

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 15 Year C



*'I came to bring fire to the earth,
and how I wish it were already kindled!*

The Parish Mass

Sunday 17 August 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.



Good morning and welcome ...

This morning's Gospel is a great comfort to us, especially in times of sorrow and trouble. But it is also a great challenge. It challenges us to shun darkness and to opt for the light, to be with Christ rather than against him. It contains two sayings about the nature of Jesus's mission. His coming marks a time for making decisions. His followers will have to make crucial choices; they will have to choose to be for him or against him. Choosing for him may divide them from family members. In the early Church, conversion was likely to cause a family row. The convert was rejected by the family, and had therefore to make a choice between Christ and the family.

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:

Reflection

The two roads

Jesus said that there are two roads we can follow.
The first is wide and easy to travel.
It is downhill most of the way.
It is the way of comfort and ease, pleasure and self-seeking.
Many are fooled and travel down this road.
But in the long run it leads them nowhere.
They die in the desert.
The second road is narrow and difficult.
It is uphill a lot of the way.
It is the way of struggle and sacrifice.
Few take this road.
But they are the lucky ones.
This road leads to the Promised Land.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense

All

SING alleluya forth ye saints on high,
And let the Church on earth make glad reply:
To Christ the King, sing alleluya!

**To him who is both Word of God and Son,
Who, out of love, our nature did put on:**

**To him who, born of Mary, shared our life,
And in our manhood triumphed in the strife:**

**To him who did for all our sins atone,
In naked majesty on Calvary's throne:**

**To him who rose victorious from the dead,
And reigns on high, his people's Lord and head:**

**To him who sent the Holy Spirit's grace,
To bear the Father's love to every race:**

**To him, the universal Saviour, now
Let every knee in adoration bow:**
To Christ the King, sing alleluya!

Words George Boorne Timms 1910-1997

Music Martins
Percy Carter Buck 1871-1947

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

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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 hear us when we cry to you for help:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You strengthen us when we are weak and indecisive:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You shed your light on us when we are in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Priest Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive † you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
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 God,
who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

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 prophecy of Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23.23-29

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response **Arise, O God, and judge the earth.**

Reader God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:
'How long will you judge unjustly
and show such favour to the wicked?
'You were to judge the weak and the orphan;
defend the right of the humble and needy; **Response**

'Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
'They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are shaken. **Response**

‘Therefore I say that though you are gods
and all of you children of the Most High,
‘Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like one of their princes.’
Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for it is you that shall take all nations for your possession.

Response

Psalm 82

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation

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

Open our heart, O Lord to accept the words of your Son.

All Alleluia.

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Luke 12.49-56

All



§ *Sit*

§ Stand

All

*All may
bow*

10

**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 pray that we may strive to enter the Kingdom
through the narrow gate.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor Holy and Strong One,
All **help us to keep our eyes fixed on you.**

Priest Merciful God,
fill our hearts with your love,
and keep us faithful to you and to the Gospel.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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 brought forward and given to the presiding priest, and the altar is prepared.*

§ *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.*

Hymn

All **AND now, O Father, mindful of the love
That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
And having with us him that pleads above,
We here present, we here spread forth to thee,
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.**

**Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
And only look on us as found in him;
Look not on our misusing of thy grace,
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim;
For lo, between our sins and their reward
We set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.**

And then for those, our dearest and our best,
By his prevailing presence we appeal;
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal:
From tainting mischief keep them white and clear
And crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come; O draw us to thy feet,
Most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
And by this food, so awful and so sweet,
Deliver us from every touch of ill:
In thine own service make us glad and free,
And grant us never more to part with thee.

Words William Bright 1824-1901

Music Unde et memories
William Henry Monk 1823-1889

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, receive our oblation
by which is brought about a glorious exchange,
that, by offering what you have given us,
we may be found worthy to receive your very self.
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All



Dy-ing you de-destroyed our death, ris-ing you re-stored our life: Lord Jes- us, come in glo- ry.

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 of 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 in the words our Saviour 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

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.**

Giving of Communion

With the Lord there is mercy; with him is plenteous redemption.

*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.*

Spiritual Communion – *for those joining us 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 **JESU, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, thou light of men,
From the blest bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to thee again.**

**Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
Though savest those that on thee call,
To them that seek thee thou art good,
To them that find thee, all in all.**

**We taste thee, O thou living bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

**Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,
Blessed when by faith we hold thee fast.**

**O Jesu, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments fair and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world thy holy light.**

Words Latin, 12th century
tr Ray Palmer 1808-1887)

Music: Eisenach
Melody by Johann Hermann Schein 1586-1630
in his revised *Cantional*, 1645
Harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

§ *A period of silent reflection and thanksgiving is observed*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All

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

Hymn

All

**O PRAISE ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
Rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens adore him by whom you were made,
And worship before him, in brightness arrayed.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Praise him on the earth,
In tuneful accord, ye saints of new birth;
Praise him who has brought you his grace from above,
Praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.**

**O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord, re-echo around;
Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story of what he has done.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured all ages along:
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

Words Henry Williams Baker 1821-1877

Music Laudate Dominum
Charles Hubert Parry 1848-1918

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Father,
who fed his children with bread and honey in the wilderness,
strength you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land.
Amen.

All May the Son,
who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,
keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit,
who lead us into all truth, help you discern the Lord's body
and empower you to proclaim his death until he comes.
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

Toccata in D Minor

Johann Jacob Froberger (1605-1667)

- § *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.*

This evening at 5.30 pm
BCP Evening Prayer
is said in Quire

*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor I I
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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