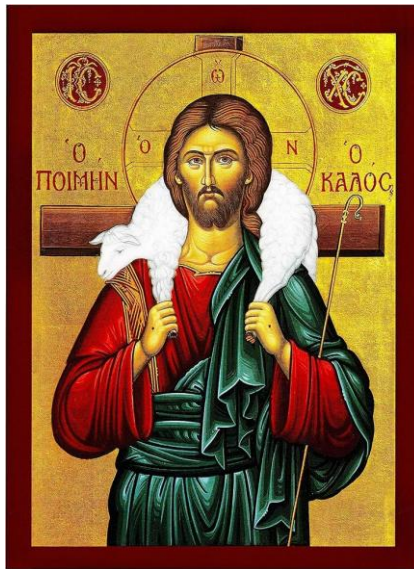


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

Year C



## The Parish Mass

with the Meeting of Parishioners and  
the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 11 May 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.



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## 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.*



## This morning's themes

This morning's reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows Paul's policy was to preach to the Jews first, because they were the chosen people. But when they reject his message, he turns to the Gentiles. In this way the prophecy that the light of salvation would reach the ends of the earth was fulfilled.

Jesus is the true Shepherd, and will not allow anyone to snatch from his care the sheep that belong to him. He will give them eternal life. What does belonging to him entail? It entails listening to his voice and following him.

## Healing Ministries

Please note that the laying on of hands and the sacrament of anointing will be available in the Lady Chapel this morning.

*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 may be found helpful:*

## Reflection

The deepest wound of all is that which affects the heart:  
the feeling that one has not been loved,  
that one is not precious to anyone.  
Many people today are wounded at heart.  
Each of us can do something to heal their wounds.  
We have hands that can make things,  
and minds that can understand things.  
But above all we have hearts that can give life.  
We are not sterile people.  
We can give life to people who are inwardly broken.  
We can show them that they are important,  
and so bring life to them.  
Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is also Vocations Sunday.  
But all vocations are vocations to love.

## Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls b 1963

## Order of Service

### ¶ The Gathering

§ **Stand** at the sound of the bell

### Hymn

§ *The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense*

*All*

**YE** choirs of new Jerusalem,  
Your sweetest notes employ,  
The Paschal victory to hymn  
In strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
And crushed the serpent's head;  
And brought with him, from death's domains,  
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey  
Alone our leader bore;  
His ransomed hosts pursue their way  
Where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now  
His sceptre ruleth all,  
Earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,  
And at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
His mercy we implore,  
Into his palace bright to bring  
And keep us evermore.

**All glory to the Father be,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
While endless ages run. Alleluya! Amen.**

Words Chorus novae Jerusalem  
St Fulbert of Chartres c960-1028  
Trans Robert Campbell 1814-1868

Music St Fulbert  
Henry John Gauntlett 1805-1876

† 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 Acclamation

*All* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says to us, 'I know my sheep.  
They listen to my voice and follow me.'  
Let us reflect for a moment on our failure to respond  
to the love and care of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

*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, you call us to be your people, the sheep of your flock.  
Kyrie eleison.

*All*      **Kyrie eleison.**

You help us to listen to your voice and to follow you.  
Christe eleison.

*All*      **Christe eleison.**

You lead us to the green pastures of eternal life.  
Kyrie eleison.

*All*      **Kyrie eleison.**

## Absolution

May the God of love and power  
forgive † you 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 God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All*      **Amen.**



Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
to discover further the meaning of this joyful Eastertide,  
let us listen attentively to the Good News of Christ's resurrection.

§ Sit

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### The Acts of the Apostles

*Reader* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

There was in Joppa a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Acts 9:36-43

This is the word of the Lord.

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

### Psalm



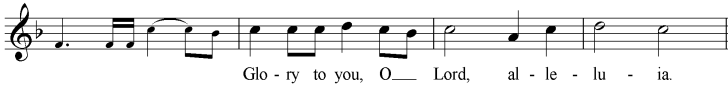
The Lord\_ is my shep- herd, there is no thing I shall want. The



Lord\_ is my shep- herd, there is no thing I shall want.



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



The festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

John 10.22-30

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## ¶ Meeting of Parishioners

§ Sit

## ¶ The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

# The Apostles' Creed

§ *Stand*

Brothers and sisters,  
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

*All*     **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest*     Let us now bring our needs before the Lord, who is faithful from age  
to age, and whose love is eternal.

*After each petition*

*Intercessor*     Good Shepherd, guide us  
*All*                 **and help us always.**

*After the final petition*

*Priest* Heavenly Father,  
grant that what we have said with our lips,  
we may believe with our hearts,  
and practise with our lives.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*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* 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

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

### Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and placed under the altar.  
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.  
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

*All* **THE King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth;  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth:  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days,  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.**

Words Henry Williams Baker 1821-1877

Music Dominus regit me  
John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876

## 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,  
grant that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,  
so that the renewal constantly at work within us  
may be the causing of our unending joy;  
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 and just, 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 the company 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. 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.**

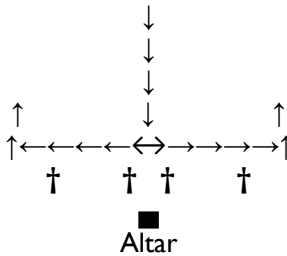
*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

# Giving of Communion

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, 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 a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign to us. Thank you.*



Spiritual Communion – *for those watching 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.

## Healing Ministries

§ *If you would like to receive the laying on of hands and the Sacrament of Anointing please make your way to the Lady Chapel*

## Motet

This Joyful Eastertide

*William Harris 1883-1973*

## Hymn

*All*

**FAITHFUL Shepherd, feed me  
In the pastures green;  
Faithful Shepherd, lead me  
Where thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me  
In the narrow way;  
So, with thee beside me,  
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer  
To the heavenly shore;  
May thy faith grow clearer,  
May I love thee more.**

**Hallow every pleasure,  
Every gift and pain:  
Be thyself my treasure,  
Though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me,  
As thou seest best,  
Then let angels bear me  
To thy promised rest.**

Words Thomas Benson Pollock 1836-1896

Music: Pastor Pastorum  
Friedrich Silcher 1789-1860

## Prayer after Communion

§ *All are seated for a period of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

## Hymn

*All*

**PRAISE the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him;  
Praise him, angels, in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before him,  
Praise him, all ye stars of light:  
Praise the Lord! For he has spoken,  
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws, which never shall be broken,  
For their guidance has he made.**

**Praise the Lord! For he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God has made his saints victorious,  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify his Name!**

**Worship, honour, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer to thy Name;  
Young and old, thy praise expressing,  
Join their Saviour to proclaim.  
As the saints in heaven adore thee,  
We would bow before thy throne:  
As thine angels serve before thee,  
So on earth thy will be done.**

Words vv1-2 from a page pasted into the Founding Hospital's  
*Psalms, Hymns and Anthems*, c1797;  
based on Psalm 148 v3 Edward Osler 1798-1863

Music Austria  
Franz Joseph Haydn 1732-1809

## Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

# † Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.  
*All* **Amen.**

God the Son,  
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
*All* **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
*All* **Amen.**

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

## 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 to face 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 of eternal life;  
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**      Music The Easter Hymn

## Organ Voluntary

Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 [Opus 39]

*Edward Elgar 1857-1934*

- § *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 served in the parish centre, please do join us*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish or area, please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

## Congregational Evensong



Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 11  
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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