

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

## The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 12 Year C



*Lord, teach us to pray*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 27 July 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 readings

Prayer forms the subject of the First Reading and the Gospel. Prayer is a favourite theme of Luke. In the First Reading we see Abraham interceding with God on behalf of Sodom, a city full of evil. Troubled by the idea of the innocent being punished along with the guilty, he begins to bargain with God. The story highlights the importance of intercessory prayer, and reveals a lot about the mercy of God.

This prepares us for the Gospel which shows Jesus at prayer and contains the Lord's Prayer. Luke's version is shorter than Matthew's, which is believed to be closer to the original version. Jesus urges the disciples to go on asking for what they need with persistence and confidence.

*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

#### **Ask, seek, knock**

Jesus urges us to ask, seek, and knock.  
This means our faith has to be an active one.  
However, sometimes we are too proud to ask,  
so we don't receive;  
we are too lazy to seek,  
so we don't find;  
and we are too timid to knock,  
so the door doesn't open to us.  
We mustn't wait for things to happen,  
or to fall into our hands.  
We must be humble and trustful, yet bold and energetic,  
if we are to receive good things from our Father in heaven.

### Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

*David Thorne*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

## Hymn

*The procession enters*

*All*

**ANGEL** voices ever singing  
Round thy throne of light,  
Angel-harps, for ever ringing,  
Rest not day nor night;  
Thousands only live to bless thee,  
And confess thee  
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest  
Mortal eye can scan,  
Can it be that thou regardest  
Songs of sinful man?  
Can we know that thou art near us,  
And wilt hear us?  
Yea, we can.

For we know that thou rejoicest  
O'er each work of thine;  
Thou didst ears and hands and voices  
For thy praise design;  
Craftsman's art and music's measure  
For thy pleasure  
All combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
Of thine own to thee;  
And for thine acceptance proffer  
All unworthily,  
Hearts and minds and hands and voices,  
In our choicest  
Psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit  
Thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Blessèd Trinity.  
Of the best that thou hast given  
Earth and heaven  
Render thee.

*Words Francis Pott 1832-1909*

*Music Angel Voices  
Edwin George Monk 1819-1900*

*All* † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**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 to us what he said to his disciples:  
'Ask, and you will receive; search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened to you.'  
In this way he is urging us to have recourse to God  
with confidence and persistence in all our needs.

*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

*All*            Lord Jesus, you grant us forgiveness for our sins:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*All*            You grant us joy in the activity of daily life:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

*All*            You welcome us at the door of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

*Priest*        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.**

## 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.

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding;  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
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 book Genesis.

The Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

Genesis 18:20-32

This is the word of the Lord.

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

# Psalm

Response

Alan Rees



*Reader* I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods will I sing praise to you.  
I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.  
In the day that I called to you, you answered me;  
you put new strength in my soul. **Response**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.  
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.  
Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;  
as for the proud, he regards them from afar. **Response**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you will preserve me;  
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand will save me.  
The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;  
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;  
forsake not the work of your hands. **Response**

Psalm 138

§ Stand

## Holy Gospel

### Acclamation

1. Choir only

2. Choir and Congregation



You have received a spirit of adoption,  
and it makes us cry, 'Abba! Father!'  
Alleluia.

All

§ 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



Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Luke 11:1-13

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*



Homily

§ Sit

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may  
bow*

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**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

Let us pray to God in the spirit of the great prayer that Jesus taught us:

§ *Kneel*

*After each petition*

*Intercessor*  
*All*

**Father, your kingdom come in us  
as it is in heaven.**

Heavenly Father,  
teach us to go on confidently asking,  
to go on joyfully seeking,  
and to go on hopefully knocking at the door,  
so that the good things you want to give us may be ours.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*All*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

§ Stand

## Sign of Peace

The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking,  
but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

*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.  
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*      **AT the name of Jesus**  
          **Every knee shall bow,**  
          **Every tongue confess him**  
          **King of Glory now;**  
          **'Tis the Father's pleasure**  
          **We should call him Lord,**  
          **Who from the beginning**  
          **Was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation  
Sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces,  
All the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations,  
Stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders,  
In their great array.**

**Humbled for a season,  
To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners  
Unto whom he came,  
Faithfully he bore it  
Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious  
When from death he passed:**

**Bore it up triumphant  
With its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures,  
To the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead,  
To the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory  
Of that perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him;  
There let him subdue  
All that is not holy,  
All that is not true:  
He is God the Saviour,  
He is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped,  
Trusted, and adored.**

**Surely, this Lord Jesus  
Shall return again,  
In the Father's glory,  
With his angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire  
Meet upon his brow,  
And our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.**

*Words Caroline Maria Noel 1817-1877*

*Music Evelyns  
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, accept the offerings we bring  
from the abundance of your gifts,  
that, through the powerful working of your grace,  
these most sacred mysteries may make holy our path of life  
and lead us to eternal gladness.  
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.

Christ is the bread of life:

*All*

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. The first system is in 5/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are aligned under the notes. The second system starts with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking and continues in 5/4 time. It features a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature change to 4/4. The melody includes a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are aligned under the notes. The piece concludes with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

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

My flesh is food indeed,  
and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.  
*All* **Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
dwell in me and I in them.**

## 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

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

*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 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*

**BREAD** of heaven, on thee we feed,  
For thy flesh is meat indeed;  
Ever may our souls be fed  
With this true and living bread,  
Day by day with strength supplied  
Through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies  
This blessed cup of sacrifice;  
Lord, thy wounds our healing give;  
To thy cross we look and live:  
Thou our life! O let us be  
Rooted, grafted, built on thee.

Words Josiah Conder 1789-1855

Music Bread of Heaven  
William Dalrymple MacLagan 1826-1910

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

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

**Lord, we have broken your bread  
and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*All* **FROM glory to glory advancing, we praise thee, O Lord;  
Thy name with the Father and Spirit be ever adored.  
From strength unto strength we go forward on Sion's highway,  
To appear before God in the city of infinite day.**

**Thanksgiving and glory and worship and blessing and love,  
One heart and one song have the saints upon earth and above.  
O Lord, evermore to thy servants thy presence be nigh;  
Ever fit us by service on earth for thy service on high.**

Words Greek, tr Charles Williams Humphreys 1840-1921  
from the Liturgy of St James

Music Sheen  
Gustav Theodore Holst 1874-1934

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May God the Father bring us to the home  
which his Son prepares for all who love him.  
**Amen.**

*All* May God the Son give us the will  
to live for him each day in life eternal.  
**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit give us the assurance  
that our citizenship is in heaven  
with the blessed and the beloved,  
and the whole company of the redeemed.

*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.**

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All*      **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary

Paeon [5 Pieces for Organ, No 5]      *Percy Whitlock 1903-1946*

§ *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 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 5  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.

**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

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