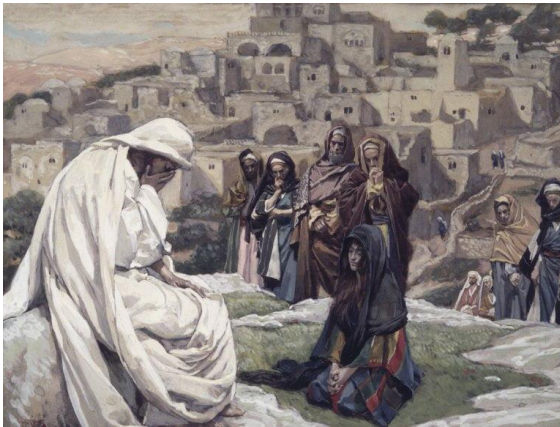


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Second Sunday of Lent

Year C



*Christ's tearful lament for the City of Jerusalem*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 16 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.*



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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.



St Matthew's, Hatherston

*This morning's readings* God can be trusted to keep his promises. In today's Gospel we see that not all Pharisees were opposed to Jesus. Here we have some Pharisees warning Jesus that Herod is out to kill him and advising him to flee to safety. The very mention of Herod must have made the disciples quake with fear. Herod has already beheaded John the Baptist. Jesus shows no fear. He sends a message to Herod saying, 'Go and tell that fox.' Now with the Jew the fox was a symbol of three things: it was the most cunning of animals, it was more destructive than other animals as it killed for pleasure, and it was a worthless and insignificant creature. Herod did not intimidate Jesus.

The lament of Jesus over Jerusalem is that it has rejected his offer: God's offer of love. Like Herod, the city of Jerusalem has a destructive side: it rejected and killed the prophets. Jesus wanted to take Jerusalem 'under his wing', to give it love and protection, but it was unwilling. God fulfils his promises but he will not force them upon us. God offers us his kingdom, but it is up to us to accept it and give it our allegiance.

*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 God,  
we pray that your kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.  
May we be part of your kingdom  
and seek to do your will in all that we do.  
Through Jesus,  
who died and rose again for us.  
Amen.

## Setting

Mass of the Quiet Hour

*George Oldroyd 1886-1951*

# 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 priest*

## Hymn

*The priest reverences the altar with a liturgical kiss and honours it with incense*

*All*

**SOLDIERS of Christ, arise,  
And put your armour on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies  
Through his eternal Son;**

**Strong in the Lord of Hosts  
And in his mighty power:  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts  
Is more than conqueror.**

**Stand then in his great might,  
With all his strength endued;  
And take, to aid you for the fight,  
The panoply of God.**

**Leave no unguarded place,  
No weakness of the soul:  
Take every virtue, every grace,  
And fortify the whole.**

**From strength to strength go on,  
Wrestle and fight and pray;  
Tread all the powers of darkness down  
And win the well-fought day.**

**That, having all things done,  
And all your conflicts past,  
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone,  
And stand entire at last.**

Words Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Music St Ethelwald  
William Henry Monk 1823-1889

*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

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
in this holy season of Lent  
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ  
let us firmly resolve to keep God's commandments,  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith:

# The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.



Lord have mer-cy up - on us.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,**

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.



Lord have mer-cy up - on us, and in-cline our hearts to keep these laws.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Honour your father and mother.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

You shall not commit murder.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,  
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.**

You shall not commit adultery.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

You shall not steal.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

You shall not be a false witness against your neighbour.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,  
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.**

You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.



Lord have mer-cy up - on us, and write all these your laws in our hearts.

*A period of silent reflection*

## 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.**

## Absolution

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive † you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*        **Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.



Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
    into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
    that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
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 Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*     **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm



Choir The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid? **Response**

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
they stumbled and fell.  
Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid,  
and though there rise up war against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him. **Response**

One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek his will in his temple. **Response**

For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock. **Response**

And now shall he lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me;  
Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord. **Response**

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy upon me and answer me.  
My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'  
Your face, Lord, will I seek. **Response**

Hide not your face from me,  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.  
You have been my helper;  
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up. **Response**

Teach me your way, O Lord;  
lead me on a level path,  
because of those who lie in wait for me.  
Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and those who breathe out violence. **Response**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the Lord. **Response**

Psalm 27

## Holy Gospel

### Acclamation



*Choir* Blessèd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*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.**

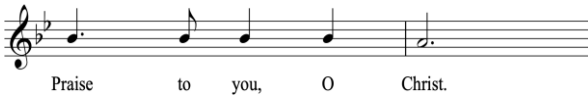
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessèd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

Luke 13.31-35

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* Scripture assures us that God our Father  
hears the prayers of those who come in faith and hope.  
In the power of the Spirit and in the name of the Son,  
let us present our petitions to him.

§ *Kneel*

*After each petition*

*All* Lord, we come to you:  
**you are our light and salvation.**

*Priest* Ever-faithful God,  
you hear the prayers of those who turn to you in faith and trust:  
hear these our prayers  
that our Lenten journey may bring us closer to you  
and each other.

*All* We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**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*            **TAKE up thy cross, the Savior said,  
If thou wouldst my disciple be;  
Deny yourself, the world forsake,  
And humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross; let not its weighty  
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
And brace thy hearts, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame.  
Not let thy foolish pride rebel;  
The Lord for thee the cross endured,  
To save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up your cross then in his strength,  
And calmly every danger brave;  
'Twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up your cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only they who bear the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the one in three,  
All praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

Words Charles William Everest 1814-1877

Music Breslau  
Melody from *As Hymnodus Sacer*, 1625  
arranged by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847

## 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

Lord, make us holy.  
May this eucharist take away our sins  
that we may be prepared to celebrate the resurrection,  
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 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:

*Choir*       *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of host.  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

§ *Please 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.

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

§ Sit

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins  
 and bring us to forgive those who sin against 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

*Choir*      *O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us, grant us your peace.*

## Invitation to Communion

*All*      Come and receive the living Lord.  
**May we live in him and he in us.**

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

§ *If you are baptised and a communicant member of another church, you are most welcome to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, if you would like to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you to the communion rail.*

## 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*

View me, Lord, a work of thine!  
Shall I then lie drowned in night?  
Might thy grace in me but shine,  
I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel  
At thine altar pure and white;  
They at once thy mercies feel,  
Gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys like shadows fade  
When the heavenly light appears;  
But the covenants Thou hast made,  
Endless, know not days nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,  
To thy mercies fast I fly;  
Though I am but clay and dust,  
Yet thy grace can lift me high.

Music Richard Hey Lloyd (1933-2021)    Words Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

## Hymn

*All*

**MY faith looks up to thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.**

**While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
    Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
    From thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
    Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Saviour, then in love  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
    A ransomed soul.**

Words Ray Palmer 1808-1887

Music Olivet  
Lowell Mason 1792-1872

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

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
    which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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*

**SOLDIERS, who are Christ's below,  
Strong in faith resist the foe;  
Boundless is the pledged reward  
Unto them who serve the Lord.**

**'Tis no palm of fading leaves  
That the conqueror's hand receives;  
Joys are his, serene and pure,  
Light that ever shall endure.**

**For the souls that overcome  
Waits the beautiful heavenly home,  
Where the blessed evermore  
Read on high the starry floor.**

**Passing soon and little worth  
Are the things that tempt on earth;  
Heavenward lift thy soul's regard;  
God himself is thy reward;**

**Father who the crown dost give,  
Saviour by whose death we live,  
Spirit who our hearts dost raise,  
Three in one, thy Name we praise. Amen.**

Words Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> cent  
tr John Haldenby Clark 1839-1888

Music Orientis partibus  
French melody, 13<sup>th</sup> cent  
Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

*After these ...*

Please stand for God's blessing.

§ Stand

## ¶ Sending Out

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.  
**Amen.**

*All* May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.  
**Amen.**

*All* May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon 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

Tocatta and Fugue in D minor BWV 565      *J S Bach 1695-1750*

§ *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.*

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 10  
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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