

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 17 Year A



Overcoming the challenge of discipleship

The Parish Mass

Sunday 30 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

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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.

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Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



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

Today's readings remind us that following Christ is both a privilege and a challenge. Peter is quick to recognise Jesus as the Messiah, yet struggles to accept that the way of God's kingdom leads through the cross. We too are invited to set aside merely human ways of thinking, to take up our cross each day, and to discover that true life is found in following Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate these holy mysteries, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts to God's word, strengthen our faith, and renew our commitment to live as faithful disciples.

* * * * *

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 Jesus Christ,
you did not choose the easy path,
but walked faithfully the way of the cross for the salvation of the world.
As we gather in your holy presence,
quieten our hearts, renew our minds,
and deepen our love for you.
Give us courage to follow wherever you lead,
grace to persevere when discipleship is costly,
and joy in knowing that your risen life is stronger than every fear.
For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

**LIVING God, your word has called us,
Summoned us to live by grace,
Make us one in hope and vision,
As we gather in this place.
Take our searching, take our praising,
Take this silence of our prayer,
Offered up in joyful worship,
Springing from the love we share.**

**Living God, your love has called us
In the name of Christ your Son,
Forming us to be his body,
By your Spirit making one.
Working, laughing, learning, growing,
Old and young and black and white,
Gifts and skills together sharing,
In your service all unite.**

**Living God, your hope has called us
To the world that you have made,
Teaching us to live for others,
Humble, joyful, unafraid.
Give us eyes to see your presence,
Joy in laughter, hope in pain.
In our loving, in our living,
Give us strength that Christ may reign.**

Words Jan Berry b. 1953

Music: Blaenwern
William Penfro Rowlands 1860-1937

† 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

The Lord calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him.
Yet so often we choose the easier path,
seeking our own will rather than the will of God.

Therefore, trusting in God's abundant mercy,
let us come before him with humble and contrite hearts,
confessing our sins and seeking the forgiveness and new life
that Christ alone can give.

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 call us to follow you in the way of the Cross:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Christ Jesus, you strengthen those who grow weary
and remain faithful in every trial:
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

Lord Jesus, you lead your people into the joy of your resurrection
and the glory of your kingdom:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

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

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

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

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

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
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 Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:9-21

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



Cantor Give judgement for me, O Lord,
for I have walked with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind. **Response**

For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked in your truth.
I have not joined the company of the false,
nor consorted with the deceitful. **Response**

I hate the gathering of evildoers
and I will not sit down with the wicked.
I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go about your altar, **Response**

To make heard the voice of thanksgiving
and tell of all your wonderful deeds.
Lord, I love the house of your habitation
and the place where your glory abides. **Response**

Psalms 26.1-8

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation

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

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

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.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

f
Praise to you, O Christ.

§ *Sit*

§ At the end, silence is kept for personal reflection

§ Stand

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

10

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 In Christ we have a great High Priest who knows our weakness
and hears the prayers of his people.
Let us therefore pray with confidence for the Church and for the world,
bringing before God the needs of all people,
and asking for grace to follow Christ faithfully in every circumstance.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, strengthen us in your service
All **and keep us faithful to the end.**

After the final petition

Priest Merciful Father,
strengthen your Church in faith and witness;
uphold those who suffer for the sake of the Gospel;
comfort the sorrowful, heal the sick,
guide the nations in the ways of justice and peace,
and grant that, taking up our cross each day,
we may follow Christ with steadfast hearts
until we rejoice with him in his eternal kingdom;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and 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 brought forward and given to the presiding priest.
The altar is prepared.*

Hymn

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

All

**FATHER, Lord of all creation,
Ground of being, life and love;
Height and depth beyond description
Only life in you can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
Thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence,
Sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the Man for others,
We, your people, make our prayer:
Help us love – as sisters, brothers -
All whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
You, Lord Christ, will surely be;
Where no selfishness can sever
There your love the world may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
Wind and flame of Pentecost,
Fire our hearts afresh with yearning
To regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
Never more to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.**

Words Stewart Cross 1928-1989

*Music: Pleading Saviour
Melody from Henry Ward Beecher:
Plymouth collection of hymns and tunes, New York, 1855
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

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, we place before you these gifts of bread and wine,
together with the offering of our lives.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit,
that this holy sacrifice may strengthen us
to follow Christ with faithful hearts
and serve you with gladness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

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

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

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

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

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff, the dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f* are marked. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: 'Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

As children of the Father, called to follow Christ
and strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour has taught us.

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Breaking of the Bread

All We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

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 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord, which you have laid up for those who put their trust in 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.

Hymn

All **DRAW nigh, and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured,
Saved by that body, hallowed by that blood,
Whereby refreshed we render thanks to God.**

**Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son,
By that his cross and blood the victory won.
Offered was he for greatest and for least:
Himself the victim, and himself the priest.**

**Victims were offered by the law of old,
That, in a type, celestial mysteries told.
He, ransom from death and light from shade,
Giveth his holy grace his saints to aid.**

**Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the safeguard of salvation here.
He that in this world rules his saints and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields:**

**With heavenly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
Alpha and Omega, to whom shall bow
All nations at the doom, is with us now.**

Words Latin, Bangor Antiphoner, late 7th cent
John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Anima Christi
William Maher 1823-1877

§ *We sit for personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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

Hymn

All

**TAKE up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst my disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross; let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Not let thy foolish pride rebel;
The Lord for thee the cross endured,
To save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,
And calmly every danger brave;
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the one in three,
All praise for evermore ascend;
O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

Words Charles William Everest 1814-1877

Music Breslau
Melody from *As Hymnodus Sacer*, Leipzig 1625
arranged by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May Christ, who calls you to take up your cross and follow him,
give you courage to remain faithful in every trial.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit strengthen you when your faith is tested,
sustain you in hope,
and fill you with the joy of serving Christ.
Amen.

All May God the Father,
whose love is revealed in the cross and triumphant in the resurrection,
bring you at last to share the glory of his everlasting kingdom.
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

Fugue in D Major BWV 580

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 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
said in Quire

Our thanks are due to Sandra James
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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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RZ.
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk