

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 11 Year C



Christ in the house of Mary and Martha  
by Johannes Vermeer, 1654-56

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 20 July 2025

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.*

**GDPR** *Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.*

**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-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.*



---

## Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



### Our response to God’s generosity

*We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*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.*



## The morning's readings

This morning's First Reading and the Gospel are hospitality stories. Hospitality was an esteemed virtue in the ancient world. It is still a highly regarded and very necessary virtue.

In the First Reading we see how, when three strangers (Yahweh and two heavenly companions) suddenly appeared to Abraham, he reacted with instinctive hospitality, and how Yahweh rewarded his hospitality. This sets the scene for Martha and Mary who welcome Jesus to their home. We see the contrast between Martha's activity and Mary's quiet devotion to the Lord. It's not that what Martha does is unimportant. It's just that Mary has chosen something even more important. Her priority is to listen to the word of Jesus.

The story of Martha and Mary can be seen as a parable in action. Whereas the parable of the Good Samaritan stressed the importance of action, or practical love, in the life of a disciple, this story stresses the importance of contemplation. Both are necessary, and have to be integrated into the life of a Christian. Martha is the patron saint of waiters and waitresses.

*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:*

## Prayer / Reflection

### In his presence

Lord, I place myself in your presence.  
After the strain and turmoil of the day  
I rest quietly here, as a little boat,  
which has been tossed by the waves  
and buffeted by the wind,  
rests secure in a sheltered harbour.  
Here my projects lose their power over me.  
A healing process begins.  
My fragmented self is reassembled,  
and I am made whole again.  
In your presence, I experience my true worth,  
which consists not in doing but in being.  
I surrender myself into your hands.  
I am at peace.

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

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

## Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

*All*

**O WORSHIP the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept for the Name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

Words John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-1875  
Melody from the Rheinhardt MS 1754

Music Was lebet  
Melody from the Reinhardt MS, 1754

Priest † 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

The word of God is living and active.  
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him  
to whom we give account.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence for reflection*

## 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, your presence calms our fears:  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

Your presence eases our anxieties:  
Christ, have mercy.  
*All*      **Christ, have mercy.**

Your presence helps us to focus our attention  
on the one thing necessary to listen to the Lord:  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive † you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus 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 and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God  
in the holy scriptures,  
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds  
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit



# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'

Genesis 18.1-10a

This is the word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm

*Response*

Stephen Moore



*Cantor* Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may rest upon your holy hill?  
Whoever leads an uncorrupt life  
and does the thing that is right; **Response**

Who speaks the truth from the heart  
and bears no deceit on the tongue;  
Who does no evil to a friend  
and pours no scorn on a neighbour; **Response**

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,  
but who honours those who fear the Lord.  
Whoever has sworn to a neighbour  
and never goes back on that word; **Response**

Who does not lend money in hope of gain,  
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;  
Whoever does these things  
shall never fall. **Response**

Psalms 15

## Holy Gospel

§ Stand

### Acclamation

1. Choir only  
2. Choir and Congregation

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

**All** Open our heart, O Lord, to receive the words of your Son.  
**Alleluia ...**

§ We 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 Luke

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care

that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Luke 10:38-42

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*



Praise to you, O Christ.

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

Conscious of our need of God's blessings  
we bring our needs and those of the Church and world before him.

§ *Kneel*

*After each petition*

*Intercessor*  
*All*

**Holy and Mighty One,  
hear us and help us.**

Father, your Son honoured Martha and Mary  
by coming to their home as a guest.  
May we serve you in our brothers and sisters,  
and be welcomed by you into heaven, our true home.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

§ *Stand*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Sign of Peace

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.  
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

*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.

## The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are presented to the presiding priest at the dais step and the altar is prepared*

## Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

*All* **ETERNAL ruler of the ceaseless round  
Of circling planets singing on their way;  
Guide of the nations from the night profound  
Into the glory of the perfect day;  
Rule in our hearts, that we may ever be  
Guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.**

**We are of thee, the children of thy love,  
The brethren of thy well-beloved Son;  
Descend, O Holy Spirit, like a dove,  
Into our hearts, that we may be as one:  
As one with thee, to whom we ever tend;  
As one with him, our brother and our friend.**

**We would be one in hatred of all wrong,  
One in our love of all things sweet and fair,  
One with the joy that breaketh into song,  
One with the grief that trembleth into prayer,  
One in the power that makes thy children free  
To follow truth, and thus to follow thee.**

**O clothe us with thy heavenly armour, Lord,  
Thy trusty shield, thy sword of love divine;  
Our inspiration be thy constant word;  
We ask no victories that are not thine:  
Give or withhold, let pain or pleasure be;  
Enough to know that we are serving thee.**

Words John White Chadwick 1840-1904

Music Song I  
Melody and bass by  
Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

## 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 one perfect sacrifice  
brought to completion varied offerings of the law,  
accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful people  
and make it holy,  
so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty  
may benefit the salvation of all.  
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 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*



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 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



A- men.

*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

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

*All*            Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## Giving of Communion

Behold, I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

*Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign. Thank 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

**STRENGTHEN** for service, Lord, the hands  
That holy things have taken;  
Let ears that now have heard thy songs  
To clamour never waken.

**Lord**, may the tongues which 'Holy' sang  
Keep free from all deceiving;  
The eyes which saw thy love be bright,  
Thy blessed hope perceiving.

**The feet** that tread thy holy courts  
From light do thou not banish;  
**The bodies** by thy Body fed  
With thy new life replenish.

Words attributed to St Ephrem the Syrian c306-373  
translated by Charles William Humphreys 1840-1921  
and Percy Dearmer 1867-1936

Music Ach Gott und Herr  
Melody from *Neu Leipziger Gesangbuch*, 1682  
adapted and harmonized by J S Bach 1685-1750

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

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be so peaceably  
ordered by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

**Amen.**

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

# Hymn

All

**NOW** let us from this table rise  
Renewed in body, mind and soul;  
With Christ we die and rise again,  
His selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace,  
To spread the Word in speech and deed,  
We follow in the steps of Christ,  
At one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,  
It is the sacrament of care;  
The work that Christ began to do  
We humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then grant us grace, Companion-God,  
To choose again the pilgrim way  
And help us to accept with joy  
The challenge of tomorrow's day.

*Words* Fred Kaan 1929-2009

*Music* Solothurn  
Swiss traditional melody  
from Johann Friedrich Reichart 1752-1814  
*Frohe Lieder für deutsche Männer*, 1781

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

All      May God the Father bring us to the home  
            which his Son prepares for all who love him.  
            **Amen.**

All      May God the Son give us the will  
            to live for him each day in life eternal.  
            **Amen.**

All      May God the Holy Spirit give us the assurance  
            that our citizenship is in heaven with the blessed and the beloved,  
            and the whole company of the redeemed.  
            **Amen.**

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

## The Dismissal

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

## Organ Voluntary

War March of the Priests

*Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847*

§ 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*
- § *Refreshments are being served in church. Do please join us.*

Following this service  
**Burial of cremated remains**  
**Doreen Brown R.I.P.**

At Midday  
**Holy Baptism**  
**Zayla Anne Claire Liburd-Hawkins**

This evening at 5.30 pm  
**Congregational Evensong**

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 20  
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.**

Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.  
All of the official *Common Worship* publications are being published by Church House Publishing.  
Church Copyright Licence No. 248548. Streaming Licence No. 93626.

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