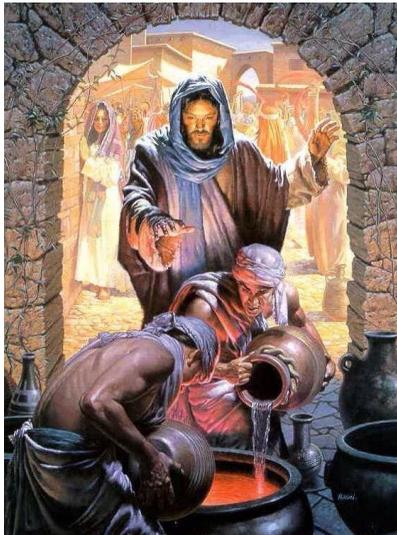


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The Wedding Feast at Cana

The Parish Mass

live streamed from the Vicarage
during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday 24th January 2021

10.15 am

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

The Greeting

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

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We have come together as God's family
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church,
and for the renewal of our common life.
Trusting that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy
let us in penitence and faith confess the sins which divide us.

Confession

All **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride,
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,
save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Kyries

Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon † and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
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.

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world:
forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through 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.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Revelation 19.6-10

Reader A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 128

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.

All How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.

Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.

Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord.

All How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord from out of Zion bless you,
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children,
and may there be peace upon Israel.

All How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

John 2.1-11

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.

All Alleluia.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

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

Drawn together by God,
let us bring to him our concerns for the Church and the world.

We pray that the Church may be a vibrant sign of God's life
in every generation and locality, serving, listening and loving,
with the human face of ordinary people lit with the brightness of God.

Direct us Lord:

All and we will follow.

We pray that the churches may discover again their visible unity
in the one baptism which incorporates them in Christ,
in communion around one eucharistic table,
in recognizing other's ministries in the service of their one Lord.

Direct us Lord:

All and we will follow.

We pray that the world's attention may be refocused
on what is of lasting value;
that in humility the leaders of the nations may hear the real needs,
honour them and act on them,
and establish and defend democracy, justice and peace.

Direct us Lord:

All and we will follow.

We pray for the households and neighbourhoods of our community.
May they be alert to the signs of glory around them
in the ordinary, daily miracles, and come to welcome Jesus as Lord.

Direct us Lord:

All and we will follow.

We pray that all who are searching for God
may realise his closeness to them;
that wrong lives may be courageously righted,
and damaged lives and attitudes mended.

We pray for the sick and suffering, and for the medical profession ...

All Direct us Lord:
and we will follow.

We pray that the dying may turn to you
and be safely led through that last journey
to the peace and joy of eternal life.

The Faithful Departed ...

We pray that we may all one day experience God's heaven.

All Direct us Lord:
and we will follow.

We pray that we may become increasingly aware
of God's amazing love for each of us,
until our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness and praise.

All Direct us Lord:
and we will follow.

A time for private prayer and reflection

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

As you are able, let us extend to each other
a sign of Christ's peace.

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, grant that we may participate in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn 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.**

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 **Christ is the bread of life:
When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you 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

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
As one family let us pray together as Jesus taught:

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 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:
**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 **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 God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Giving of Communion

Though many, we are one bread, one body,
for we all partake of the one Bread.

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 Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Affirmation of the Christian Way

As we follow the Way of Christ,
we affirm the presence of God among us,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God calls us to share in worship.
*Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.*

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in prayer.
Jesus said, remain in me, and I will remain in you.

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share the Scriptures.
*Jesus met his disciples on the road
and opened the Scriptures to them.*

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in communion.
Jesus said, do this in remembrance of me.

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in service.
Jesus said, as you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share the good news.
Jesus said, go and make disciples of all nations.

All **Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.**

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

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

The Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
All **Amen.**

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.
All **Amen.**

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.

