

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Sunday Next before Lent

Year B



The Transfiguration by Raphael, 1515-1520

The Parish Mass

Sunday 11th February 2024

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

The transfiguration came at a crucial moment in Jesus' ministry. So, he climbed a high mountain to meet with God. As when Moses met with God on the sacred mountain, Jesus' appearance changed too. And there by his side stood two giants of Israel's history, Moses and Elijah.

Like the story of Jesus' baptism, the transfiguration is an epiphany story. In both there is a voice, and the voice says the same words: 'This is my Son, the Beloved.' The cloud is a sign of the presence of God. Moses represents the law, Elijah the prophets. Thus Jesus is seen as bringing the law and the prophets to fulfilment.

It is no longer possible to say exactly what happened on the mountain. But its first and chief significance was for Jesus himself. It was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. But it also benefitted the apostles, and it is that that Mark emphasises. In the transfiguration they were given a glimpse of the glory of the risen Jesus. In retrospect it confirmed them in the belief that Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God.

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:

Reflection

On Mount Tabor the apostles got a glimpse of the glory that belonged to Jesus as the Son of God.

So wonderful was this experience that Peter exclaimed, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.'

And surely it is good for us to be here this morning.

Lord, we thank you for bringing us here, because here we get a glimpse of *our* glory, for we too are children of God and heirs of eternal life.

May our lives reflect the glory for which we are destined.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne



Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, all stand*

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **TRANSFIGURED Christ, none comprehends
Your majesty, whose splendour stuns
All waking souls; whose light transcends
The brightness of a thousand suns!**

**You stand with Moses on the hill,
You speak of your new exodus:
The way through death, you will fulfil
By dying helpless on the cross.**

**You stand here with Elijah too,
By whom the still small voice was heard:
And you, yourself, will prove God true,
Made mute in death, Incarnate Word.**

**If we could bear your brightness here
And stay for ever in your light,
Then we would conquer grief and fear,
And scorn the terrors of the night.**

**But, from the heights, you bring us down,
To share earth's agonies with you,
Where piercing thorns are made your crown
And death, accepted, proves love true.**

**Majestic Christ, God's well-loved Son,
If we must share your grief and loss,
Transfigure us, when all is done,
With glory shining from your cross.**

Words Alan Gaunt (born 1935)

Music Bow Brickhill
Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

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

When Christ appears we shall be like him,
because we shall see him as he is.
As he is pure,
all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.
So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
and your justice as the great deep:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse † you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
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 Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
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

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Second Book of the Kings.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I

will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’

Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’

Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Kings 2:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response



Philip Moore

Let the hea-vens de-clare his right-eous-ness, for God him-self is judge.

Choir The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth;
our God comes and will not keep silence. **Response**

Consuming fire goes out before him
 and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
 He calls the heaven above,
 and the earth, that he may judge his people: **Response**

‘Gather to me my faithful,
 who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.’
 Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
 for God himself is judge. **Response**

Psalm 50.1-6

Holy Gospel

§ Please stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
 2. Choir and Congregation

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

From a bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard:
 ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased;
 listen to him!’

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

All

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

All

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the

Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Mark 9.2-9

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



The Homily

The Nicene Creed

§ 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

Priest God is on our side.
Therefore, let us bring our needs before him,
confident that we will receive a sympathetic hearing.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Glorious God,
All **grant us a glimpse of your glory.**

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father,
you have asked us to listen to your Son.
We know that you listen to us when we pray through him,
who live and reigns with you and the Holy spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,
on the mountain the apostles got a glimpse of the glory
that belongs to you as the Son of God,
and where filled with joy.
Grant that as we celebrate the Eucharist,
we may get a glimpse of our glory as God's adopted children,
and thus we will enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.

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.

Hymn

The Gifts are presented and the altar is prepared

All **PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is
thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work, and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, who when darkness
of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph,
all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth his light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with his mercy surrounding.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that
is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now
with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

Words German, Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music Lobe den Herren
Melody in *Erneuertem Gesanbuchs*, 1665
adapted by Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

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

Lord, make our gifts holy,
free us from our sins,
and bring us also to that radiant glory
which we see in the transfigured face of 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

mf *cresc.* *f*

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

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,
St 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 **Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to death for our sake.
Let us pray to the God of love as Jesus the beloved Son 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

My flesh is food indeed,
and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

All **Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
dwell in me and I in them.**

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

When Christ is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

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.

Motet

Sacerdotes Domini

William Byrd 1539/40-1623)

Hymn

All

**THEE we adore, O hidden Saviour, thee,
Who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.**

**O blest memorial of our dying Lord,
Who living bread to man doth here afford!
O may our souls forever feed on thee,
And thou, O Christ, for ever precious be.**

**Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God,
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
The hope and peace which from thy presence flow.**

**O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace.**

Words *Adoro te devoto, latens Deitas*
St Thomas Aquinas OP (c.1227-1274)
James Russell Woodford (1820-1885)

Music Plainsong
Mode v

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us and all people to serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **ALLELUYA, song of sweetness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluya is the anthem
Ever dear to choirs on high:
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.**

**Alleluya thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluya, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee;
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.**

**Alleluya cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluya our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.**

**Therefore in our hymns we pray thee,
Grant us, blessèd Trinity,
At the last to keep thine Easter
In our home beyond the sky,
There to thee for ever singing
Alleluya joyfully.**

Words Latin, possibly 11th century
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
and the Compilers of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*

Music. Tantum ergo (Webbe)
from Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)
Collection of Motets or Antiphons, 1792

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.
Amen.

All Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
Amen.

All Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
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 Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Passacaglia on a theme by Dunstable

John Weaver (1937-2021)

The procession departs

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

Collection – our response 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 - £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 St Matthew’s Guides,
Brownies and Rainbows who have generously financed
the production of this week’s service booklet.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

A Service of Prayer and Reflection for Lent

sung by the Choir

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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