

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Proper 17 Year C



Humbled and exalted at a wedding banquet

The Parish Mass

Sunday 31 August 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.



Introducing today's themes ...

Good morning, and welcome to our celebration on this Eleventh Sunday after Trinity. It is a joy to gather together as one family in Christ to worship, pray, and receive from Christ himself in Word and Sacrament.

Today's Gospel comes from Luke, where Jesus dines at the house of a Pharisee and teaches a powerful lesson on humility and generosity. As we hear him speak about choosing the lowest place and inviting those who cannot repay us, we are invited to reflect on our own attitudes toward status, recognition, and hospitality. In the kingdom of God, greatness is found in service, and blessing in giving without expecting return.

As we prepare to worship, let us open our hearts to receive from the living God, and allow ourselves to be shaped in the way we live, love, and welcome others in his name.

Let us now prepare ourselves for this sacred time by turning our thoughts to God in prayer.

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/prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Reflection

Lord, we thank you for having us as guests
at the banquet of the Eucharist.
Here we have listened to your word
and eaten the food of eternal life.
May we go forth from here nourished,
honoured, blessed, humbled yet exalted.
May we be so sure of our worth before you
that the honours of this world will never ensnare us.
And in your goodness grant us a place at the heavenly banquet.
Amen.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense

All

GLORY to thee, who safe hast kept
And hast refreshed me whilst I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake
I may of endless light partake.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing
High praise to the eternal King.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
Scatter my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will,
And with thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day
All I design, or do, or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
In thy sole glory may unite.

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

Music Tallis's Canon
Thomas Tallis c1505-1585

† 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 Mass is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate,
let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection

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, you are faithful in all your words,
and merciful in all your deeds:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You uphold all who fall,
and lift up those who are bowed down:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You are righteous in all your ways,
and near to those who call upon you:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May God our Father forgive † you your sins,
and bring you to the fellowship of his table
with his saints for ever.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All sing **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.

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God
in the holy scriptures,
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore



Reader Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest. **Response**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. **Response**

It goes well with those who are generous in lending
and order their affairs with justice,
For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance. **Response**

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
Their heart is sustained and will not fear,
until they see the downfall of their foes. **Response**

They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever;
their head will be exalted with honour. **Response**

The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair;
the desire of the wicked shall perish. **Response**

Psalms 112

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

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

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

Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,
and we shall come to them and make our home with them.
Alleluia.

All

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

All

All



He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Luke 14.1, 7-14

All



Homily

§ *Sit*

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 the giver of all good gifts. Let us now pray to him for our needs,
and for the needs of the Church and the world.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor Lord God Almighty,
All **hear us and help us.**

Priest Merciful God,
fill our hearts with your love.
Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness,
And keep us faithful to the Gospel of your Son.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our 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, and the altar is prepared.*
- § *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

Hymn

All

**SING, ye faithful, sing with gladness,
Wake your noblest, sweetest strain,
With the praises of your Saviour
Let his house resound again;
Him let all your music honour,
And your songs exalt his reign.**

**Sing how he came forth from heaven,
Bowed himself to Bethlehem's cave,
Stooped to wear the servant's vesture,
Bore the pain, the cross, the grave,
Passed with the gates of darkness,
Thence his banished ones to save.**

**So, he tasted death to save us,
He, of Adam's race the head,
Sinless one, among the sinful,
Prince of life, among the dead;
Thus he wrought the full redemption,
And the captor captive led.**

**Now on high, yet ever with us,
From his Father's throne the Son
Rules and guides the world he ransomed,
Till the appointed work be done,
Till he see, renewed and perfect,
All things gathered into one.**

**Alleluya to the Father,
Alleluya to the Son,
Alleluya to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one,
Consubstantial, coeternal,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

Words John Ellerton 1826-1893

Music Praise my soul
John Goss 1800-1880

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, may this sacred offering confer on us
the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

All

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

All

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and contains the lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,'. The second staff begins with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic, containing the lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

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

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Mindful that God is compassionate and rich in mercy,
let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour taught us:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

All

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

*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 to the communion rail as a sign. Thank you.*

Spiritual Communion – *for those joining us 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 **DRAW nigh, and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured,
Saved by that body, hallowed by that blood,
Whereby refreshed we render thanks to God.**

**Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son,
By that his cross and blood the victory won.
Offered was he for greatest and for least:
Himself the victim, and himself the priest.**

**Victims were offered by the law of old,
That, in a type, celestial mysteries told.
He, ransomer from death and light from shade,
Giveth his holy grace his saints to aid.**

**Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the safeguard of salvation here.
He that in this world rules his saints and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields:**

**With heavenly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
Alpha and Omega, to whom shall bow
All nations at the doom, is with us now.**

Words Latin, Bangor Antiphoner, late 7th century
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Anima Christi
William Maher 1823-1877

§ *A period of silent reflection and thanksgiving is observed*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one
true sacrifice which takes away our sins
and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

**YE that know the Lord is gracious,
Ye for whom a cornerstone
Stands, of God elect and precious,
Laid that ye may build thereon,
See that on that sure foundation
Ye a living temple raise,
Towers that may tell forth salvation,
Walls that may re-echo praise.**

**Living stones, by God appointed
Each to his allotted place,
Kings and priests, by God anointed,
Shall ye not declare his grace?
Ye, a royal generation,
Tell the tidings of your birth,
Tidings of a new creation
To an old and weary earth.**

**Tell the praise of him who called you
Out of darkness into light,
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,
Strength renewed and hope restored,
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,
Praise and magnify the Lord.**

Words Cyril Argentine Alington 1872-1955

*Music Lux eoi
Arthur Seymour Sullivan 1842-1900*

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May almighty God bless you in his kindness
 and pour out his saving wisdom upon you.
 Amen.

All May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith
 and make you persevere in holy deeds.
 Amen.

All May he turn your steps towards himself
 and show you the path of charity and 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 The Mass is ended, go in peace.
 Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Praeludium & Fugue in D minor BWV554

J S Bach (1685-1750)

§ *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 church. Do please join us.*

This evening at 5.30 pm
BCP Evening Prayer
is said in Quire

*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 19
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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