

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 15 Year C



*'I came to bring fire to the earth,
and how I wish it were already kindled!*

The Parish Mass

Sunday 14th August 2022

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

This morning's Gospel is a great comfort to us, especially in times of sorrow and trouble. But it is also a great challenge. It challenges us to shun darkness and to opt for the light, to be with Christ rather than against him. It contains two sayings about the nature of Jesus's mission. His coming marks a time for making decisions. His followers will have to make crucial choices; they will have to choose to be for him or against him. Choosing for him may divide them from family members. In the early Church, conversion was likely to cause a family row. The convert was rejected by the family, and had therefore to make a choice between Christ and the family.

Reflection

The two roads

Jesus said that there are two roads we can follow.
The first is wide and easy to travel.
It us downhill most of the way.
It is the way of comfort and ease, pleasure and self-seeking.
Many are fooled and travel down this road.
But in the long run it leads them nowhere.
They die in the desert.
The second road is narrow and difficult.
It is uphill a lot of the way.
It is the way of struggle and sacrifice.
Few take this road.
But they are the lucky ones.
This road leads to the Promised Land.



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Please stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

The procession enters

All

**Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords, and King of kings,
With thy living fire of judgement
Purge this realm of bitter things:
Solace all its wide dominion
With the healing of thy wings.**

**Still the weary folk are pining
For the hour that brings release:
And the city's crowded clangour
Cries aloud for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands
Plead in silence for their peace.**

**Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
Cleave our darkness with thy sword,
Feed the faithless and the hungry
With the richness of thy word:
Cleanse the body of this nation
Through the glory of the Lord.**

Words: Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918) Music: Rhuddlan

All † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
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 says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins 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

Lord Jesus, you hear us when we cry to you for help:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You strengthen us when we are weak and indecisive:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You shed your light on us when we are in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Priest Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive † you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
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.

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

All

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.

§ *Please be seated*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23.23-29

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response **Arise, O God, and judge the earth.**

Reader God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:
'How long will you judge unjustly
and show such favour to the wicked? **Response**

'You were to judge the weak and the orphan;
defend the right of the humble and needy;
'Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked. **Response**

'They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are shaken. **Response**

‘Therefore I say that though you are gods
and all of you children of the Most High,
‘Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like one of their princes.’
Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for it is you that shall take all nations for your possession.

Response

Psalm 82

§ Please stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

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



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

Open our heart, O Lord to accept the words of your Son.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luke 12.49-56

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Musical notation for the phrase "This is the Gospel of the Lord." The notation is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and key of D major. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The second measure starts with a half note D5, followed by quarter notes C5 and B4. The third measure starts with a half note A4, followed by quarter notes G4 and F#4. The fourth measure is a whole note G4. The piece ends with a double bar line. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed above the first measure. The lyrics "Praise to you, O Christ." are written below the notes.

The Homily

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

Let us pray that we may strive to enter the Kingdom
through the narrow gate.

§ *Please kneel or sit*

After each petition

Intercessor
All

Holy and Strong One,
help us to keep our eyes fixed on you.

Merciful God,
fill our hearts with your love,
and keep us faithful to you and to the Gospel.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

§ *Please stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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.

Please respect the needs of those who prefer to do so without physical contact

The Offertory

The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest.

The altar is prepared.

Hymn

All **For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Chorus**

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Chorus

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Chorus

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Chorus

For thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
This pure sacrifice of love:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

Words: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Music: England's Lane

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, receive our oblation
by which is brought about a glorious exchange,
that, by offering what you have given us,
we may be found worthy to receive your very self.
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All



Dy-ing you de-stroyed our death, ris-ing you re-stored our life: Lord Jes-us, come in glo-ry.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Matthew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
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



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Please kneel or sit*

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **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

With the Lord there is mercy; with him is plenteous redemption.

*Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches
are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*The Blessed Sacrament is available in both kinds (bread and wine).
If you prefer to receive the consecrated bread only, please feel free to do so.*

*Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet
with you as a sign.*

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 **Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessed Jesu, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
So shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
In death's dread moments make me only thine:
Call me and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

Word and music: *Anima Christi sanctifica me*,
attributed to Pope John XXII (1249-1334)
Anonymous English translation

A period of silent reflection and thanksgiving is observed

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Please stand*

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

All

Amen.

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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)

Music: Hereford

Notices for the Community

§ *Please be seated*

¶ Sending Out

§ *Please stand*

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Father,
 who fed his children with bread and honey in the wilderness,
 strength you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land.
Amen.

All May the Son,
 who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,
 keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit,
 who lead us into all truth,
 help you discern the Lord's body
 and empower you to proclaim his death until he comes.
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

All The mass in ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 – 1876)

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

Refreshments are being served in the parish centre, please do join us

If you are a newcomer to the parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.

This evening at 5.30 pm Evening Prayer is said in Quire

Collection – responding to God’s generosity

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 - £3, £5, or £10, 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.



*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 8
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.**

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