

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Sunday Next before Lent

Year A



The Transfiguration of Jesus, 1520 by Raphael

The Parish Mass

Sunday 15 February 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 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, everyone Welcome as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and come into the presence of the Lord.

Today's readings draw us up the mountain — into moments where heaven seems very close to earth. In the first reading, Moses is called up Mount Sinai, where he enters the cloud of God's glory. It is a place of mystery, awe, and deep encounter. In the Gospel, the disciples climb another mountain with Jesus and witness his Transfiguration, seeing his glory shine through in a way that leaves them both amazed and afraid.

These moments remind us that our faith is not only about daily routines and ordinary struggles, but also about glimpses of God's greatness — moments that strengthen us, even if we don't fully understand them. Like Peter, James, and John, we are invited to listen to the beloved Son. Like Moses, we are invited to trust when God leads us into the unknown.

As we begin this Mass, let us quieten our hearts. Let us bring with us our burdens, our hopes, and our need for God's light. May this time of worship open us to God's presence, transform us more and more into Christ's likeness, and give us courage to follow him back down the mountain into our everyday lives.

Let us now prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

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/prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

Jesus was transfigured on the mountain.

We too can have moments of transfiguration.

Sometimes a blessedness comes down around us,

a glory falls upon us from God, and life is sweet.

In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth
the joys of the world to come.

Lord, give us confidence in your unchanging love for us.

Help us to follow you with courage,

and lead us to the glory that never fades.

Setting

Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense

All

**TRANSFIGURED Christ, none comprehends
Your majesty, whose splendour stuns
All waking souls; whose light transcends
The brightness of a thousand suns!**

**You stand with Moses on the hill,
You speak of your new exodus:
The way through death, you will fulfil
By dying helpless on the cross.**

**You stand here with Elijah too,
By whom the still small voice was heard:
And you, yourself, will prove God true,
Made mute in death, Incarnate Word.**

**If we could bear your brightness here
And stay for ever in your light,
Then we would conquer grief and fear,
And scorn the terrors of the night.**

**But, from the heights, you bring us down,
To share earth's agonies with you,
Where piercing thorns are made your crown,
And death, accepted, proves love true.**

**Majestic Christ, God's well-loved Son,
If we must share your grief and loss,
Transfigure us, when all is done,
With glory shining from your cross.**

Words Alan Gaunt b.1935

Music Bow Brickhill
Sydney Hugo Nicholson 1875-1947

† 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

When Christ appears we shall be like him,
because we shall see him as he is.
As he is pure,
all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.
So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
and your justice as the great deep:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse † you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
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 Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book of the Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up

into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24.12-18

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual hymn

All **'TIS good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.**

**'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past!
Promise of things to be!
We hail thy body glorified,
And our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,
We see thy kingdom come;
We fain would hold the vision bright,
And make this hill our home.**

**'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since thou bidst us leave the mount
Come with us to the plain.**

Words Joseph Armitage Robinson 1858-1933

Music Carlisle
Charles Lockhart 1745-1815

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation



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

From a bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased;
listen to him!'

All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Matthew 17.1-9

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 Through Christ we have become heirs to eternal glory.
Let us pray with confidence to our heavenly Father for all our needs.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor God, in your goodness,
All **grant us a glimpse of your glory.**

After the final petition

Priest All-powerful God,
let your radiant glory free us from the darkness of evil,
and bring us safely through the shadows of this world
to our homeland of everlasting light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ will transfigure our human body
and give it a form like that of his glorious body.
We are the body of Christ.
We share his peace.

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 presented to the presiding priest at the dais step*

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 **PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is
thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests
their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly
around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that
is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now
with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

Words German, Joachim Neander 1650-1680
tr Catherine winkworth 1827-1878 and others

Music: Lobe den Herren
Melody in Erneuereten Gesangbuchs, 1665
adapted by Joachim Neander 1650-1680

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

Lord, make our gifts holy,
free us from our sins,
and bring us also to that radiant glory
which we see in the transfigured face of 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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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

mf *cresc.* *f*



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

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 **Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Seeking the salvation of the world,
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

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

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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 **THEE we adore, O hidden Saviour, thee,
Who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
Ye here thy presence we devoutly hail.**

**O blest memorial of our dying Lord,
Who living bread to man doth here afford!
O may our souls forever feed on thee,
And thou, O Christ, for ever precious be.**

**Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God,
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
The hope and peace which from thy presence flow.**

**O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst, for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace.**

Words Latin, St Thomas Aquinas, OP c1225-1274
tr James Woodford 1810-1885

Music Adoro te
Mode v
Accompaniment by John Henry Arnold 1887-1956

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All

Hymn

All

**ALLELUYA, song of sweetness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluya is the anthem
Ever dear to choirs on high:
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.**

**Alleluya thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluya, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee;
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.**

**Alleluya cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluya our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.**

**Therefore in our hymns we pray thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep thine Easter
In our home beyond the sky,
There to thee for ever singing
Alleluya joyfully.**

*Words Latin, possibly 11th cent
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866*

*Music Tantum ergo (Webbe)
from Samuel Webbe 1740-1816
Collection of Motets or Antiphons, 1792*

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance
 and scatter the darkness from your path.
 Amen.

All Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
 gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
 Amen.

All Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
 draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
 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

 The apostles wanted to stay on the mountain-top.
 We might want to linger here,
 because here we feel close to God and at peace.
 But we have to go from here, to take up our burdens once more.

All Go then in the peace of Christ.
 Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in D minor BWV 554

J S Bach 1685-1750

- § *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 being served in the parish centre, adjacent to the carpark. Do please join us.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

A Service of Prayer and Reflection for Lent

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 20
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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