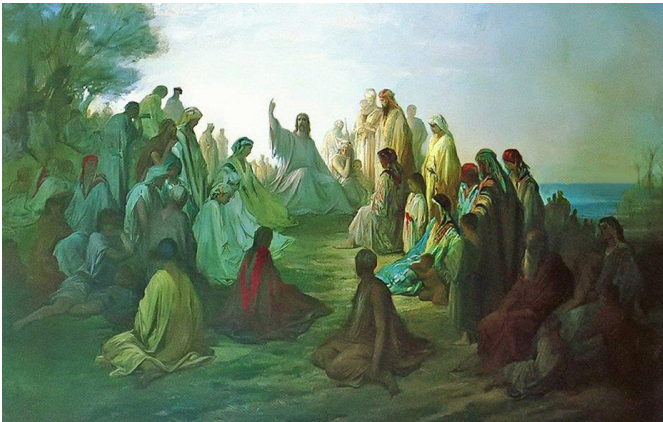


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday before Lent

Proper 2 Year C



The World of the Beatitudes

The Parish Mass

Sunday 16 February 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.*



The morning's readings The Gospel reading from Luke's 'Sermon on the Plain' parallels Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount'.

The First Reading is a little bit of wisdom poetry. It contrasts the wicked who trust in human beings and the righteous who trust in God. The former are compared to a barren desert shrub; the latter to a fruitful tree planted beside a flowing river. This prepares us for the Gospel, where Jesus declares the poor blessed. The poor are the 'little ones' who have no one to trust in but God.

The beatitudes echo the programme Jesus announced in the synagogue at Nazareth. Whereas Matthew has nine Beatitudes, Luke has only four, with, however, four corresponding 'woes'.

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 – Beatitudes of the heart

Blessed are the clean of heart; they will see God.

Blessed are the humble of heart; they will find rest for their souls.

Blessed are the warm-hearted; they will radiate goodness.

Blessed are those who work with the heart;
they will find joy in their work.

Blessed are those who do not lose heart;
they will find the strength to persevere.

And blessed are those who set their hearts on the Kingdom of God;
everything else will be given to them.

Setting

Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne

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.



© Matthew's Hall Trust

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, all stand*

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **THINE** arm, O Lord, in days of old
 Was string to heal and save;
It triumphed o'er disease and death,
 O'er darkness and the grave;
To thee they went, the blind, the dumb,
 The palsied and the lame,
The leper with his tainted life,
 The sick with fevered frame.

And lo! Thy touch brought life and health,
 Gave speech, and strength, and sight;
And you renewed and frenzy calmed
 Owned thee the Lord of light;
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
 Almighty as of yore,
In crowded street, by restless couch,
 As by Gennesareth's shore.

Be thou our great deliverer still,
 Though Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless
 With thine almighty breath;
To hands that work, and eyes that see,
 Give wisdom's heavenly lore,
That whole and sick, and weak and strong,
 May praise thee evermore.

Words Edward Hayes Plumtre 1822-1891

Music St Matthew
William Croft 1678-1727

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

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

A tree that is planted by the riverside grows and bears fruit.
In the same way, those who trust in God our truly blessed.
As we gather in this house of prayer,
let us ask God to increase our trust in him and reliance on him.

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 give us refuge and you never let us be put to shame:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

You grant that those who hope in you will not be disappointed:
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

You will receive us and guide us:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
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 alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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.**

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

This is the word of the Lord.

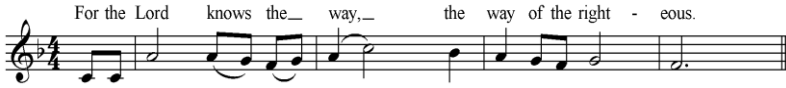
All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Andrew Moore



Cantor Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and night. **Response**

Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away. **Response**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish. **Response**

Psalm I

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation



All Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to infants.
Alleluia ...

§ Please turn to face the Book of the Gospels

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note D4, an eighth note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a final quarter rest. The word 'Glo' is under the first note, 'ry' under the second, 'to' under the third, 'you,' under the fourth, 'O' under the fifth, and 'Lord.' under the sixth. A dynamic marking 'f' is placed above the staff at the beginning of the melody. A hairpin crescendo symbol is placed above the staff at the end of the melody.

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Luke 6.17-26

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note D4, an eighth note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a final quarter rest. The word 'Praise' is under the first note, 'to' under the second, 'you,' under the third, 'O' under the fourth, and 'Christ.' under the fifth. A dynamic marking 'f' is placed above the staff at the beginning of the melody. A hairpin crescendo symbol is placed above the staff at the end of the melody.

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

Priest Those who trust in God are like a tree planted beside a flowing river.
Let us bring our needs before God with great trust.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, bless us with your presence,
All **and the joy of knowing your love.**

After the final petition

Priest Almighty and ever-living God,
your love for us surpasses all our hopes and desires.
Forgive our failings,
keep us in your peace,
and lead us in the path of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Blessed are all who put their trust in the Lord.
He will keep them in his presence and his peace.

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 presented to the presiding priest at the dais step*

Hymn

§ *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.*

All **ALL my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore,
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th'almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

Words Robert Bridges 1844-1930
based on the German of
Joachim Neander 1650-1680

Music Michael
Herbert Howells 1892-1983

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, may this oblation cleanse and renew us,
and may it become for those who do your will
the source of eternal reward.
We ask this through 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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All



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 company with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
and all the apostles and 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 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

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

They ate and were well filled, for the Lord gave them what they desired.

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 **SOUL of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy Passion be,
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
So shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
In death's dread moments make me only thine;
Call me and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

Words *Anima Christi sanctifica me*,
attributed to Pope John XXII 1249-1334
Anonymous English translation

Music *Anima Christi*
William Maher (1823-1877)

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us and all people to serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hymn

All **IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,**
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest - to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

Words Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908

Music St Denio
Adapted from a Welsh song

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.

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

Praeludium in G BWV 568

J S Bach 1685-1750

§ *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*
- § *Refreshments are being served in the parish centre, adjacent to the carpark. Do please join us.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Congregational Evensong & Benediction

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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