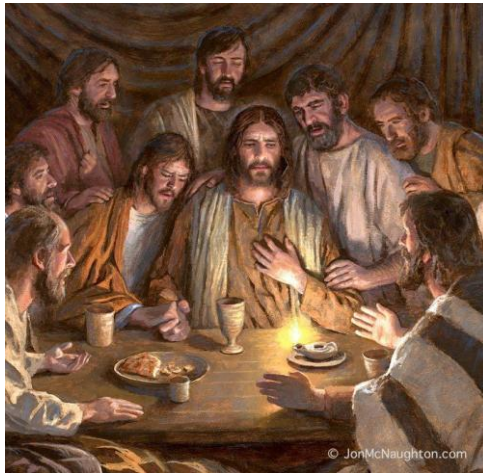


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year A



'If you love me, you will keep my commandments'

The Parish Mass
with the Meeting of Parishioners and
the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 10 May 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

Live streaming Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

GDPR Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



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 welcome to this Parish Mass on The Sixth Sunday of Easter. We are glad to gather together in the joy of the Risen Christ, whose love remains with us and whose Spirit continues to guide and strengthen his Church.

Today our worship also includes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This gives us an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the blessings of the past year, to reflect on the life and witness of this parish, and to look forward with hope as we plan for the future. We give thanks especially for all who serve so faithfully in so many ways, offering their time, gifts, and dedication for the building up of God's Kingdom in this place.

In today's Gospel Jesus promises that those who love him will keep his commandments, and that he will not leave his disciples orphaned, but will send the Holy Spirit to be with them always. As we meet, pray, and make decisions together, may we know the presence of that same Spirit among us. May this Eucharist renew us in faith, unite us in love, and inspire us in service, to the glory of 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 reflection, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

A thing you notice about birds
is how they are able to take advantage of the wind.
They go with it, they go against it,
they soar into the sky, they plunge back to earth.
At the time they are availing of the power of the wind.
And I think of how we, the disciples of Jesus,
are so easily blown off course by the winds of adversity.

Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit,
help us to turn the hard and the easy to our advantage,
so that everything that happens to us
may bear us along the road to your kingdom.

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls b.1963

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ **Stand** at the sound of the bell

Hymn

§ *The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense*

All

**LOVE is his word, love is his way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again;
Love, only love, is his way.**

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,
Better than splendour and wealth.*

**Love is his way, love is his mark,
Sharing his last passover feast,
Christ at the table, host to the Twelve;
Love, only love, is his mark.**

**Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood.'
Love, only love, is his sign.**

**Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
Love, only love, is his news.**

**Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Sisters and brothers, parents and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.**

**Love is his name, love is his law,
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another; I have loved you.'
Love, only love, is his law.**

**Love is his law, love is his word:
Love of the Lord, Father and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one;
Love, only love, is his word.**

Words Luke Connaughton 1917-1979
Anthony Milner 1925-2002

Music Cresswell

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Easter Acclamation

All Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love
and receive his risen life,
let us acknowledge our failures to abide in him
and to allow his words to abide in us.

A pause for reflection

Confession

All **God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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.

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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,
to discover further the meaning of this joyful Eastertide,
let us listen attentively to the Good News of the risen Lord.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

The Acts of the Apostles

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

Acts 17:22-31

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

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



Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The notes are grouped into two phrases: the first phrase (A4 to G6) is marked for the Choir, and the second phrase (A6 to C7) is marked for the Choir and Congregation. A long horizontal line is drawn under the second phrase, indicating a sustained or repeated note.

Choir Jesus said, 'Those who love me keep my word, and the Father will love them, and we will come to them.'

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 John.

All

Glo - ry to you, O Lord, al - le - lu - ia.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

John 14.15-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, O Christ, al - le - lu - ia.

¶ Meeting of Parishioners

§ Sit

¶ The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Apostles' Creed

§ Stand

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest God has called us out of darkness into his own wonderful light.
Let us pray that we may walk in the light of his truth and love.

§ Kneel

After each petition

Intercessor Lord of life,
All **be known to be among us.**

After the final petition

Priest Father, your Son, innocent though he was,
died for our sins in order to lead us to you.
Help us to listen to his words,
and to let those words permeate our hearts and minds
and guide our journey to your kingdom.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ Stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I unto you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'
Alleluia.

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

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

The Offertory

§ *The Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared*

§ *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.*

Hymn

All

**ALLELUYA, sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluya, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder life a might flood;
Jesus out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluya, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluya, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluya, bread of angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluya, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluya, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluya, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstall, heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.**

Words William Chatterton Dox 1837-1898

Music Hyfrydol
Melody by Richard Huw Pritchard 1811-1887

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 Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, may our prayers rise up before you as incense,
that, together with these fruits of your creation,
we may be purified by your gracious favour,
and conformed to the mystery of your great love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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:

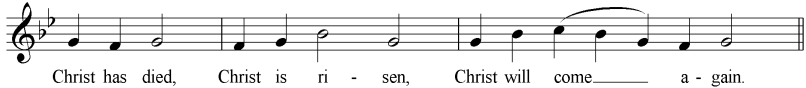
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All



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 Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint 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. Bells are rung.

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

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

All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

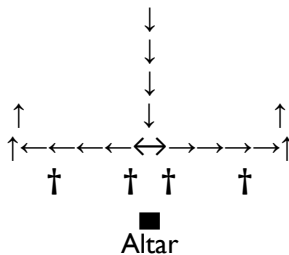
The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever, alleluia.

§ *Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion, as indicated below.*

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



Spiritual Communion – *for those watching 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.

Healing Ministries

§ *The laying on of hand and the sacrament of anointing are being administered in the Lady Chapel. If you would like to participate please make your way to the Chapel having first come to the dais step to receive Holy Communion or God's blessing. Thank you.*

Hymn

All

**COME, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
Nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
Thyself at thine own board make manifest,
In thine own sacrament of bread and wine.**

**We meet, as in that upper room they met;
Thou, at thy table, blessing, yet dost stand:
'This is my body' – so thou givest yet;
Faith still receives the cup as from thy hand.**

**One body we, one body who partake,
One Church united in communion blest;
One name we bear, one bread of life we break,
With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.**

**One with each other, Lord, for one in thee,
Who art one Saviour and one living Head;
Then open thou our eyes, that we may see:
Be known to us in breaking of the bread.**

Words George Wallace Brooks 1875-1959

Music Adoro to
Mode v

Motet

This Joyful Eastertide

Charles Wood 1866-1926

§ *All remain seated for period of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Hymn

All

**JESUS lives! Thy terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! By this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
*Alleluya!***

**Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
*Alleluya!***

**Jesus lives! For us he died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
*Alleluya!***

**Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
Nought from us his love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from his keeping ever.
*Alleluya!***

**Jesus lives! To him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
Rest and reign with him in heaven.
*Alleluya!***

Words German, Christian Fürchtegott Gellert 1715-1769
tr Frances Elizabeth Cox 1812-1897

Music St Albinus
Henry John Gauntlett 1805-1876

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

† Sending Out

§ Stand

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
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.**

Sung Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

All

In the name of Christ, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

§ Please turn to face the Madonna and Child sculpture

Regina Caeli

All **Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluya** (9 rings)
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluya
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluya
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluya.

All Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluya
for the Lord is risen indeed, alleluya.

God of life, you have given joy to the world (9 rings)
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,
bring us to the happiness of eternal life;
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.** Music The Easter Hymn

Organ Voluntary

Trumpet Tune in E flat *David N Johnson 1922-1987*

- § *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 the parish centre, 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
Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Many and Mark Ludlow
who have generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

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

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

St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk