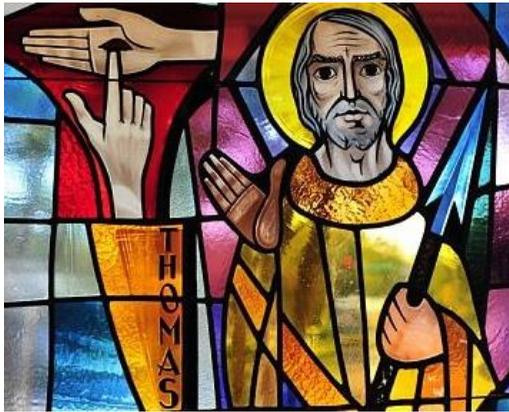


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

## St Thomas the Apostle



*Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have come to believe."*

All Age Mass for the Parish Family

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022

10.15 am

# *Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church*

## Saint Thomas the Apostle

Thomas has been given a bad press because of the story that forms today's Gospel. When days were chosen to celebrate the feasts of the apostles, Thomas was given the shortest day, 21 December, on account of his doubting that Jesus was risen. The man who appeared short of faith was deemed to have strength to cope only with the one day of the year when least might be expected to happen.

Perhaps this was unjust. Thomas is credited with being the apostle who took the gospel to India. This was presumably ignored by those in western Europe who chose the days for celebrating festivals. And, with the discovery of land south of the equator, where 21 December is actually the longest day, we might have to admit that Thomas has been an unsung hero for too long.

His feast has been moved to the date on which his supposed relics were translated from India to Edessa in Mesopotamia, where a shrine was erected in the fourth century. In the Eastern Churches St Thomas' Day was naturally celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.



# Order of Service

## ¶ Gathering to Worship God

*All stand at the sound of the bell*

### Call to Worship

*Priest* The Lord our God is faithful and his word can be trusted.  
Let us welcome him into our hearts on the feast of St  
Thomas, and receive the assurance of everlasting joy.

### Hymn

*The flags are presented*

*All*           **Through the night of doubt and sorrow  
                  onward goes the pilgrim band,  
                  singing songs of expectation,  
                  marching to the promised land.**

**Clear before us, through the darkness,  
                  gleams and burns the guiding light;  
so we march in hope united,  
                  stepping fearless through the night.**

**One the light of God's own presence  
                  o'er his ransomed people shed,  
chasing far the gloom and terror,  
                  brightening all the path we tread;**

**One the object of our journey,  
one the faith which never tires,  
one the earnest looking forward,  
one the hope our God inspires:**

**One the song that lips of thousands  
lift as from the heart of one:  
one the conflict, one the peril,  
one the march in God begun:**

**One the gladness of rejoicing  
on the far eternal shore,  
where the one almighty Father  
reigns in love for evermore.**

Words: Danish, Bernhardt Severin Ingemann (1789-1862)  
trans Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Marching  
Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

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

## The Greeting

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

*The service is introduced*

## Saying Sorry to God

Thomas said to Jesus, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going.  
How can we know the way?'  
We confess that we have despaired; we have not known your way.  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Thomas doubted that Lazarus could be raised,  
but was content to die for him.  
We confess our lack of trust and vision.  
Strengthen us when we despair,  
that we may know you as the resurrection and the life.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*     **Christ, have mercy.**

Thomas would not believe unless he saw.  
Lord, we confess that we put you to the test.  
Do not bring us to the time of trial.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*     **Lord, have mercy.**

## God's Forgiveness

*Priest*    May the God of love and power  
forgive † and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life with Jesus 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

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,  
who allowed your apostle Thomas  
to doubt the resurrection of your Son  
till word and sight convinced him:  
grant to us who have not seen,  
that we also may believe  
and so confess Jesus as our Lord and our God;  
who is alive and reigns  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

# ¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually<sup>1</sup> into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2.19-end

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

### Acclamation

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



Jesus said, 'Have you believed because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to  
believe.'

*All* **Alleluia ...**

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

*All*

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



*All*

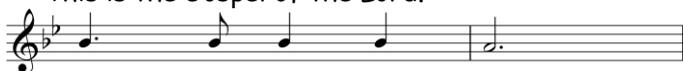
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

John 20.24-29

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*All*

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk / Presentation

**All sit**

*The themes of the day are briefly explored*

## We Believe

*All stand*

Let us declare our shared faith in the Risen Lord.

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

*All kneel or sit*

*Priest* Let us pray to God, who through the resurrection of his Son,  
strengthens us in hope and in love.

*Intercessor* Lord, we thank you for calling us to follow you  
and to share in your outreach to all peoples.  
We ask your blessing upon all who go out to preach the word,  
upon all pastors and shepherds of your flock.  
Give us all the wisdom to follow in your steps  
and to bring others to know and love you.

We pray for all who are involved in mission  
and in spreading the Good News through teaching and example.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us;

*All*     **O Lord, be our helper.**

We give you thanks that you give us strength  
and courage through your presence.

We pray for all whose work appears to be meaningless  
or fruitless.

We remember those who are virtually slaves  
and work for a very small income.

We ask your blessing upon all who have been made redundant  
and all who are unemployed.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us;

*All*     **O Lord, be our helper.**

We praise you, O God, for the love and protection of our homes.

We ask your blessing upon each of our loved ones,  
our families and friends.

We pray for homes where there is little joy or love.

We remember all who are struggling with their relationships  
and all who feel lonely or unwanted.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us;

*All*     **O Lord, be our helper.**

Lord, we ask your blessing upon all who are discouraged  
or despondent at this time,

upon all who feel that life is not worthwhile.

May they know of your love and your presence.

We pray for all who are ill at home or hospital,  
(*the acutely ill ...* )

all who are fearful of the future  
and anxious about others.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us;

*All*     **O Lord, be our helper.**

We give thanks for the risen Lord,  
ever-present and welcoming us to the fullness of eternal life.  
We pray for those who are departed from us;  
(*the recently departed ... anniversaries ...* ).  
May they share with your saints in the joy of your kingdom.

*All*      **Amen.**

[Uniformed Organisations]

[*All sit*]

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

## ¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

Hymn

*All stand*

*The bread and wine are brought forward*

*(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*

**Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!**  
**On that first morning of the week,**  
**Before the day began to break,**  
**The Marys went their Lord to seek. Alleluya!**

**That night the Apostles met in fear,**  
**Amidst them came their Lord most dear,**  
**And said: 'Peace be unto you here!' Alleluya!**

When Thomas afterwards had heard  
That Jesus had fulfilled his word,  
He doubted if it were the Lord. *Alleluya!*

'Thomas, behold my side,' saith he,  
'My hands, me feet, my body see;  
'And doubt not, but believe in me.' *Alleluya!*

No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
'Thou art my Lord and God,' he cried. *Alleluya!*

Blessèd are they that have not seen,  
And yet whose faith hath constant been,  
In life eternal they shall reign. *Alleluya!*

And we with Holy Church unite,  
As evermore is just and right,  
In glory to the King of Light. *Alleluya!*

Words: *O filii et filiae* Jean Tisserand (died 1494)  
translated by John M Neale (1818?1866)

*The children are invited to stand either side of the altar*

## Offering the Bread and Wine

Lord, we offer you our service  
and ask you to keep safe your gifts in us,  
as we celebrate the life of your apostle Saint Thomas.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Prayer over the Bread and Wine

*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.**

*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 an example of faith and obedience.  
May we who have not seen come to believe  
that you are our Lord and God.

*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.**

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* Why do we share this bread and wine?

*Adults* **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, Matthew and Thomas  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

*All*     **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to God who is our resurrection and our life:

*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 Peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints  
and of the household of God, though Christ our Lord,  
who came and preached peace to those who were far off  
and those who were near.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

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

*The children and their leaders return to their seats*

*Please sit or kneel*

## 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.**

## Lamb of God

*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

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, 'Alleluia.'  
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

*All*      **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

*The clergy and other ministers receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Put your finger here and see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it in my side.  
Do not doubt but believe.'

*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*

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**You have come to us,**

**You are one with us,**

**Mary's Son;**

**Cleansing our souls from all their sin,**

**Pouring your love and goodness in;**

**Jesus, our love for you we sing,**

**Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Now and every day**

**Teach us how to pray,**

**Son of God.**

**You have commanded us to do**

**This in remembrance, Lord, of you;**

**Into our lives your power breaks through,**

**Living Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
Born as one of us,  
    Mary's Son;  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
Risen from death to set us free,  
Living Lord Jesus, help us see  
    You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
Live my life for you,  
    Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
Your many gifts will make me new,  
Into my life your power breaks through,  
    Living Lord.

Words and music: Patrick Robert Norman Appleford (1925-2018)

## Thanksgiving after Communion

Let us pray:

*All stand*

*All* Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Hymn

## *The flags are returned to their bearers*

All

All my hope on God is founded;  
He doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
He alone  
Calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray his trust;  
What with care and toil he buildeth,  
Tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
Hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
Splendour, light and life attend him,  
Beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore  
From his store  
New-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver  
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
His desire our soul delighteth,  
Pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
At his hand;  
Joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done,  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
One and all:  
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: *Meine Hoffnung stehet feste*  
Joachim Neander (1650-1680)  
paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Music: Michael  
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

## Notices for the Community

*All sit*

### ¶ Going out to Serve God

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

### God's Blessing

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations,  
bring you, with all the saints,  
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All*     **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Music

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 553     *J S Bach (1685-1750)*

*The procession departs*

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

*Refreshments are served after Mass, please join us.*

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## 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 10  
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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