

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Baptism of Jesus

Year C



All-age Mass for the Parish Family
with the healing ministries

Sunday 9th January 2022



¶ Let's keep protecting each other

We're so grateful for everything you've done to help keep each other safe. Every time you've sanitised your hands, worn a face covering and kept a safe distance, it's made a real difference. So from all of us, thank you. We all hope and pray brighter days are coming. But we want to reassure you that your safety remains our top priority.

Face coverings

Following the Government's implementation of the Covid 'Plan B' worshippers are once again required by law to wear a face covering in places of worship. This must be worn by all unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups, or when fulfilling an exempted activity. The mask must cover your nose as well as your mouth to be effective. There is now strong evidence that face coverings help both to reduce spread and provide protection from Covid.

Social distancing

We ask you to respect one another's space, spread out, and take advantage of our spacious environment. Individual chairs remain available in the transepts.

Hand hygiene

Please use the hand sanitiser provided as you enter and leave church. As far as possible, we ask that you keep the touching of other surfaces to a minimum.

Toilet facilities

The church toilet facilities are available for use.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at the front of the nave as indicated in the service booklet. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

Live streaming

Please note that Sunday morning services, and other occasional services, may be live streamed via this website and on Facebook.

Church heating - *please note that in accordance with official guidance the fan assisted heating system is turned off during services to restrict the spread of aerosol.*

Our thanks are due to *Anonymous donor No. 1*
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

Welcome to St Matthew's Church

Even though Jesus was without sin, nevertheless, he joined sinners and was baptised by John the Baptist. Jesus joins us now as we meet to celebrate the Eucharist in his name. Let us draw near to him who is the messenger of the Father's love and mercy.

Reflection

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes
so that we may see the signs of your presence
in our lives and in the world.
Touch our ears so that we may hear your word.
Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.
Touch our hands so that we may give and receive.
Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths.
Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways.
Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will.
Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love
to our brothers and sisters,
to the praise and glory of God.
Amen.

Setting

Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*



Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

The Easter Candle is lit

All stand at the sound of the bell

Call to Worship

Priest The voice of the Lord is strong and mighty
and calls you to worship.
The voice of the Lord is gentle and soothing
and affirms your worship.
The voice of the Lord is loving and eternal
and receives your worship with joy.

Hymn

The procession enters from the West End led by a member of the congregation carrying a ewer of water. On reaching the sanctuary, the ewer is placed in front of the nave altar

The flags are presented

All sing **Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star,
 To the sages from afar;
 Branch of royal David's stem
 In thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to thee address,
 God in Man made manifest.**

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
In thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine:
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Mirrored in thy holy word;
May we imitate thee now,
And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we like to thee may be
At thy great Epiphany;
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in Man made manifest.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Music: St Edmund
Charles Steggall (1826-1905)

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

The Greeting and Introduction

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

Welcome to our all age service
which takes place on the day we celebrate Jesus' baptism
in the river Jordan.
God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.
The Father spoke from heaven,
the Spirit descended as a dove
and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.
Here is the door of the Christian faith,
through which we enter the kingdom of heaven.
As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters,
and called out to proclaim the wonder of him
who called us out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Saying Sorry to God

God has united us with Jesus through the waters of baptism,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
So let us return to the Lord, renew our faith
and say sorry to God.

Confession

All **God our Father,**
always patient, full of love and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn away from us, or cast us aside.

**We confess that we have sinned against you,
and forgotten that we are to be like you.
Restore us and make us new
and bring us safely home to heaven
by following Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

God's Forgiveness

*May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive † us our sins,
wash us clean and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

All **Amen.**

Glory to God

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 Opening Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

All sit

¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading

Acts 8.14-17

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

All stand

Acclamation

All Alleluia ...

Choir A voice came from heaven and said, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

All **Alleluia** ...

The Lord of glory be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn

The Choir come and sit in the Nave

All

**Baptised in water,
Sealed by the Spirit
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
Heirs of salvation,
Trusting his promise -
Faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptised in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
One with his rising,
Freed and forgiven
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptised in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our king;
Born of one Father,
We are his children -
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Words: Michael Seward (1932-2015)

Music: Bunessan
Old Gaelic Melody

Talk / Presentation

All sit

The themes of the day are briefly explored

Vidi Aquam

*Choir I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, alleluia;
and all they to whom that water came were saved,
and they shall say, alleluia, alleluia.*

Praise the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.

*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 stand

¶ Renewing the Promises at Baptism

At the baptistry

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.
We thank God for the gift of baptism by which Christ loves us
and welcomes us into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support one another on your journey of faith?
All We will.

God knows each of us by name and we are his.
Will you help one another to live and grow within God's family?
All We will.

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?
All **I do.**

Do you reject evil?
All **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
All **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord?
All **I do.**

Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.
All **Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.
All **Amen.**

We Believe

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.
All **This is our faith.**
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Prayers to God

From the ambo

Priest Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for you are ever with us and never leave us.
You are our Creator, our Redeemer and Guide.
We come to you. We belong to you.
We will return to you.
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Intercessor We give you thanks for all your baptized and faithful people.
May we all rejoice in your presence and in your power.
We ask your blessing on all who are being prepared for baptism,
confirmation and ordination.
We pray for Church schools and Sunday schools,
for Bible classes and study groups.
We remember all who are seekers and long to know you.

Hear us and help us,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We pray for all who are beginning new work or new ventures.
We remember especially any who are leaving home for the first
time.
We ask your blessing upon those forming new relationships and
all who are newly married.
We pray for those who have the care of young families
and we remember any who are struggling at this time.

Hear us and help us,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We give thanks for our own homes and loved ones.
We ask your blessing upon our parents and godparents,
upon our children and godchildren.
We pray for all who influence our lives by their teaching and
example.

Hear us and help us,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We pray for all who are struggling with life, those who are
burdened with guilt or anger, all who have memories that disturb
them.

We remember all who are ill at home or in hospital, especially
any who feel lonely or unwanted. (*The acutely ill ...*)

We pray for all who have been taken into care this week.

Hear us and help us,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We give thanks for all who have enriched our lives by their
goodness and care.

We pray for friends and loved ones, who are departed from us.
(*The recently departed ... Anniversaries of death ...*)

May they know your love in the fullness of life eternal.

Hear us and help us,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Priest Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

*Members of the uniformed organizations may also be invested
or presented with awards etc.*

¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

Hymn

(As a precautionary measure, no collection will be taken during the service. A monetary offering may be made at the end of the service)

All The sinless one to Jordan came
 To share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
 And chose the path his Father willed.

 Uprising from the waters there,
 The voice from heaven did witness bear
That he, the Son of God, had come
 To lead his scattered people home.

 Above him see the heavenly Dove,
 The sign of God the Father's love,
Now by the Holy Spirit shed
 Upon the Son's anointed head.

 How blessed that mission then begun
 To heal and save a race undone;
Straight to the wilderness he goes
 To wrestle with his people's foes.

 Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
 Go forth with you, a world to win;
And send the Holy Spirit's power
 To shield them in temptation's hour.

**On you shall all your people feed
And know you are the Bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
That with you died, and with you rose.**

Words: George B Timms (1910-1997)
based on Mark 1 vs 9-11 from English Praise (adapted)

Music: Solothurn
Swiss traditional melody

Offering the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Father, we celebrate with great joy
the day when Jesus revealed himself as your beloved Son
who takes away the sins of the world.
Accept these gifts of bread and wine
that we may become one with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

All The Lord of glory 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.

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us the gift of baptism
that we may be made one with Jesus as his children
by your Holy Spirit,
and follow our calling.
You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All sing

**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 thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Children
All*

**Why do we share this bread and wine?
Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with Mary and Joseph and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

If you are able, please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, we are your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit, and so we pray:

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.

Sign of Christ's 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.

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

The children and their leaders return to their seats

Please sit

Breaking of the Bread

All We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven.

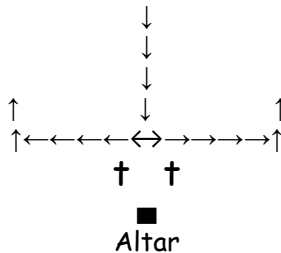
All **Lord, give us this bread for ever.**

The clergy and other ministers receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

This is he of whom John said: 'There is one coming later who can do more than I can. I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God.'

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated below. Please approach the clergy via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing. If you wish to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.



Healing ministries

Please note that having received holy communion or a blessing all are invited to receive the laying on of hands and the sacrament of anointing in the Lady Chapel.

Spiritual Communion - *for those watching 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.

The choir sing Agnus Dei

Motet

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Choir Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Quiet time for prayer and reflection

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

All stand

All **Loving God,
you shine on us and meet our every need.
Teach us to walk in the strength of this food
as children of your light,
so that we may truly be your beloved sons and daughters.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

The flags are returned to their bearers

All

When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon,
But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Music: Offertorium
Melody adapted from
Johann Michael Hayden (1737-1806)

¶ **Going out to Serve God**

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

God's Blessing

God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;

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

All **Amen.**

Sending Out

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Allegro from Six Short Preludes and Postludes set 2

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The procession departs

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary

Collection

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church using the receptacle provided at the back of church.

If you are a tax payer, please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may in addition benefit from the Gift Aid associated with your giving.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.

Next Sunday at 5.30pm

Epiphany Carol Service
by candlelight

Our next all age service

The Fourth Sunday before Lent

Sunday 6th February at 10.15am

**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 4LB
Tel: 01604 791451 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk