

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year B



'I am the vine, you are the branches'

The Parish Mass
with Reception into the Communion
of the Church of England

Sunday 28th April 2024

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

The allegory of the vine and the branches stresses the unity that exists between Christ and his disciples. Christ is the vine; the disciples are the branches. Vine and branches need each other. The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. And the branches cannot have life if separated from the vine.

The Father is the vinedresser. The branches need to be pruned (by trials) in order to become fruitful. (St Paul is a good example). By their fruitfulness they will bring glory to the Father, and prove themselves disciples of Christ.

Reception into the Communion of the Church of England

With great joy this morning we receive Jonathan Stuart into the Communion of the Church of England. Jonathan, who was confirmed within the Roman Catholic Church, sings tenor in our choir, and henceforth will be receiving holy communion as part of our worshipping community. Please remember Jonathan, and Gail, his wife, in your prayers.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following reflection, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the bond you formed with us,
and for the bond that exists between us because of our union with you.
Thanks to this bond we have invisible riches to share with one another.
Grant that we may never be separated from you,
so that we may produce in the world the fruits of faith, hope, and love.

Setting

Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ **Stand** at the sound of the bell

Hymn

The procession enters

All **I AM** the light whose brightness shines
 On every pilgrim's way,
And brings to evil's darkest place
 The glorious light of day.

I am the gate that leads to life
 Along the narrow way,
The shepherd who will tend my sheep
 That none are lost or stray.

I am the well from whose fresh springs
 Life-giving water flows
And on each side a tree of life
 With leaves for healing grows.

I am the bread, **God's gift** from heaven,
 Send down to satisfy
That hunger which cries out for food;
 Who eats shall never die.

I am the vine whose branches grow
 United in one root;
Who dwell in me, and I in them,
 Shall live and bear much fruit.

I am the resurrection life,
 The power of God whereby
Whoever truly trusts in me
 Shall live and never die.

**I am the way, the truth, the life,
And truth shall set you free
To seek and find the way to life
And live that life in me.**

Words Robert Willis (born 1947)

*Music Richmond
Melody by Thomas Haweis (1733-1820)
harmonised by Samuel Webbe, the elder (1740-1816)*

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Easter Proclamation

All Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Every Christian is linked to Christ and to all other Christians.
Jesus said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches.'
This is a beautiful image of closeness and interdependence.
But it is also a challenging one.
Alas, we sometimes forget the Lord, ignore others,
and live for ourselves alone.
Let us confess our sins of word, deed, and omission.

A pause for reflection

Confession

All **God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life
 in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

 Lord Jesus, you are the vine, we are the branches.
 Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

 Separated from you and from one another our lives become barren.
 Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

 But united with you and with one another our lives become fruitful.
 Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

 May the God of love and power
 forgive † and free you from your sins,
 heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
 and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo	<i>Glory to God in the highest</i>
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	<i>and on earth peace to men of goodwill.</i>
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	<i>We praise you. We bless you.</i>
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	<i>We worship you. We glorify you.</i>
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	<i>We give thanks to you for your great glory.</i>
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,	<i>Lord God, heavenly King,</i>
Deus Pater omnipotens,	<i>almighty God the Father,</i>
Domine Filii unigenite, Jesu Christe.	<i>O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.</i>
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>You take away the sins of the world,</i>
miserere nobis.	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>You take away the sins of the world,</i>
suscipe deprecationem nostram.	<i>receive our prayer.</i>
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,	<i>You sit at the right hand of the Father,</i>
miserere nobis.	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.	<i>For you only are holy. You only are the Lord.</i>
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.	<i>You only are the most high, Jesus Christ.</i>
Cum Sancto Spiritu	<i>With the Holy Spirit</i>
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.	<i>in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</i>

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
 you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

The Acts of the Apostles

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8.26-40

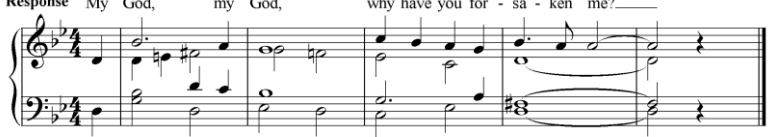
All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Christopher Tambling

Response My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me? _____



The musical notation is for a response in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me?". The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final measure containing a whole note and a fermata.

Choir From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever. **Response**

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations. **Response**

How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
They shall come and make known his salvation,
to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **Response**

Psalm 22.25-31

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

All **Alleluia.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord, al - le - lu - ia.

Jesus said to the eleven, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15.1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, O Christ, al - le - lu - ia.

Homily

§ Sit



Reception into the Communion of the Church of England

Presentation of the Candidate

The candidate is presented to the congregation

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The Decision

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

The priest and candidate for Reception gather at the baptismal font

Vidi Aquam is sung by the choir

The Apostles' Creed

§ *Stand*

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess together with this candidate the faith of the Church.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

All Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Declaration

You are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

I do.

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England?

I do.

Will you take part with us in worship and mission?

I will.

The candidate seeking Reception comes forward to the font and signs himself with water

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All

Amen.

The priest and candidate return to the dais step

Reception into the Communion of the Church of England

The candidate kneels and the priest extends his hands towards the candidate

God of mercy and love,
by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body
and made to drink of the one Spirit;
we thank you for the gifts you have given to this your servant
for the building up of the body of Christ.

Grant that he may continue in the life of the Spirit
and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ.
By the same Spirit, fill the whole Church
with your overflowing love;
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,
and steadfastness in your service,
until we all come to the unity of the faith,
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,
through whom we make our prayer.

All **Amen.**

The priest takes the hand of each person to be received, saying

Jonathan, we recognize you as a member of the one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church;
and we receive you into the communion of the Church of England
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The priest invites the congregation to pray for Jonathan

All **Defend, O Lord, this your servant with your heavenly grace,
that he may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Christ wanted his followers to be united with him and with one another.
Let us pray that this unity may become a reality.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, you abide in us;
All **may we abide in you.**

After the final petition

Priest Almighty and ever-living God,
fill our hearts with your love.
Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness,
and keep us faithful to you and to one another.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'I am the vine, you are the branches.
Separated from me you can do nothing;
united with me you will bear much fruit.'

Strengthen the bonds that united us with you and with one another,
so that we may enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.

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

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

Hymn

§ *A collection is taken. Please give as you are able.
Details of alternative ways of giving are detailed at the end of this booklet.*

§ *The bread and wine are received by the presiding priest
and the altar is prepared*

All **CHRIST the Lord is risen again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
Singing evermore on high,
Alleluya!**

**He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb today!
We too sing for joy, and say
Alleluya!**

**He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the cross,
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us, and hears our cry.
*Alleluya!***

**He whose path no records tell,
Who descended into hell;
Who the strong man armed hath bound,
And in highest heaven is crowned.
*Alleluya!***

**Now he bids us tell abroad
How the lost may be restored,
How the penitent forgiven,
How we too may enter heaven.
*Alleluya!***

**Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today thy people feed;
Take our sins and guilt away,
That we all may sing for ay,
*Alleluya!***

Words German, Michael Weisse (c1480-1534)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music Württemberg
Melody adapted and harmonized by
William Henry Monk (1823-1889
from 'Staf mich nicht', *Hundert Arien*, 1694

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 God, who by the wonderful exchange of these sacrificial gifts
make us partakers of your divine nature,
grant, we pray, that we may come to know your truth,
and make it ours by a worthy way of life,
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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

Choir

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of power and might.
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domine.
Osanna in excelsis

*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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain.

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 company with Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
and all the apostles and 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

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

Invitation to Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

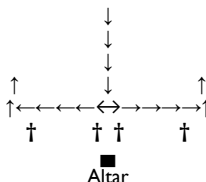
All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Giving of Communion

I am the true vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, alleluia.

*Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches
are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion, as shown below.*

*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.*



Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

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.

Agnus Dei

Choir Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Grant us peace.*

Motet

Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Choir

Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past
the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear upon the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come,
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Song of Solomon 2.10-12a, 13b (KJV)

Hymn

All

**BREAD of heaven, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever may our souls be fed
With this true and living bread,
Day by day with strength supplied
Through the life of him who died.**

**Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
This blessed cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give;
To thy cross we look and live:
Thou our life! O let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee.**

Words Josiah Conder (1798-1855)
William Dalrymple MacLagan (1826-1910)

Music Bread of Heaven

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Faithful God,
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,
made us members of the body of Christ
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:
we thank you that in this Eucharist
 you renew your promises within us,
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to service,
and send us out as disciples of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

All **YOU shall go out with joy
And come again in peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall sing and never cease;
The Son of God is risen again,
His love has conquered death's domain.**

**The trees in every field
Shall clap their hands, and say
'Come shout aloud, and help
Us celebrate this day!'
Jesus, the King, has burst the grave,
And lives once more to heal and save.**

**The Word, like rain or snow,
Has come down from above,
And now reveals to all
God's purposes of love;
The Word made flesh, once dead, now lives,
New life to all he freely gives.**

**The myrtle for the briar,
The cypress for the thorn,
Shall rise to tell the world
Of its awakening dawn.
Jesus, the life, the truth, the way,
Has ushered in God's great new day.**

Words Nicholas Thomas Wright (b 1948)
based on *Isaiah* 55.10-13

Music Christchurch
Charles Steggall (1826-1905)

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May you be fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine.
Amen.

All May your love not be mere words but something real and active.
Amen.

All May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness
so that you may be blameless in his sight.
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.

Sung Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ___

All

In the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ___

Please turn towards the Madonna and Child sculpture

Regina Caeli

All **Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluya** *9 rings*
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluya
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluya
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluya.

Tune The Easter hymn

All Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluya
for the Lord is risen indeed, alleluya.

All God of life, you have given joy to the world *9 rings*
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,
bring us to the happiness of eternal life;
we ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Festival Prelude on "Victory" *Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)*

The procession departs

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

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

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

This evening at 5.30 pm
Congregational Evensong

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. UK tax-payers are asked to use the gift-aid envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may claim an additional 25% of the donation from the government, at no additional cost to the donor. If you wish to give regularly, please contact the Parish Office (01604 791251) and ask for a member of our Stewardship Group.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, 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 Christine Bentley
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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