

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 16 Year A



The call of Peter

The Parish Mass

Sunday 23 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.

Where appropriate, consent is obtained for individuals who are intentionally featured in livestreams, recordings, photographs, or other church media. Please speak to a churchwarden or welcomer if you would like further information about livestreaming arrangements.

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

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



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

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

* * * * *

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

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

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

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

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

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Good morning and welcome to St Matthew's as we gather to celebrate the Parish Mass on this Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

Whether you are a regular member of our congregation, visiting family or friends, joining us from another church, or worshipping here for the first time, it is a joy to welcome you in the name of Christ.

Today's Gospel takes us to Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus asks his disciples a question that every generation must answer: '*Who do you say that I am?*' Peter's courageous confession, '*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,*' becomes the foundation upon which Christ promises to build his Church.

As we gather around God's word and the Lord's table, we are invited to make Peter's confession our own; to renew our faith in Jesus Christ; and to discover afresh that, despite our weaknesses and failings, God continues to call ordinary people into his extraordinary service.

Following the service, refreshments will be served in church. If you are new to St Matthew's, please do introduce yourself to one of the clergy or members of our Welcome Team - we would be delighted to meet you.

As is our custom, we now keep a few moments of quiet before our worship begins, asking God to prepare our hearts to meet him in word and sacrament.

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 called Simon Peter to leave behind all that was familiar,
to follow you in faith,
and to become a living stone in the household of God.
Quieten our hearts, still our distracted minds,
and open our ears to hear your voice.
Strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and deepen our love,
that in this Eucharist we may confess you with joyful hearts,
serve you with willing hands, and follow wherever you lead;
for you are the Christ, the Son of the living God,
to whom be glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **'THOU art the Christ, O Lord,
The Son of God, most high!
For ever be adored
That name in earth and sky,
In which, though mortal strength may fail,
The saints of God at last prevail.**

**O surely he was blessed
With blessedness unpriced,
Who, taught of God, confessed
The Godhead in the Christ;
For of thy Church, Lord, thou didst own
Thy saint a true foundation stone.**

**Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
The bitter lesson learnt,
That heart for thee, O Lord,
With triple ardour burned.
The cross he took he laid not down
Until he grasped the martyr's crown.**

**O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears!
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
And make us go where thou shalt call.**

Words William Walsham How 1823-1897

Music Gopsal
Melody and bass by George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

† 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

Jesus chose Peter to be the chief shepherd of his flock.
Though Peter had strengths, he also had weaknesses.
We too have strengths and weaknesses.
Let us turn to the Lord, confident that he understands our weaknesses
and forgives us when we fall.

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 are the Christ, the Son of the living God,
revealed to us by the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call weak and ordinary people
to become living stones in your Church.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you entrust to your people the keys of your kingdom
and strengthen all who put their trust in you.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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 and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God
in the holy scriptures,
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12.1-8

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response



Reader I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word above all things.
In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength in my soul. **Response**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
 for they have heard the words of your mouth.
 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
 that great is the glory of the Lord.
 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
 as for the proud, he regards them from afar. **Response**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
 you will preserve me;
 you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
 your right hand will save me.
 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;
 your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
 forsake not the work of your hands. **Response**

Psalms 138

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

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

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

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
 and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

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.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but

others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 16.13-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

§ *At the end, a time for personal reflection*

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
confessing with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God,
let us pray for the Church and for the world,
placing our trust in the Lord who hears our prayers
and remains faithful to his people.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, build your Church,
All **and strengthen us in your service.**

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father,
receive the prayers we offer through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Strengthen your Church in faith,
keep us steadfast in hope,
and make us faithful witnesses to the Gospel we proclaim;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Saint Peter dedicated his life to the gospel
and was granted the peace of Christ which passes human understanding.

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

**JOIN all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and power,
That ever mortals knew,
That angels ever bore:
All are too mean to speak his worth,
Too mean to set my Saviour forth.**

**But O what gentle terms,
What condescending ways
Doth our Redeemer use
To teach his heavenly grace!
Mine eyes with joy and wonder see
What forms of love he bears for me.**

**My dear almighty Lord,
My Conqueror and my King,
Thy sceptre and thy sword,
Thy reign of grace, I sing;
Thine is the power: behold I sit
In willing bonds before thy feet.**

**Now let my soul arise,
And tread the tempter down;
My Captain leads me forth
To conquest and a crown.
A feeble saint shall win the day,
Though death and hell obstruct the way.**

**Should all the hosts of death,
And powers of hell unknown,
Put their most dreadful forms
Of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays
Superior power, and guardian grace.**

Words Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Music: Christchurch
Charles Steggall 1826-1905

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,
accept these gifts which we bring to your altar.
As you strengthened Peter to confess Christ before the world,
so strengthen us through this holy sacrifice to be faithful disciples,
living stones in your Church,
and joyful witnesses to the Gospel;
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

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

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody starts on a half note D4, followed by a half note E4, then a half note F#4. The next measure has a half note G4, then a half note A4. The third measure has a half note B4, then a half note C5. The fourth measure has a half note D5, then a half note E5. The fifth measure has a half note F#5, then a half note G5. The sixth measure has a half note A5, then a half note B5. The seventh measure has a half note C6, then a half note D6. The eighth measure has a half note E6, then a half note F#6. The ninth measure has a half note G6, then a half note A6. The tenth measure has a half note B6, then a half note C7. The eleventh measure has a half note D7, then a half note E7. The twelfth measure has a half note F#7, then a half note G7. The thirteenth measure has a half note A7, then a half note B7. The fourteenth measure has a half note C8, then a half note D8. 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 Peter, 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 musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody starts on a half note D4, followed by a half note E4, then a half note F#4. The next measure has a half note G4, then a half note A4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

As children of the living God, and united with Christ,
whose kingdom has no end,
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

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

The earth is repleat with the fruit of your works, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to gladden the heart.

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

**SEND, O God, your Holy Spirit
On your people gathered here.
Fill our lives with gentle courage;
Let your love cast out our fear.**

**Every perfect gift is given
By the God whose name we bear
To equip the saints of Jesus
For the saving work we share.**

**Gifts of wisdom, gifts of knowledge,
Gifts of faith and healing grace,
Gifts that in the Spirit's power
Will reveal the Saviour's face.**

**All God's children, all Christ's people,
All the saints, receive this word!
Claim the gift, the faith, the promise,
Build the body of the Lord.**

Words Sylvia G Dunstan 1955-1993

Music Laus Deo (Redhead no 46)
Richard Redhead 1820-1901

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of 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 **O THOU who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.**

Words Charles Wesley 1707-1788
Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

Music Hereford

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father,
who revealed his Son to blessed Peter,
strengthen your faith and establish you upon the rock of Christ.
Amen.

All May Christ the Good Shepherd guide you in the way of holiness,
keep you faithful in his service,
and fill you with the joy of his kingdom.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit give you courage to confess Christ before the world,
wisdom to discern his will,
and grace to persevere in his love.
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 Mass is ended, go in peace.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Marche Triomphale (Opus 65 No.59)

Karg-Elert

- § *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 Anonymous Donor 19
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.**

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 4RZ.
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk