

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Mass

*on the Wednesday of the Third Week
in Ordinary Time, Year One*



The parable of the sower

*Live streamed from the Vicarage
during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Wednesday 27th January 2021

7.30 pm

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

A quiet time is observed before Mass

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

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour
in his holy place.

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world
has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

A period of silent reflection

Kyrie Confession

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God
to ourselves:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse † us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Hebrews 10:11-18

Reader

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

'This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 110:1-4

The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.'

May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power;
rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.

All

The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.

'Noble are you on this day of your birth;
on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn
the dew of your new birth is upon you.'

The Lord has sworn and will not retract:

'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'

All

The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.

Holy Gospel

Mark 4:1-20

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower.

Whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.

All Alleluia.

The Lord of glory be with you

All and also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that "they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."' "

And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields

nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

Let us pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

After each petition

Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

After the final petition

All God of mercy,
you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship
of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ came and proclaimed the Gospel,
peace to those who are far off
and peace to those who are near.

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

As you are able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The altar is prepared

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, we pray that you will accept our offerings,
and in sanctifying them,
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation,
and have shown your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of the nations.

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

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his 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.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
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

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All **We being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

All **Into one body we were all baptized,
and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

Agnus Dei

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer 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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

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.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
grant that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

¶ Sending Out

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

The Blessing

May Christ draw you to humility and worship,
and bring you to see God at work;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

All Go out into the world in peace,
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.