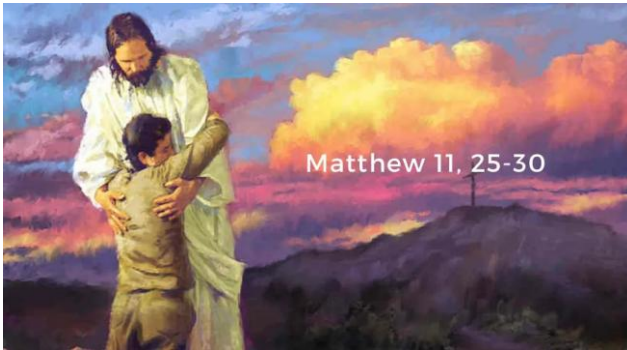


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 9 Year A



'I bless you, Father, ... for hiding these things from the learned
and the clever and revealing them to little children'

All Age Mass for the Parish Family

Sunday 5 July 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.



Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

Today Jesus speaks some of the most comforting words in the whole of the Gospel: "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

We all carry burdens. Some are easy to see; others are known only to ourselves and to God. We may carry worries about family, work, school, health, relationships, or the future. We may carry sadness, disappointment, regret, or fear. Sometimes we simply become tired.

In today's Gospel Jesus does not place more burdens upon us. Instead, he invites us to come to him. He reveals a God who is gentle, humble, and full of compassion. He promises rest for our souls and teaches us a different way of living: a way shaped not by fear or pressure, but by trust, love, and peace.

The prophet Zechariah speaks of God's king coming not with power and violence, but in humility, bringing peace to the nations. In Jesus, that promise is fulfilled. He comes among us as the Prince of Peace, welcoming all who seek him with open arms.

As we gather around the Lord's table today, young and old together, may we hear his invitation afresh. May we bring to him all that weighs heavily upon us and discover anew the joy of belonging to him.

Reflection

Come to me, says the Lord, all who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Lord Jesus, you know the things that trouble us,
the worries we carry, the mistakes we regret,
and the fears we sometimes hide.

Help us to trust in your love,
to learn from your gentleness,
and to find peace in your presence.

May our hearts be open to your word,
our hands ready to serve,
and our lives filled with your joy. Amen.

Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

§ *All stand at the sound of the bell*

Call to Worship

Priest Come, all who are weary.

All **We come to find rest in God.**

Come, all who are searching.

All **We come to learn from Christ.**

Come, young and old together.

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

Come and worship the Lord, who is gentle and humble in heart.

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

Hymn

§ *The flags are presented*

All **I HEARD the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon my breast.'**
**I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 And he has made me glad.**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
 Stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
 And all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
 Till travelling days are done.

Words Haratius Bonar 1808-1889

Music Kingsfold

Melody from *English Country Songs*, 1893

Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1892-1958

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Sometimes the heaviest burdens we carry
are the things we have done wrong,
the good we have failed to do,
and the hurts we have caused to others.
Trusting in God's mercy and love,
let us lay these burdens before him and ask his forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Saying Sorry to God

All **Loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know when we have failed to love you,
failed to love our neighbours,
and failed to love ourselves.
For the times we have been selfish,
impatient, unkind, or afraid,
forgive us.
For the good things we have not done,
forgive us.
Lift from us the burdens of our sin,
and fill us with your peace;
through Jesus 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.

**Gentle and loving God,
your Son Jesus Christ invites us to come to him and find rest.
Refresh us by your presence,
teach us by your word,
and strengthen us at your table,
that we may follow Christ with joyful and trusting hearts;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

All **Amen.**

§ Sit

¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also,
because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold,
O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Zechariah 9.9-12

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

S Stand

Gospel Reading

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation



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

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.



Jesus said to the crowds, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son

**Wash thou my wounds in that dear blood
Which forth from thee doth flow;
New grace, new hope inspire, a new
And better heart bestow.**

*Words Latin, 18th cent
tr Edward Caswell 1814-1878*

*Music St Bernard
adapted from a melody in Tochter Sion, 1741*

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 are a very present help in times of trouble.
You are more ready to hear than we are to pray,
and more willing to give than we are to ask.
We come to you for rest and renewal, for healing and hope,
and for the strength to do your will.
Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Intercessor We give you thanks for your Church throughout the world.
We remember today all who are weary in their service,
all who are discouraged,
and all who struggle to keep faith alive.
We pray for bishops, priests, deacons,
especially those who minister in difficult places
or with little support.
We ask your blessing upon all who seek
to share the burdens of others,
and upon all who care for those entrusted to them.

Lord, we come to you:
All **Renew us and give us peace.**

As we rejoice in the gift of life,
we remember the world-weary, the anxious and the overwhelmed.
We pray for all who are weighed down by worry,
burdened by guilt,
or fearful of what lies ahead.
We ask your blessing upon those who are overworked or oppressed,
those who carry responsibilities beyond their strength,
and all who have lost the joy of living
or find it difficult to rest.

Lord, we come to you:
All **Renew us and give us peace.**

We give thanks for our families, friends and loved ones,
for all who share our joys and sorrows,
and for those whose kindness and support sustain us.
We pray for homes where there is tension or unhappiness,
for relationships that need healing,
and for all who feel lonely, isolated, or forgotten.

Lord, we come to you:

All **Renew us and give us peace.**

We thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love and care.
We pray for all who feel unwanted or overlooked,
for those who are close to breaking point,
and for those whose strength has failed.
We remember before you all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit,
especially (the acutely ill ...).
We pray for doctors, nurses, carers, counsellors,
and all who bring comfort, healing, and hope.

Lord, we come to you:

All **Renew us and give us peace.**

We commend to your mercy all who have found their rest in you.
We remember those whom we love but see no longer,
(the recently departed ...), and those whose years' mind falls at
this time (anniversaries of death ...).
According to your promises, grant them refreshment,
light and peace,
and bring us with them to the joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Lord, we come to you:

All **Renew us and give us peace.**

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 are invited to stand either side of the altar.*

All

**HOW sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.**

**Jesus! My shepherd, brother, friend,
My prophet, priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.**

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

Words: John Newton 1725-1807

Music: St Peter

Alexander Robert Reinagle 1799-1877

Offering the Bread and Wine

Lord Jesus Christ,
you welcome all who come to you in faith.
Receive these gifts of bread and wine,
and receive the offering of our lives,
that renewed by your grace we may serve you with joy;
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

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.

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

Let us pray to our Father in heaven
as we come to Jesus who gives us rest and peace:

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

Jesus says,
"Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In Christ, God reconciles us to himself and to one another.

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

Jesus said, Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

§ 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.

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 Call

Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

§ *We sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have refreshed us with the bread of heaven
and the cup of salvation.

As we have shared at your table,
help us to share your love in the world.

Give rest to the weary, hope to the troubled,
strength to the weak, and joy to all your people;
for you are gentle and humble in heart,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

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

All

**TEACH me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee!**

**A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.**

**All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, 'for thy sake',
Will not grow bright and clean.**

**A servant with this cause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.**

**This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.**

Words George Herbert 1593-1633

Music Sandys
from William Sandys 1792-1874
Christmas Carols, 1833

Notices for the Community

S *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

God's Blessing

May Christ, who calls the weary to himself,
give you rest for your souls.
All **Amen.**

May Christ, who is gentle and humble in heart,
fill you with his peace.
All **Amen.**

May Christ, who reveals the Father's love,
strengthen you in faith, hope, and love.
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, carrying Christ's love to the world.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Music

Toccata from Symphonie 5 in F Charles-Marie Widor 1844-1937

- § 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

Choral Evensong

Our next All Age Mass takes place on
Sunday 13 September at 10.15 am

See you then, if not before!

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.**

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