

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# Corpus Christi

Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of  
the Body and Blood of Christ



The Parish Mass  
Procession of the Blessed Sacrament  
and Benediction

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

10.15 am



## ¶ Keeping everyone safe at St Matthew's

***If you have any of the recognized Covid-related symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and seek a test.***

For all others, and in accordance with Government guidance and local decision, we respectfully require you to:

**Go directly to a chair where there is an order of service booklet, and remain there.** Please fill up the chairs in the centre of the nave and transepts first - some chairs in the side aisles have a restricted view - and do not move the chairs, handle any other furniture, move from chair to chair, or remove a service booklet.

The wearing of a **face covering is mandatory** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This must cover both your mouth and your nose. (Plastic visors are not a substitute for a face covering and do not protect others).

The church **toilet facilities are available** for use. Please follow the instructions on the signs, leave the cubical light on, and the door open after use.

**At communion** - remain at your chair. You are respectfully asked to ensure that your face covering remains in place until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

**After the service** - please **depart via the north door** whilst maintaining physical distancing. A monetary offering may be made there. Please sanitize your hands as you leave. Assistance is available for those who require help negotiating the steps. You may remove your face covering when you are clear of the building.

**We may gather on the green** at the east end of the church building in physically distanced groups of up to thirty. At the request of family relations you are respectfully asked not to congregate either at the side of the church or the end of the Lady Chapel where their loved one's mortal remains have been interred. Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Reflection

Lord, we thank you for having us as guests  
at the banquet of the Eucharist.  
Here we have listened to your word  
and eaten the food of eternal life.  
May we go forth from here nourished,  
honoured, blessed, humbled yet exalted.  
May we be so sure of our worth before you  
that the honours of this world will never ensnare us.  
And in your goodness grant us a place at the heavenly banquet.

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

*At the sound of the bell, please **STAND***

*The procession enters*

*Priest* † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All** **Amen.**

○ sacred feast, in which Christ is received and the memory of his passion is renewed: our minds are filled with grace and a pledge of future glory is given us.

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All** **and also with you.**

*The service is introduced*

## Prayers of Penitence

As we remember our Lord's sacrifice of his body, broken for us,  
and his blood, poured out for us,  
let us offer him our whole selves in penitence and faith.

*Silence is kept*

## Confession

**All**            **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## Kyries

Like as the hart longs for flowing streams,  
so longs my soul for you, O God:

Kyrie eleison.

**All**            **Kyrie eleison.**

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me:  
Christe eleison.

**All**            **Christe eleison.**

May we come to your altar, O God, the God of our salvation:  
Kyrie eleison.

**All**            **Kyrie eleison.**

## Absolution

May God our Father forgive † you your sins  
and bring you to the fellowship of his table in heaven  
with his saints for ever.

**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

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries  
    of your body and blood  
that we may know within ourselves  
and show forth in our lives  
the fruits of your redemption;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

***Please be seated***

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading      I Corinthians 11:23-26

*Reader*      A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*All*      This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm      116:10-17

How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

*All*      **I will offer you a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, O Lord.**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.

*All*      **I will offer you a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, O Lord.**

O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

*All*      **I will offer you a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, O Lord.**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
In the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**All** I will offer you a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, O Lord.

*Please stand*

Holy Gospel

John 6:51-58

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord.  
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

**All** Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you

**All** and also with you.

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

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

*Please be seated*

# The Nicene Creed

*Please stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may  
bow* ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

# Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest* Let us pray to the Lord.

***Please be seated***

*Intercessor* Lord, listen to the prayers of your people,  
gathered at your table.  
In faith we pray:

***All* we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his body  
to be our spiritual food,  
listen as we pray for his body the Church,  
spread throughout the world ...

In faith we pray:

***All* we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ,  
who takes away the sin of the world,  
listen as we pray for that world  
and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed ...

In faith we pray:

***All* we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we come together as Christ gathered with his friends  
to give us this meal of holy fellowship,  
listen as we pray for all whom you have given us,  
our friends and all whose lives are joined with ours ...

In faith we pray:

***All* we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we remember the night of Christ's agony and trial,  
listen as we pray for all who share his sufferings  
through fear or pain or distress of many kinds ...

In faith we pray:

***All* we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we join our praises with the whole company of heaven,  
listen as we pray for all who have trusted Christ's promise  
to raise up on the last day those who eat his flesh and  
drink his blood ...

In faith we pray:

**All**      **we pray to you our God.**

*Priest*      Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts,  
the bread of God which comes down from heaven  
and gives life to the world,  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All**      **Amen.**

**All stand**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

If, when you are bringing your gift to the altar,  
you remember your brother or sister has a grievance against you,  
leave your gift where it lies before the altar.  
Go, make peace; and only then come and offer your gift.

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

With an appropriate gesture, let us offer one another  
a sign of Christ's peace.

*Please be seated while the altar is prepared*

### Offertory Music

Offertoire sur les grands jeux    *Francois Couperin*

## 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

Gracious God,  
bestow upon your Church the gifts of unity and peace,  
now pledged for us in this bread and wine.  
We ask this through 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 indeed right and good,  
our duty and our salvation  
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our great high priest.

He offered himself to you as the Lamb without blemish,  
the acceptable gift that gives you perfect praise.  
At the Last Supper, seated with his apostles,  
he left this memorial of his passion  
to bring us its saving power until the end of time.

In this great sacrament you feed your people  
and strengthen them in holiness,  
so that throughout the world the human family  
may be enlightened by one faith  
and drawn together in one communion of love.  
We come to this foretaste of your heavenly banquet  
to be transformed by your grace  
and restored in the image and likeness of the risen Christ.

Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**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.**

*Please remain standing*

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction  
for the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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

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

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

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

Christ is the bread of life:

**All** **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,  
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,  
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
we offer you through him  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins  
and all other benefits of his passion.  
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,  
to offer you any sacrifice,  
yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe.  
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,  
and fill us all who share in this holy communion  
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

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*

## The Lord's Prayer

***Please be seated***

Let us pray to our Father in heaven  
as Jesus the Lamb of God 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

Creator of all, we have gathered many grains  
and made them into this one bread.

**All We look for your Church to be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into the kingdom.**

## 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.**

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him.'

*The congregation receive holy communion, in one kind, at their chairs*

## Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

*It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:*

### 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.**

## Communion Music

Communion in G W Wolstenholme

*The ablutions take place at the credence table*

*The Monstrance containing the Host is placed on the nave altar*

*The sanctuary party kneel at the communion rail*

*A period for silent adoration follows*

*The Priest alone rises*

## Prayer after Communion

*Priest* Let us pray:

All praise to you, our God and Father,  
for you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and quenched our thirst from the true vine:  
hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,  
we may grow together in unity  
and feast with him in his kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## ¶ The Corpus Christi Procession

*The Blessed Sacrament is honoured with incense*

### Processional Hymn

Interludes de Procession Pour Pange Lingua René Vierne

*The congregation remain in their places*

*When the Priest rises, he takes hold of the Monstrance  
with the humeral veil*

*The thurifer leads the servers, banner bearer, and sacred ministers in  
procession around the church encircling the congregation, before returning to  
the nave altar*

*At the end of the procession, the Blessed Sacrament is enthroned on the altar. A period of silent adoration follows.*

*The Priest alone stands*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial  
of your suffering and death.  
May our worship of this Blessed Sacrament  
help us to experience the salvation you won for us  
and the peace of the kingdom,  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All**     **Amen.**

## ¶ Benediction

*The Priest, holding the Monstrance and making the sign of the cross, blesses all present with the Blessed Sacrament.*

## The Divine Praises

**All**     Blessed be God.  
          **Blessed be God.**  
          Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity.     **(repeat each)**

Blessed be God the Father, maker of heaven and earth.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, truly divine and truly human.  
Blessed be the holy Name of Jesus.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of his body and blood.  
Blessed be God the Holy Spirit, the giver and sustainer of life.  
Blessed be God in the Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord and God.  
Blessed be God in the angels and saints.  
Blessed be God.

## Antiphon

Let us adore for ever, the Most Holy Sacrament.

**All**      **Let us adore for ever, the Most Holy Sacrament.**

## Psalm 117

O Praise the Lord, all ye nations:  
praise him, all ye peoples.  
For great is his steadfast love towards us:  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**All**      **Let us adore for ever, the Most Holy Sacrament.**

*A priest takes the monstrance to the Lady Chapel and the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the aumbrey. Bells are rung and **all stand**.*

## Organ Voluntary

Finale on 'Hyfrydol' *Hebry Coleman*

*The procession departs*

**Please depart via the north door** whilst maintaining physical distancing. A monetary offering may be made there. Please sanitize your hands as you leave. Assistance is available for those who require help negotiating the steps. You may remove your face covering when you are clear of the building.

**We may gather on the green** at the east end of the church building in physically distanced groups of up to thirty. At the request of family relations you are respectfully asked not to congregate either at the side of the church or the end of the Lady Chapel where their loved one's mortal remains have been interred. Thank you.

*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.*