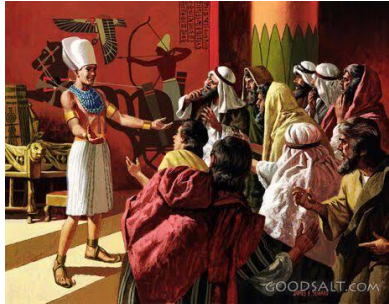


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 19 Year A



Joseph forgives his brothers



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

All Age Mass for the Parish Family
with the ministries of healing

Sunday 13 September 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ben Drouet safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk 01604 791251

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk 01733 887040

If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

If you would prefer not to appear online, please sit in one of the side aisles or speak to a welcomer or churchwarden, who will be happy to help you find seating outside the filmed area.

Where appropriate, consent is obtained for individuals who are intentionally featured in livestreams, recordings, photographs, or other church media. Please speak to a churchwarden or welcomer if you would like further information about livestreaming arrangements.

Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



9) 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.



Good morning, and a very warm welcome to St Matthew's, whether you are here every week or are joining us for the first time. It is especially good to welcome families, children and young people as we gather together as God's family to celebrate this All Age Mass.

Today's readings remind us of one of the hardest things we are ever asked to do: to forgive. We hear how Joseph forgave the brothers who had treated him so badly, and in the Gospel Jesus teaches that God's forgiveness is never limited or counted out, but is generous beyond measure. Because God has forgiven us so much, he invites us to forgive one another from our hearts.

Perhaps today we come carrying hurts, disappointments or misunderstandings. Perhaps there are relationships that need healing, words that need to be spoken, or burdens we have carried for a long time. As we worship together, may we discover again the freedom that comes through God's mercy, and may his love help us to become people who forgive as we have been forgiven.

As we prepare to worship, let us keep a few moments of silence before Almighty God.

Prayer

Loving Father,
you welcome each one of us into your presence.
Open our hearts to your love,
our minds to your word,
and our lives to your transforming grace.
Where there is hurt, bring healing.
Where there is anger, bring forgiveness.
Where there is fear, bring peace.
May this time of worship draw us closer to you and to one another;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls b.1963

Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

§ *All stand at the sound of the bell*

Call to Worship

Priest Come, all who long for God's mercy.

All **We come to receive his love.**

Come, all who seek forgiveness.

All **We come trusting in Christ.**

Come, young and old together.

All **We come as God's family.**

Come and worship the Lord, whose mercy never fails.

All **We come to praise his holy name.**

Hymn

§ *The flags are presented*

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 naught.
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 Seymour Bridges 1844-1930
based on *Meine Hoffnung stehet feste*
by Joachim Neander 1650-1680

Music Michael
Herbert Howells 1892-1983
adapted by Michael Stoddart b 1961

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

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus teaches us that those who have received God's mercy
are called to show mercy to others.
Yet we know how difficult forgiveness can be.
Sometimes we have hurt others by what we have said or done.
Sometimes we have held on to anger, resentment, or bitterness.

Trusting in God's boundless compassion,
let us bring before him all that separates us from him
and from one another, and ask for his forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Saying Sorry to God

All **Most loving God,
you forgive us again and again,
yet we do not always forgive others.
For the times we have been selfish, unkind or impatient,
Lord, forgive us.**

For the times we have spoken hurtful words
or refused to make peace,
Lord, forgive us.
For the times we have forgotten your love
or failed to trust your mercy,
Lord, forgive us.
Cleanse our hearts, renew our lives,
and help us to love as Jesus loves;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive † you your sins
restore you in his image and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Glory to God

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 Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God,
whose love is beyond measure
and whose forgiveness never fails,
fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that, hearing your word and sharing at your table,
we may forgive as we have been forgiven
and live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ Sit

¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book *Genesis*.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me,

God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Genesis 50.15-21

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

S Stand

Gradual hymn

The choir come and sit in the nave

All

**RISE and hear! The Lord is speaking,
As the gospel words unfold;
We, in all our agelong seeking,
Find no firmer truth to hold.**

**Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,
Heard by simple folk and wise,
Word of freedom, word of duty,
Word of life beyond our eyes.**

**Word of God's forgiveness granted
To the wild or guilty soul,
Word of love that works undaunted,
Changes, heals, and makes us whole.**

**Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
As we hear, the sower sows;
May our hearts, your word receiving,
Be the good ground where it grows.**

Words Howard Charles Adie Gaunt 1902-1983

*Music Marching
Martin Shaw 1875-1958*

Gospel Reading

Acclamation



Choir Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

All **Alleluia, alleluia.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

S We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

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



Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw

Matthew 18 21-35

All



Talk / Presentation

§ Sit

The themes of the day are briefly explored

We believe

§ *Stand*

As God's family, let us declare the faith of the Church.

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Our Prayers to God

Priest Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you have revealed
your love and forgiveness through your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we are ransomed, healed and forgiven.
As we have freely received, may we freely give.
Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Intercessor God of mercy we come to you for forgiveness and renewal.
We ask you to bless us,
all who are seeking to change their lives
and live to serve others and to glorify you.
Though we are unworthy we seek your acceptance of us.
May your Church reveal your love in its care for all who come to it.
We pray today for prison chaplains
and clergy who work in areas of crime and vice.

All Lord, forgive our sins,
and heal our infirmities.

God of mercy, we ask your blessing upon the poor,
hungry and homeless of the world,
and all migrants and displaced peoples.
We remember nations that are in great debt, and the work of
the world banks and governments to relieve this debt.
We pray for all who are bankrupt
and all who have lost the little that they had.
We bring before you all who are fearful for their future.

All Lord, forgive our sins,
and heal our infirmities.

God of mercy, you have given to us richly;
may we richly give.
Let us not hoard or squander the good things you have given us.
Let us help those in need and use our gifts to your glory.
We ask you blessing upon our homes
and upon all who have enriched our lives by their goodness and love.

All Lord, forgive our sins,
and heal our infirmities.

God of mercy, we pray for all who have become hard-hearted,
all who are unable to forgive and all who seek revenge.
Through your love may they find a change of attitude and heart.
We ask your blessing upon all who are abused,
all who are used as cheap labour
and all who do not receive a fair wage.
We bring before you friends and loved ones,
and we pray for those who are ill (the acutely ill ...).

All Lord, forgive our sins,
and heal our infirmities.

God of mercy, we give thanks for all who have witnessed
to your love and generosity.
We rejoice in the fellowship of the saints.
We commend the faithful departed, this world and ourselves
to your unfailing love and mercy (the recently departed ...;
anniversaries of death ...).

Priest Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

S Stand

¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

§ The bread and wine 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. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

§ The children with their leaders are invited to stand either side of the altar.

All

**AND can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**'Tis mystery all: the immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds enquire no more.**

**He left his Father's throne above -
So free, so infinite his grace -
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!**

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
 Alive in him, my living head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approached the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Words Charles Wesley 1707-1788

*Music Sagina
 from Thomas Campbell 1777-1844
 The Bouquet, 1825*

Offering the Bread and Wine

Lord God,
 you have given us everything we have,
 and in gratitude we bring before you these gifts of bread and wine,
 together with the offering of our lives.
 By your Holy Spirit make us a people who reflect your generosity,
 your mercy, and your forgiving love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

All Lift 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.

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Children **Why do we share this bread and wine?**
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples,
saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with Mary and the Apostles we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Because we are God's forgiven children,
we have the confidence to call him our Father.
So let us pray together in the words that Jesus himself
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.

Sign of Peace

Christ has broken down every barrier
that separates us from God and from one another.
As those who have received his forgiveness,
let us share his peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

S The children and their leaders return to their seats

S Kneel

Breaking of the Bread

All Lord Jesus Christ,
you gather us from many places to share one bread and one cup.
**Gather your Church from the ends of the earth
into the joy of your kingdom.**

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.**

The clergy and other ministers receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

How precious is your loving mercy, O God!
Your children shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

§ Those who are baptised and are communicant members of their church are welcome to receive holy communion. Alternatively, if you wish to receive God's blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign. Thank you.

Healing ministries

§ If you would like to receive the laying on of hands with prayer and the Sacrament of Anointing please make your way to the Lady Chapel where a priest will be waiting.

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.

The choir sing Lamb of God

Motet

Choir The Lord's Prayer

John Sanders 1933-2003

S We sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son.
Fill us with the joy of your forgiveness,
give us grace to forgive one another,
and send us out to share your love,
your mercy, and your peace with everyone we meet;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

§ The flag bearers come forward to receive their flags and make their way to the west end

All **PRAISE, my soul, the King of heaven;
 To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 Who like me his praise should sing?
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
 To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever,
 Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Glorious in his faithfulness.**

Father-like he tends and spares us;
 Well our feeble frame he knows;
 In his hands he gently bears us,
 Rescues us from all our foes.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
 Blows the wind and it is gone;
 But, while mortals rise and perish,
 God endures unchanging on:
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise the high eternal one.

Angels, help us to adore him;
 Ye behold him face to face;
 Sun and moon, bow down before him,
 Dwellers all in time and space.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise with us the God of grace!

Words Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847
 based on *Psalms* 103

Music Praise, my soul
 John Goss 1800-1880

Notices for the Community

S Sit

¶ Sending Out

S Stand

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

God's Blessing

May God the Father,
whose mercy is beyond measure, fill your hearts with his love.
All **Amen.**

May Christ, who forgave even those who crucified him,
teach you to forgive from your hearts.
All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit make you instruments of peace,
reconciliation and joy.
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,
forgiving others as Christ has forgiven you.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Music

Allegro Maestoso e Fuga [Sonata in C Minor] Mendelssohn

§ 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 served in church after Mass. Please do join us.

This evening at 5.30 pm

Congregational Evensong

Our next All Age Mass takes place on
Sunday 4 October at 10.15 am

Harvest Thanksgiving

At 4.00 pm

Harvest Song of Praise

followed by Supper

(ticket details etc may be found in the weekly notices)

Our thanks are due to 32nd St Matthew's Guides,
Brownies and Rainbows who have 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.**

Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.
All of the official *Common Worship* publications are being published by Church House Publishing.
Church Copyright Licence No. 248548. Streaming Licence No. 93626.

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