

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The First Sunday of Lent

Year C



Christ's faithfulness in the face of temptation

The Parish Mass with Solemn Litany

Sunday 9 March 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.



St Matthew's, Malvern

This morning's readings are concerned with faithfulness to God. The First Reading contains the simplest form of the Christian credo: Jesus is Lord: he died for our sins and was raised up for our justification. Obviously for this faith to be genuine, it must be professed not just with one's lips but also with one's life.

Luke's account of the temptations follows closely that of Matthew, except that he deliberately changes the order of the last two temptations so that the series ends in Jerusalem. This is in keeping with his theological interest in the holy city. The three scenes serve to correct a false understanding of Jesus' mission. Jesus repels the tempter by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, which stresses God's will for Israel.

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

Reflection

Repentance of itself is not enough –
grace must be available.
But if grace is offered and not accepted,
then nothing comes of that either.
There is no point in putting up a sail
if there is no wind.
There is no point in planting a seed
if the ground is frozen.
There is no point in pruning the tree
if spring does not come.
It is not enough to cut into people's hearts
in order to save them –
they must be touched by grace.
Lord, touch our hearts with your grace,
so that we may produce the fruits of repentance.

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls

The Litany

Philip Marshall

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *The bell is rung and **all stand***

§ *The sanctuary party and choir enter in silence and go to their places*

§ ***All sit** with the priest for a period of silent prayer*

§ ***All stand** with the presiding priest*

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

The Greeting

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

Hymn

§ *The clergy reverence the altar which is then honoured with incense*

All **WITH joy and by the Spirit led
The Church of Christ seeks desert paths,
All else forgotten, God alone
To worship and to follow there.**

**There silence shall set free the will,
The heart to one desire restored,
There each restraint shall purify
And strengthen those who seek the Lord.**

**There bread from heaven shall sustain
And water from the rock be struck.
There shall his people hear his word,
The living God encounter there.**

**All praise to God who calls his Church
To make her exodus from sin,
That tested fasting and prepared,
She may go up to keep the feast.**

Words Malling Abbey

Music Morning Hymn
François Hippolyte Barthélémon 1741-1808

Prayers of Penitence

The Litany

Minister Let us pray.

Choir God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

Choir God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

Choir God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Choir Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

Minister From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice;
and from all evil intent,



Good Lord, de - li - ver us.

The congregation remain in their places

§ *The procession moves off along the centre aisle, turns left at the baptistery encompassing the congregation in an anticlockwise direction*

All
From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
From famine and disaster;
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

All
By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.



All

Hear us, good Lord.

Govern and direct your holy Church;
fill it with love and truth;
and grant it that unity which is your will.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,
and to make disciples of all the nations.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten our bishops and all who minister
with knowledge and understanding,
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred
and are deceived.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen those who stand;
comfort and help the faint-hearted;
raise up the fallen;
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Guide the leaders of the nations
into the ways of peace and justice.

All

Hear us, good Lord.

Guard and strengthen your servant Charles our King,
that he may put his trust in you,
and seek your honour and glory.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the High Court of Parliament
and all the Ministers of the Crown
with wisdom and understanding.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,
and for the good of all creation.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring your joy into all families;
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,
watch over children and guide the young,
bring reconciliation to those in discord
and peace to those in stress.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.



All Lord__ have mer - cy.

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,
and all who are in trouble.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,
and turn their hearts.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died
in the peace of Christ,
both those who have confessed the faith
and those whose faith is known to you alone,
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Choir *Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.*

Silence is kept

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins
to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him:
have mercy upon you;
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The servers return to their places

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.**

Dear friends, in his forty days in the desert wilderness
the Lord Jesus sought to draw close to the Father.
Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and minds
as the Word of God is proclaimed to us.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

As scripture says:

‘The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you
will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses
with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him
will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same

Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Romans 10.8b-13

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response Rosalie Bonighton

The musical notation is for a response in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, which are grouped with a '3' above them. This is followed by a half note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a half note D4. The lyrics 'You are my God in whom I trust.' are written below the notes.

Choir Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.' **Response**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,
There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent. **Response**

For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Response**

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name. **Response**

They will call upon me and I will answer them;
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
With long life will I satisfy them
and show them my salvation. **Response**

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-end

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir 2. All

Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

Choir One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

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

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you",

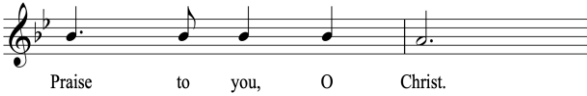
and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Luke 4.1-13

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Homily

§ Sit

At the end, there may be a time of quiet reflection

Affirmation of Faith

§ Stand

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Because Jesus was tempted, he understands our temptations.
Let us turn to him for the help we need to be victorious over evil.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, you forgive and offer us newness of life,
All **help us to forgive.**

Priest God of power and love,
you have shown us that prayer, fasting and almsgiving
are remedies for sin.
Accept our humble admission of guilt,
and when our conscience weighs us down,
let your unfailing mercy raise us up.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

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

The Offertory

§ *The Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken. For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.*

All

**JESU, Lord of life and glory,
Bend from heaven thy gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee,
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**From the depth of nature's blindness,
From, the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
From the pride that lurks within:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**When temptation sorely presses,
In the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
In each dark and trying hour;
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**In the weary hours of sickness,
In the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
When the creature's help is vain:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.**

In the solemn hour of dying,
In the face of judgement day,
May our souls, on thee relying,
Find thee still our rock and stay:
By thy mercy,
O deliver us, good Lord.

Jesu, may thy promised blessing
Comfort to our souls afford;
May we now, thy love possessing,
And at length our full reward,
Ever praise thee,
Good and ever-glorious Lord.

Words John Cummins 1795-1867

Music Cwm Rhondda
John Hughes 1873-1932

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, give us the right disposition
to make these offering with a sincere heart,
for with them we celebrate
the beginning of this venerable and sacred time
in the name of 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 and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Deacon

Je - sus Christ is Lord:

Response

Lord, by your cross and re - sur - rec - tion you have set us free.


You are the Sa - viour of the world.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
 this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
 and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
 in the presence of your divine majesty,
 renew us by your Spirit,
 inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.


Through him, and with him, and in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
 we worship you, Father almighty,

President




in songs of e - ver last - ing praise

Response



Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and power



be yours for e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

There is no temptation that we cannot overcome with God's help.
 Let us pray to our heavenly Father in the words our Saviour gave 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 Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

The Lord shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

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 Sicut cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina 1525/6 -1594

Hymn

All

GLORY be to Jesus,
Who, in bitter pains,
Poured for me the lifeblood
From his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion,
Infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream,
Which from endless torment
Doth the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

Oft as it is sprinkled
On our guilty hearts,
Satan in confusion
Terror-struck departs.

Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Hell with terror trembles,
Heaven is filled with joy.

Lift ye then your voices;
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

Words Anonymous Italian
translated Edward Caswall (1814-1878) Music Caswall
Friedrich Filitz (1804-1876)

§ All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and cup of salvation.**

**Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Hymn

All

**BE thou my guardian and my guide;
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.**

Words Isaac Williams 1802-1865 Music Abridge
Isaac Smith 1733/4-1805

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God's word be a lamp for your steps and a light upon your path.
Amen.

All May the Lord keep your feet from stumbling
and your hearts from straying.
Amen.

All May the Lord strengthen you against evil,
and enable you to live in the freedom of the children of God.
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

Fantasia in D minor (W133) *Van den Kerckhoven c1618-c1701*

§ *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.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 5
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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