

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year C



You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.

The Parish Mass

Sunday 6 April 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.



This morning's readings

St Paul in the First Reading has willingly sacrificed everything for the justification that comes from faith in Christ, and for the hope of resurrection. Like a runner at the final stage of a race, he doesn't look back but keeps his eye on the winning tape.

St John tells us it is only six days to the Passover, the time of sacrificing the sacrificial lamb. All male Jews who lived near enough were expected to go to Jerusalem for the Passover. Because the city was so crowded, Bethany was counted as part of the outer limits of Jerusalem and a place that could accommodate pilgrims.

Martha loved Jesus and served him as best she knew. People like Martha made the ministry of Jesus possible. Mary was an impetuous person and not afraid of showing that she loved Jesus. Mary's act has special significance. It is an act of love, and in love nothing is too costly to give to the beloved.

Judas costs Mary's act of love. You can never do that – love cannot be measured by money. Here is a hint that some of the women understood Jesus better than some of the apostles.

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:

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
friend of Lazarus, Martha and Mary,
be my friend this day.
May I know of your love and your care for me
and may I give my love and my life to you,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

- § *All stand at the sound of the bell*
- § *The sanctuary party and choir enter informally but reverently in silence and go to their places*
- § *All sit with the priest for a period of silent prayer and recollection*

- § *All stand with the priest*

Hymn

- § *The priest reverences the altar and honours it with incense*

All

**THERE is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where our dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good;
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.**

Words Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895

Music Horsley
William Horsley 1774-1858

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.

The service is introduced

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to Confession

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **Almighty God,**
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you help us to die to pride
so as to bear the fruit of humility:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

You help us to die to selfishness so as to bear the fruit of love.
Christe eleison:

All **Christe eleison.**

You help us to die to sin so as to bear the fruit of holiness:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

May the Father † forgive you by the death of his Son,
and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit
all your days.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 First Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know

Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3.4b-14

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response Philip Moore



The Lord has done great things for us and we re - joiced.

Cantor When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy. **Response**

Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced. **Response**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy. **Response**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them. **Response**

Psalm 126

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



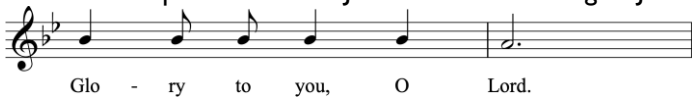
Jesus said, 'You always have the poor with you,
but you do not always have me.'

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.

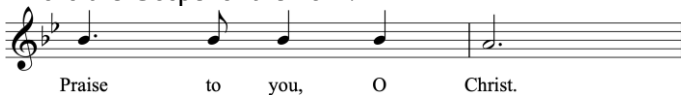
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.



Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

John 12.1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Homily

§ Sit

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 Let us pray for our needs to God who is rich in mercy
and compassion.

§ Kneel

After each petition

All Help us, Lord, to serve you,
to give and not to count the cost.

After the final petition

Priest Father,
help us to keep our hearts pure,
our minds clean,
our words true,
and our deed kind.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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 towards our ministry and mission.
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.*

All **SING, my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray,
O'er the cross, the victor's trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay:
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,
As a victim won the day.**

**God in pity saw man fallen,
Shamed and sunk in misery,
When he fell on death by tasting
Fruit of the forbidden tree:
Then another tree was chosen
Which the world from death should free.**

**Therefore when the appointed fulness
Of the holy time was come,
He was sent, who maketh all things,
Forth from God's eternal home:
Thus he came to earth, incarnate,
Offspring of a maiden's womb.**

**Thirty years among us dwelling,
Now at length his hour fulfilled,
Born for us, he meets his Passion,
For that this he freely willed,
On the cross the Lamb is lifted,
Where his life-blood shall be spilled.**

**Laud and honour to the Father;
Laud and honour to the Son;
Laud and honour to the Spirit;
Ever three and ever one:
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

Words Latin, Venantius Fortunatus c530-c609
wv 1-3 tr Percy Dearmer 1867-1936
wv 4-5 tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Grafton (Tantum ergo)
from Chants Ordinaires de l'Office Divin, 1881

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, be pleased with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon of our own sins
may take care to forgive our neighbour;
we ask this 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 salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
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.**

§ *Remain standing*

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.

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
 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 We break this bread,
communion in Christ's body once broken.

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 Let us receive into our hearts and minds the living Lord.
May we live in him and he in us.

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

**DROP, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heaven
The news and Prince of Peace.**

**Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.**

**In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.**

Words Phineas Fletcher 1582-1650

Music Song 46

First strain of Song 46 melody and bass by
Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

**IT is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from heaven,
And die to save a child like me.**

**And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,
For love of those who loved him not.**

**I cannot tell how he could love
A child so weak and full of sin;
His love must be most wonderful,
If he could die my love to win.**

**I sometimes think about the cross,
And shut my eyes, and try to see
The cruel nails and crown of thorns,
And Jesus crucified for me.**

**But even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
Of that great love, which, like a fire,
Is always burning in his heart.**

**It is most wonderful to know
His love for me so free and sure;
But 'tis more wonderful to see
My love for him so faint and poor.**

**And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
And I will love thee more and more,
Until I see thee as thou art.**

Words William Walsham How 1823-1897

Music Herongate
Essex folk tune
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.
Amen.

All May the Son,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of the cross.
Amen.

All May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.
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

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott BWV 721 J S Bach 1685-1750
'Have mercy on me, O God'

- § *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.*

Next Sunday HOLY WEEK begins

9.30 am The Palm Liturgy, (in Parish Centre)
Procession of Palms, and Mass of the Passion

5.30 pm Service of Penitence and Forgiveness

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 18
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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