in it without stumbling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Lord,  
we have broken your bread and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit keeps us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*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

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May you know the shortness of life that you may gain wisdom of heart.  
**Amen.**

*All* May you never forget that we are but pilgrims on the earth,  
and that our true home is in heaven.  
**Amen.**

*All* May you walk before the Lord with blameless hearts.  
**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 peace to love and serve the Lord.  
                 **In the name of Christ.**

## Organ Voluntary

Choral Song and Fugue                      *Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1866)*

§ *Please remain standing until the procession has departed*

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

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## 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 17  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.*

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*This evening at 5.30 pm*  
**Congregational Evensong**  
in Quire

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

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