

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 23 Year A



The parable of the wedding feast

The Parish Mass
with the laying on of hands
and the Sacrament of Anointing

Sunday 11 October 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.



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.

In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks of the kingdom of heaven as a wedding banquet to which we are invited. It is an invitation to share in the joy of God's presence, and an invitation which asks us to respond.

St Paul reminds us of what such a life can look like: rejoicing, prayer, thanksgiving and the peace of God guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Psalm 23 speaks of the same trust: "*The Lord is my shepherd*" — the one who leads, refreshes and stays with us through every valley.

This morning we also have our healing ministries, when we can bring before God those in need of his care, and our *Be a Chorister* morning, celebrating the gift of music and the joy of singing his praise.

So let us be still, set aside our distractions, and open our hearts to the invitation of Christ.

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:

Prayer

Lord our God,
you spread before us the feast of your kingdom.
Lead us from the noise and hurry of the world
into the stillness of your presence.
Refresh our souls, quiet our anxious hearts,
and draw us nearer to you.
Teach us to recognise your gifts,
to receive them with thanksgiving,
and to rejoice in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Setting

The Salisbury Service

Grayston Ives b.1948

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **THROUGH all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy.
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.**

**O magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt his Name;
When in distress to him I called,
He to my rescue came.**

**The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just;
Deliverance he affords to all
Who on his succour trust.**

**O make but trial of his love,
Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide.**

**Fear him, yet saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight,
Your wants shall be his care.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.**

Words Nahum Tate 1652-1715
and Nicholas Brady 1659-1726
A New Version of the Psalms of David, 1696
based on Psalm 34

Music Wiltshire
George Thomas Smart 1776-1867
Collection of Sacred Music, 1863

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

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

God has prepared for us the banquet of his kingdom
and calls us to share in his goodness.
Yet we can turn away from his invitation
or fail to live as those who have received his grace.

Let us therefore acknowledge our sins,
and seek the mercy of God.

Silence for reflection

Confession

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you invite us to the banquet of your kingdom,
but we are often slow to hear your call.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus,
you gather into your feast those whom others might overlook,
but our hearts are not always open to them:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to be ready for your kingdom
and to put on the garment of a new life:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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 Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:1-9

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



The Lord_ is my shep- herd, there is no thing I shall want. The



Lord_ is my shep- herd, there is no thing I shall want.

Choir The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **Response**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Response**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **Response**

Psalm 23

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

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

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

Choir May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of your mind,
so that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.
All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

All

All

f
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 22.1-14



f
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ *Sit*

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

*All may
bow* ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Through Christ we enjoy the benefits of salvation.
Let us pray that these benefits may be felt by all people,
but especially by those in need.

After each petition

Intercessor Lord of life and love,
All **grant us the joy of your kingdom.**

At the end

Priest Heavenly Father,
may we love you in all things and above all things,
and reach the joy you have prepared for us,
which is beyond all our imagining.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

God calls us to the banquet of his kingdom
and gathers us together in his peace.
As we share one bread and one cup,
let us leave behind our divisions
and offer to one another the peace of Christ.

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 to the dais step and given to the presiding priest, and the altar is prepared.*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All

**JERUSALEM the golden,
With milk and honey blessed,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not,
What social joys are there,
What radiancy of glory,
What light beyond compare.**

**They stand, those halls of Sion,
Conjubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them,
The daylight is serene,
The pastures of the blessèd
Are decked in glorious sheen.**

**There is the throne of David;
And there, from care released,
The song of them that triumph,
The shout of them that feast;
And they who, with their leader
Have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever
Are clad in robes of white.**

**O sweet and blessed country,
 Shall I ever see thy face?
 O sweet and blessed country,
 Shall I ever win thy grace?
 Exult, O dust and ashes!
 The Lord shall be thy part;
 His only, his for ever,
 Thou shalt be, and thou art!**

Words vv Latin, 1-3 Bernard of Cluny c.1140
 tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866
 v 4 Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

Music Ewing
 From *St Bede's*, a tune by Alexander Ewing 1830-1895

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

Lord our God,
 you prepare a table before us
 and invite us to the banquet of your kingdom.
 Receive these gifts of bread and wine,
 that through them we may receive the Body and Blood of Christ,
 the food of eternal life and the cup of salvation.
 Fill us with your peace,
 that with thankful hearts we may rejoice in you for ever;
 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.

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:

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 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.

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 Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

My flesh is food indeed,
and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

All **Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
dwell in me and I in them.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Creator of all we have gathered many grains
and made them into this one bread.

All **We look for your Church to be gathered
from the ends of the earth into the kingdom.**

Giving of Communion

When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

§ *Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches
are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

§ *Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet
with you as a sign.*

Healing ministries

After receiving Holy Communion or a blessing, if you would like to receive the laying on of hands, either for yourself or for someone you hold in your heart, or to receive the sacrament of anointing for yourself, please make your way to the Lady Chapel, where a priest will be waiting to pray with 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 Jesu, joy of man's desiring

J S Bach 1685-1750

Hymn

All

**I COME with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
Unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better known,
Alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
By all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world
The love that makes us one.**

Words Brian Wren b.1936

Music St Botolph
Gordon Slater 1896-1979

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

All **O PRAISE ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
Rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens adore him by whom you were made,
And worship before him, in brightness arrayed.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, ye saints of new birth;
Praise him who has brought you his grace from above,
Praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.**

**O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord, re-echo around;
Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story of what he has done.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured all ages along:
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!
Amen, Amen.**

Words Henry Williams Baker 1821-1877

Music Laudate Dominum
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry 1848-1918

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God, who invites you to the banquet of his kingdom,
fill your hearts with joy,
and clothe you with the garment of his grace.
Amen.

All May Christ, your shepherd and your host,
lead you beside still waters, spread a table before you,
and guard your hearts with his peace.
Amen.

All And may the Holy Spirit teach you to rejoice always,
to pray with thanksgiving,
and to dwell in the goodness and loving mercy of God
all the days of your life.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Paeon

Kenneth Leighton 1929-1988

- § *Please remain standing until the procession has departed. Thank you.*
- § *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.*
- § *Refreshments are being served in church, 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 8
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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