

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 24 Year C



The parable of the unjust judge and the pleading widow

The Parish Mass

Sunday 19 October 2025

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

Live streaming Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

GDPR Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

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.



Welcome to our celebration today

Good morning. As we gather in faith and friendship, we hear God's Word reminding us of the importance of perseverance and trust. In his letter to Timothy, Paul encourages us to stay rooted in the scriptures and to hold fast to what we have learned, even when life feels uncertain or challenging. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow — a story about prayer that doesn't give up and faith that refuses to fade.

Today, we are invited to bring our own hopes and struggles before God with that same persistence and trust, confident that he hears us and walks with us in every circumstance. Nourished by this sacramental meal may this time of worship renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and remind us that God's justice and love are always at work — even when we cannot yet see the results.

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

I am neither a person of letters nor of science,
but I humbly claim to be a person of prayer.
It is prayer that has saved my life.
Without it I would have lost my reason long ago.
If I do not lose my peace of soul,
in the midst of my many trials,
it is because of the peace that came to me through prayer.
One can live several days without food, but not without prayer.
Prayer is the key to each morning,
and the lock to each evening.
It is a sacred alliance between God and us.
Let everyone try this experience,
and they will find that daily prayer will add something new to their lives,
something which cannot be found elsewhere.

Mahatma Gandhi

Prayer

Settings

The Salisbury Service [Gloria only]

Communion Service in F

Grayston Ives b.1948

Herbert Sumsion 1899-1995

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

**AWAKE, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.**

**Redeem thy misspent time that's past,
And live this day as if thy last:
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare.**

**Let all thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noontide clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.**

**Awake, awake, ye heavenly choir,
May your devotion me inspire,
That I like you my age may spend,
Like you may on my God attend.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Words Thomas Ken 1637-1711
François Hippolyte Barthélémon 1741-1808

Music Morning Hymn

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

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation of Confession

Prayer and faith are very closely connected.
It is because we have faith that we pray.
At the same time prayer sustains our faith.
We need to pray, not just when we are in trouble, but at all times.
Let us now turn to God, in whom our hope lies.

Confession

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly;
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, we lift up our eyes to you from whom our help comes.
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

You keep our feet from stumbling and our hearts from straying.
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

You guard our coming and going both now and for ever.
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon † and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

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 and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our 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

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the

message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Choir The word of God is living and active; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

All **Alleluia.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All



Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming."' And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and

night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

Luke 18.1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

At the end, a period of silent reflection

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 Jesus urged us to pray without ceasing. So let us now pray to God
for our own needs, and for the needs of the Church and the world.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, hear us,
All **Lord, mercifully hear us.**

Priest Lord, grant that what we have said with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may show forth in our lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Christ's Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest
The altar is prepared*

Hymn

All **THY hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page;
Our fathers owned thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least;
They bade men rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast;
And this was all their teaching,
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming
One Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**When shadows thick were falling,
And all seemed sunk in night,
Thou, Lord, didst send thy servants,
Thy chosen sons of light.
Their Gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, man restored,
Was all in this enfolded,
One Church, on faith, one Lord.**

**And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
And cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
Some better thing is stored;
We will maintain, unflinching,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave thy work undone;
With thy right hand to help us,
Thy victory shall be won;
And then, by men and angels,
Thy Name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.**

Words Edward Hayes Plumptre 1821-1891

Music Thornbury
Basil Harwood 1859-1949

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, grant us a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
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:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body † and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

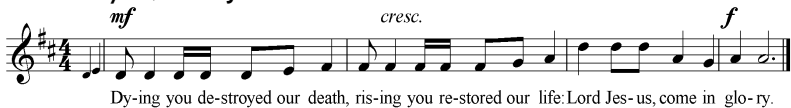
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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



So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary the Virgin Mother of God, Matthew,
and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption;
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

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.**

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

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him. On those who wait in hope for his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death and to feed them in time of famine.

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

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

Spiritual Communion – for those worshipping at home

Act of Reception

All In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.

The choir sings Agnus Dei

Motet

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

Hymn

All

**WHEREFORE, O Father, we thy humble servants
Here bring before thee Christ thy well-belovèd,
All-perfect offering, sacrifice immortal,
Spotless oblation.**

**See now thy children, making intercession
Through him our Saviour, Son of God incarnate,
For all thy people, living and departed,
Pleading before thee.**

Words William Jervois 1852-1905

Music Christe fons jugis
Philippe Dubois 1626-1694
Paris Antiphoner, 1681
Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

§ *All sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table
where you reign with all your saints for ever.

All

Amen.

Hymn

All

**CITY of God, how broad and far
Outspread thy walls sublime!
The true thy chartered freemen are
Of every age and clime.**

**One holy Church, one army strong,
One steadfast, high intent;
One working band, one harvest-song,
One King omnipotent.**

**How purely hath thy speech come down
From man's primeval youth!
How grandly hath thine empire grown
Of freedom, love and truth!**

**How gleam thy watchfires through the night
With never-fainting ray!
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,
To meet the dawning day!**

**In vain the surge's angry shock,
In vain the drifting sands;
Unharm'd upon the eternal rock
The eternal city stands.**

Words Samuel Johnson 1822-1882

*Music Richmond
Melody by Thomas Haweis 1734-1820
Harmony by Samuel Webbe 1768-1843*

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All God poured out his promised Holy Spirit in tongues of flame
on the day of Pentecost.
Amen.

All You have been baptized with the Spirit and with fire.
Amen.

All May that same Holy Spirit send you out to tell his story,
and give you a voice to glorify God before all people.
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

Toccata

Christopher Tambling 1964-2015

- § *Remain standing until the procession has departed*
- § *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

Choral Evensong and Benediction

*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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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY
Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk