

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Year C



He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor

The Parish Mass

Sunday 26 January 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-related 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 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.



Our Worship Together - *This morning's readings*

Today we begin the consecutive reading of the Gospel according to Luke Gospel, which was originally joined to Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles. The way the story is told prepares us for what happens in Acts.

When the Jews returned home after the exile in Babylon, the nation had to be rebuilt. The Persians entrusted this task to Ezra. Ezra brought back with him from Babylon the book of the law of Moses which he solemnly read to the people (First Reading). Thus he called upon them to rededicate themselves to God.

The Gospel shows Jesus too proclaiming the word of God. In the synagogue at Nazareth, he makes his own a passage from Isaiah and uses it to announce a programme for his ministry. He is sent, not to the wealthy or the powerful, but to the poor and the lowly, the oppressed and the suffering. Here we see Luke's concern for the poor and afflicted.

Who are the poor? The poor are all the dispossessed of this world, all those who are waiting for liberation. The good news must not be limited to spiritual blessings only. But the poor are also those who live on bread alone and who never hear the Word of God.

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, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

Human beings are frail and foolish.

We have been told that grace is to be found in the universe.

But in our human foolishness and short-sightedness
we imagine divine grace to be finite, and for this reason we tremble.

But the moment comes when our eyes are opened,
and we see that grace is infinite.

Grace demands nothing from us but that we await it with confidence
and acknowledge it with gratitude.

Grace makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular.

Grace takes us all to its bosom and proclaims a general amnesty.

(Isak Dinesen)

Setting

Communion Service in F

Harold Darke 1888-1976

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense*

All **SONGS of praise the angels sang,
Heaven with alleluys rang,
When creation was begun,
When God spake and it was done.**

**Songs of praise awoke the morn
When the Prince of Peace was born;
Songs of praise arose when he
Captive led captivity.**

**Heaven and earth must pass away,
Songs of praise shall crown that day;
God will make new heavens and earth,
Songs of praise shall hail their birth.**

**And will man alone be dumb
Till that glorious kingdom come?
No, the Church delights to raise
Psalms and hymns and songs of praise.**

**Saints below, with heart and voice,
Still in songs of praise rejoice;
Learning here, by faith and love,
Songs of praise to sing above.**

**Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise;
Jesu, glory unto thee,
Ever with the Spirit be. Amen.**

Words James Montgomery 1771-1854

Music Northampton
Charles John King 1859-1934

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

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus began his ministry by making his own the words of Isaiah:
'He sent me to bring good news to the poor.'
The good news is that God's mercy is freely available
to all those who seek it.

Let us not be afraid then to admit our sinfulness and poverty before God,
for Jesus made himself the friend of sinners and the poor.

Silence for reflection

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

When we are blinded by greed and unsure of our worth:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

When we let envy embitter us
and keep others from finding God's blessing:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

When we have been selfish and not opened our hearts in generosity:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and transform your life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
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 book Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Isaiah 62.1-5

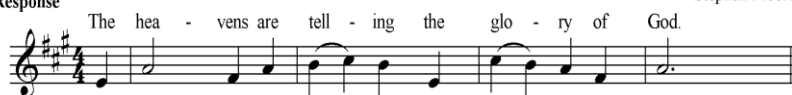
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore



Choir The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another. **Response**

They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world. **Response**

In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course. **Response**

It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat. **Response**

Psalm 19.1-6

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. *Choir only*
2. *Choir and Congregation*

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

Choir The Lord has anointed me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives.

All Alleluia.

§ Turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord of glory be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

All

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Luke 4.14-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

At the end, a time of personal reflection

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 Let us pray to Christ our Saviour,
who through the power of the Holy Spirit,
is still present and active among us.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord of life and love,
renew and refresh us.

Priest Almighty and ever-living God,
grant that we may share generously with others
the blessings we have received from you.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

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 at the dais step, and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and laid at the foot of the altar.
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 **HAIL to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is Love.**

Words James Montgomery 1771-1854
based on Psalm 72

Music Crüger
Adapted by William Henry Monk 1823-1889
from a chorale by Johann Crüger 1598-1662

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 our offerings,
and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation.
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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

For at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

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

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.

Christ is the bread of life:

All

mf
When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
cresc. f
we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

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,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All

Bless-ing and hon-our and glo-ry and pow'r be yours for ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated, and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
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 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:
**we being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

All Into one body we were all baptized,
and one Spirit was given us all to drink.

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 thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

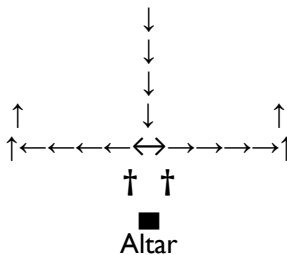
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

Look upon the Lord and be radiant and your faces shall not be ashamed.

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing as indicated below. If you wish to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.



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

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein he cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summer time drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

“Do you bind roses in your hair?”
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.
The boy said humbly: “Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away.”

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on his forehead fair and young,
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1840-1893

Hymn

All

WHERE is this stupendous stranger?
Prophets, shepherds, kings, advise;
Lead me to my Master's manger,
Show me where my Saviour lies.

O most mighty, **O** Most Holy,
Far beyond the seraph's thought!
Art thou then so weak and lowly
As unheeded prophets taught?

O the magnitude of meekness,
Worth from worth immortal sprung!
O the strength of infant weakness,
If eternal is so young!

God all-bounteous, all-creative,
Whom no ills from good dissuade,
Is incarnate and a native
Of the very world ne made.

Words Christopher Smart 1722-1771

Music Ottery St Mary
Henry Ley 1887-1962

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **LEAD us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

Words James Edmeston 1791-1867

Music Mannheim
Friedrich Filtz 1804-1876 *Choralbuch*, 1847
Harmony by Lowell Mason 1792-1872

§ Sit

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God, the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

All May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
Amen.

All May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
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

All Go out into the world in peace,
**to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

Postlude on "Was lebet" *Christopher Tambling (1964-2015)*

- § *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, please do join us*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 17
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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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk