

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 18 Year A



Fraternal correction

The Parish Mass

Sunday 6 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.

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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.



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.



Good morning, and a very warm welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Mass on this Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.

Today's scriptures remind us that Christian discipleship is never a solitary journey. God calls us to care for one another with wisdom, truth and love; to seek reconciliation where relationships have been damaged; and to remember that Christ himself is present whenever his people gather faithfully in his name. In a world often marked by division and conflict, we are called to become instruments of God's peace, forgiveness and healing.

As we prepare to celebrate these holy mysteries, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to God's word, deepen our love for one another, and renew within us the grace to walk together in the way of Christ.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, saving further conversation until refreshments after Mass. May this time of silence help us to become attentive to God's presence among us. The following prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you call us to live together as one body in your love.
As we gather in your holy presence,
quieten our hearts,
renew our minds,
and open us to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
Give us grace to hear your word with humility,
to seek reconciliation where there is division,
and to recognise your presence among us
as we worship you in the beauty of holiness.
For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Settings

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)

David Thorne

Communion Service in F

William Henry Harris

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

**YE servants of the Lord
Each for your Master wait,
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame;
Gird up your loins, as in his sight,
For awful is his name.**

**Watch! 'Tis your Lord's command;
And while we speak, he's near;
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.**

**O happy servant he,
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honour crowned.**

**Christ shall the banquet spread
With his own royal hand,
And raise that faithful servant's head
Amidst the angelic band.**

Words Philip Doddridge 1702-1751

Music Narenza
Melody from Johann Leisentritt
Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum, 1584
adapted by William Henry Havergal 1793-1870

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

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love one another
and to seek reconciliation whenever we have fallen into sin.

Therefore, with humble and repentant hearts,
let us confess our sins to Almighty God,
that we may receive his mercy, know his forgiveness,
and walk in newness of life.

Silence for reflection

Confession

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly;
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you seek the lost and rejoice when sinners return to you:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Christ Jesus, you reconcile us to the Father through your Cross
and make us one body in your love:
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

Lord Jesus, you are present wherever your faithful people
gather in your name:

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in 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,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God
in the holy scriptures,
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33:7-11

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response



Choir Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with my whole heart. **Response**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for therein is my delight.
Incline my heart to your testimonies
and not to unjust gain. **Response**

Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities;
 O give me life in your ways.
 Confirm to your servant your promise,
 which stands for all who fear you. **Response**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
 because your judgements are good.
 Behold, I long for your commandments;
 in your righteousness give me life. **Response**

Psalm 119:33-40

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
 2. Choir and Congregation



Choir In Christ God has reconciled the world to himself,
 not counting their trespasses against them,
 and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

All **Alleluia.**

§ We 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 Matthew.



Jesus said to his disciples, 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the

offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Matthew 18,15-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

§ *At the end, silence is kept for 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 United by the one Spirit and gathered in the name of Christ,
who promises to be among his faithful people,
let us pray for the Church and for the world,
and for all who stand in need of God's mercy.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy and truth,
All **make us one in Christ.**

After the final petition

Priest Merciful Father,
give to your Church the courage to speak the truth in love,
the humility to seek forgiveness,
and the grace to forgive as we have been forgiven.
Bring healing where there is division,
hope where there is despair,
and peace where there is conflict,
until all creation is gathered into the unity of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Gathered together in the name of Christ,
reconciled through his saving cross,
and confident in the Father's love,
let us pray with faith and trust as our Saviour has taught us.

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

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest.
The altar is prepared.*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and placed under the nave altar.
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All

**O THOU not made with hands,
Not throned above the skies,
Nor walled with shining walls,
Nor framed with stones of price,
More bright than gold or gem,
God's own Jerusalem!**

**Where'er the gentle heart
Finds courage from above;
Where'er the heart forsook
Warms with the breath of love;
Where faith bids fear depart,
City of God, thou art.**

**Thou are where'er the proud
In humbleness melts down;
Where self itself yields up;
Where martyrs win their crown;
Where faithful souls possess
Themselves in perfect peace;**

**Where in life's common ways
With cheerful feet we go;
When in his steps we tread,
Who trod the way of woe;
Where he is in the heart,
City of God, thou art.**

**Not throned above the skies,
Nor golden-walled afar,
But where Christ's two or three
In his name gathered are,
Be in the midst of them,
God's own Jerusalem.**

Words Francis Turner Palgrave 1824-1897

Music Old 120th

Melody from Thomas East c1540-1609 *Psalmes*, 1592

Harmony mainly from Thomas Ravenscroft c1588-1635 *Psalmes*, 1621

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 holy Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Heavenly Father,
receive these gifts of bread and wine,
together with the offering of our hearts and lives.
By the power of your Holy Spirit
make them for us the sacrament of Christ's redeeming love,
that, nourished by his Body and Blood,
we may become ministers of reconciliation
and faithful witnesses to your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending song of praise:

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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body † and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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 mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.

The musical notation is for the hymn 'Christ is the mystery of faith'. It is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note B4. The next measure contains a half note C5, followed by a half note B4. The fifth measure has a half note A4, followed by a half note G4. The sixth measure contains a half note F#4, followed by a half note E4. The seventh measure has a half note D4, followed by a half note C4. The final measure contains a half note B3, followed by a half note A3. The piece ends with a double bar line. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) above the first measure, *cresc.* (crescendo) above the fifth measure, and *f* (forte) above the seventh measure.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Matthew and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All

A - men.

The musical notation is for the word 'Amen'. It is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The melody begins with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3. The next measure contains a half note E3, followed by a half note D3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

As children of the Father, called to follow Christ
and strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
let us pray with confidence in the words 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 We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.

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

O come, ye servants of the Lord

Christopher Tye

Hymn

All

**'FORGIVE our sins as we forgive'
You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs, and will not let
Old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew,
How slight the debts are owed to us,
How great our debt to you.**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
And bid resentment cease;
Then, reconciled to God and man,
Our lives will spread your peace.**

Words Rosamond Eleanor Herklots 1905-1987

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

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

**LORD of beauty, thine the splendour
Shown in earth and sky and sea,
Buring sun and moonlight tender,
Hill and river, flower and tree:
Lest we fail our praise to render
Touch our eyes that they may see.**

**Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
Mighty waters ebb and flow,
While unhasting, undelaying,
Planets on their courses go:
In thy laws thyself displaying,
Teach our minds thyself to know.**

**Lord of life, alone sustaining
All below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
Sun and stars sublimely move:
In our earthly spirits reigning,
Lift our hearts that we may love.**

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
Till as love our hearts enthrone thee,
And, with wisdom purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
Thou in all art glorified.

Words Cyril Argentine Alington 1872-1955

Music Regent Square
Henry Thomas Smart 1813-1879

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,
whose mercy is greater than all our sin,
give you hearts ready to forgive and lives that bear witness to his love.
Amen.

All May Christ the Son,
who reconciled the world to himself by the Cross,
make you faithful servants of his peace and steadfast in every good work.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit,
who gathers the Church into one body,
strengthen you in holiness, unite you in charity,
and keep you in the fellowship of Christ all the days of your life.
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

The Mass is ended, go in peace.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Processional

Christopher Tambling

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

This evening at 5.30 pm

Choral Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 5
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

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

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