

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 13 Year A



The Feeding of the Five Thousand

The Parish Mass

Sunday 2 August 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, whether you worship here regularly or are joining us for the first time. It is a joy to welcome you as we gather to celebrate the Parish Mass on this Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

Today's readings reveal the abundant generosity of God. Through the prophet Isaiah we hear the gracious invitation, "Come, all who thirst... come, buy and eat, without money and without price." In the Gospel, Jesus feeds the hungry multitude with five loaves and two fish, showing that in God's hands even the smallest offering becomes more than enough.

As we come to the altar this morning, we bring our own needs, our hopes, our weariness and our thanksgiving. Here Christ welcomes us, feeds us with his word and with his sacramental presence, and sends us out to become signs of his generosity in the world.

As is our custom at St Matthew's, we now keep a few moments of quiet prayer as we prepare ourselves to worship Almighty God.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

Lord Jesus Christ,
Bread of Life and Shepherd of your people,
you invite all who hunger and thirst to come to you.
Quieten our hearts,
still our distractions,
and open us to the abundance of your grace.
As we gather around your holy table,
feed us with your living word,
strengthen us by your sacred presence,
and send us from this place to share your love with a hungry world;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne b.1950

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **CHRIST, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till thy inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

Words Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Music Ratisbon
Melody from Johann Gottlob Werner 1777-1822
Choralbuch, 1815
Harmony by William Henry Havergal 1793-1870

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

The Greeting

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

All

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

The Lord Jesus welcomes all who come to him,
feeds the hungry, and satisfies those who seek him.
Yet we have not always trusted in his abundance.
We have been anxious rather than faithful,
self-centred rather than generous,
and slow to recognise Christ in the needs of others.

Therefore, let us turn again to the Lord,
confess our sins with sincere hearts,
and receive the mercy that never fails.

§ *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 invite all who hunger and thirst
to receive the gifts of your Kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you looked with compassion upon the crowds
and fed them with the bread of life:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you gather us at your holy table
and satisfy us with your everlasting love:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive † you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the wisdom and joy of his kingdom,
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.

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of the Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
 in love and joy and peace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
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 Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Isaiah 55.1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response

Andrew Moore



Cantor The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.
The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his creatures. **Response**

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down. **Response**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty.
The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works. **Response**

The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully. **Response**

Psalms 145:8-9, 15-19

Holy Gospel

§ *Stand*

Acclamation

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

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

Jesus said, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God.'

All **Alleluia.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

All



Now when Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew from his hometown of Nazareth in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14.13-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



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 Let us pray to our compassionate Lord,
who opens wide his hands and fills all things living with his blessing.
Trusting in his unfailing goodness,
let us offer him our prayers for the Church, the world, and all in need.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, feed your people:
All **and satisfy us with your love.**

After the final petition

Priest Generous Father,
you satisfy the hungry with good things
and refresh all who place their trust in you.
Grant that, nourished by your grace,
we may gladly share with others the gifts we have received,
until all your people rejoice together
at the heavenly banquet of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

In the miracle of the loaves, Christ took what was offered,
blessed it, and shared it, so that all were fed.
As those who have received his abundant mercy,
let us now share with 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 forward and given to the presiding priest.
The altar is prepared.*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All **LIGHT'S** abode, celestial Salem,
 Vision whence true peace doth spring,
Brighter than the heart can fancy,
 Mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
 Which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever
 Alleluya is outpoured;
For unending, for unbroken
 Is the feast day of the Lord;
All is pure and all is holy
 That within thy walls is stored.

There no cloud or passing vapour
 Dims the brightness of the air;
Endless noonday, glorious noonday,
 From the sun of suns is there;
There no night brings rest from labour,
 For unknown are toil and care.

**O how glorious and resplendent,
Fragile body, shalt thou be,
When endued with so much beauty,
Full of health, and strong, and free,
Full of vigour, full of pleasure
That shall last eternally!**

**Now with gladness, now with courage,
Bear the burden on thee laid,
That hereafter these thy labours
May with endless gifts be paid,
And in everlasting glory
Thou with joy may'st be arrayed.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one,
Consubstantial, coeternal,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

*Words Latin, before 15th cent
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866*

*Music Regent Square
Henry Thomas Smart 1813-1879*

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 God, receive these gifts,
and with them the offering of our lives.
By your Holy Spirit make this bread and wine for us
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
that, nourished by Christ himself,
we may gladly share your generous love;
through the same 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:

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

All

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first line of music begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are written below the notes. The second line of music begins with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking, followed by a forte (*f*) marking. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are written below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

mf

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

cresc. *f*

we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
St Matthew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered around the table of Christ, and nourished by his generous love,
let us pray with confidence to our heavenly Father
in the words our Saviour 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

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

O Lord, you gave your people the food of angels, and without their toil
you supplied them from heaven with bread ready to eat.

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.

Hymn

All **O BREAD of heaven, beneath this veil
Thou dost my very God conceal:
My Jesus, dearest treasure, hail;
I love thee and adoring kneel;
Each loving soul by thee is fed
With thine own self in form of bread.**

**O food of life, thou who dost give
The pledge of immortality;
I live; no, 'tis not I that live;
God gives me life, God lives in me:
He feeds my soul, he guides my ways,
And every grief with joy repays.**

**O bond of love, that dost unite
The servant to his living Lord;
Could I dare live, and not requite
Such love, then death were meet reward:
I cannot live unless to prove
Some love for such unmeasured love.**

**Belovèd Lord in heaven above,
There, Jesus, thou awaitest me;
To gaze on thee with changeless love;
Yes, thus, I hope, thus shall it be:
For how can he deny me heaven
Who here on earth himself hath given?**

Words Italian, St Alphonsus Liguori 1696-1787
tr Edmund Vaughan, CSSR 1827-1908

Music: St Catherine (Tynemouth)
Henri Frédéric Hemy 1818-1888
adapted by Richard Runciman Terry 1865-1938

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All

**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

**GUIDE me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow:
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.**

Words Welsh, William Williams of Pantycelyn 1717-1791
tr Peter Williams 1727-1796 and others

Music Cwm Rhondda
John Hughes 1873-1932

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Father,
 who fed his children with manna in the wilderness,
 strengthen you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land.
 Amen.

All May the Son,
 who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,
 keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day.
 Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
 help you discern the Lord's body
 and empower you to proclaim his death until he comes.
 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 The Mass is ended, go in peace.
 Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Exsultate

Vann

§ 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
BCP Evening Prayer

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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