

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Proper 25 Year C



The parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector

The Parish Mass

Sunday 26 October 2025

10.15 am GMT

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.



Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on the true spirit of prayer and humility before God. In a world that often values wealth, status, and self-reliance, the Gospel reminds us that God's favour cannot be earned by outward achievements or good works alone.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus contrasts two attitudes of the heart. The Pharisee, confident in his own righteousness, stands apart and lists his virtues, believing that his actions make him deserving of God's blessing. The tax collector, aware of his sinfulness, simply prays, "*God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*" His humble and sincere prayer rises straight to heaven and wins God's forgiveness.

This morning's parable reminds us that God shows no partiality. He listens to the cry of the lowly and welcomes those who come to him with a contrite heart. True prayer is not about boasting of our goodness but about acknowledging our dependence on God's grace. As we gather to celebrate Mass, let us approach the Lord with humility and gratitude, trusting in his mercy and love.

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

sinner in church

If the Pharisee had his way the tax-collector
would not have been allowed into the Temple at all.
Some people believe that sinners should never go to church.
They cry 'hypocrites' at those who do.
According to them only saints should be admitted to church.
But that would result in a very small church,
and would make as little sense as a repair shop
that accepted only sound things,
or a hospital that accepted only healthy people.
We go to church not because we are worthy,
but because we need to.
We are brave enough to admit our sinfulness,
but are willing to strive for something better.
We need the healing mercy of God,
as well as the support of the community,
if our efforts at self-improvement are to bear fruit.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ **Stand** at the sound of the bell

Hymn

The procession enters

All

WHEN all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.

**Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant hearts conceived
From whom those comforts flowed.**

**When in the slippery paths of youth
With heedless steps I ran,
Thine arm unseen conveyed me safe,
And led my up to man.**

**When worn with sickness oft hast thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.**

**Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue,
And after death in distant worlds
The glorious theme renew.**

**Through all eternity to thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
For O eternity's too short
To utter all thy praise.**

Words Joseph Addison 1672-1719

Music Contemplation
Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley 1825-1889

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

The Greeting

All The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
 and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus told a story about a Pharisee and a tax-collector who went into the Temple to pray. The Pharisee boasted that he was not like other people. By this he meant that he was not a sinner. Today, we confess that we *are* sinners.

Let us now confess our sins to the Lord,
asking him to turn his face from our sins, but not from us.

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 Jesus, 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

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve † you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

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.

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
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 book Ecclesiasticus.

Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.
For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.
Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;
and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.
He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Ecclesiasticus 35.12-17

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

Psalm



Reader How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. **Response**

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. **Response**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion, **Response**

Who going through the barren valley find there a spring,
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.
They will go from strength to strength
and appear before God in Zion. **Response**

Psalms 84.1-6

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

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

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

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Luke 18.9-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, O Christ.

§ *At the end, a period of silent reflection*

The Nicene Creed

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

With humble but trustful hearts, let us pray to God
for our own needs and the needs of the Church and the world.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor
All

Lord, hear us;
in your mercy hear us.

Lord, give us the humility not to hide our weakness,
the wisdom to learn from our mistakes,
and in facing life's difficulties,
let us know that your grace will be sufficient for us.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

**TO the name that brings salvation
Praise and honour let us pray,
Which for many a generation
Hid in God's foreknowledge lay,
But to every tongue and nation
Holy Church proclaims today.**

**Jesus, be that name we treasure,
Name beyond what words can tell;
Name of gladness, name of pleasure,
Ear and heart delighting well;
Name of sweetness, passing measure,
Freeing souls from sin and hell.**

**Name that calls for adoration,
Name that speaks of victory,
Name for grateful meditation
In the vale of misery,
Name for loving veneration
By the citizens on high.**

**Name that whatsoever preaches
Makes sweet music to the ear;
Who in prayer this name beseeches
Finds divinest comfort near;
Joyful then the heart that reaches
To embrace that name so dear.**

Name by hard-won right exalted
Over every other name;
And when we are sore assaulted
Puts our enemies to shame:
Shame to them that else had halted,
Sight to blind, and health to lame.

Jesu, we thy name adoring,
Long to see thee as thou art:
Of thy clemency imploring
So to write it in our heart.
That hereafter, upward soaring,
We with angels may have part.

Where thou reignest with the Father,
Thou the everlasting Son,
Where with the eternal Spirit,
Threefold God, yet ever one,
May our eyes behold thy splendour
When our earthly course is done.

Words Latin c15th century
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866
and the Editors of *The New English Hymnal*, 1986

Music Oriel
Caspar Ett: 1788-1847
Cantica Sacra, 1840

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, in your majesty look favourably we pray
on the offerings we make,
that, whatever is done by us in your service,
may be directed above all to your glory.
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Above the staff, the dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f* are marked. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again." The text is aligned with the notes: "Christ has died:" under the first four notes, "Christ is risen:" under the next four notes, and "Christ will come again." under the final four 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

Seeking the salvation of the world,
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

May we rejoice in your salvation and triumph in the name of our God.

§ *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. Thank you.*

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.

Hymn

All **BLEST are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God,
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King.**

**Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for thee.**

Words John Keble 1792-1866 and others

Music Franconia
William Henry Havergal 1793-1870
adapted from a melody on Johann Balthasar König 1691-1758
Harmonischer Liederschatz, 1738

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

**IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest – to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish – but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

Words Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908

Music St Denio
adapted from a Welsh song set to a hymn
in John Roberts 1807-1876 *Caniadau y Cyssegre*, 1839

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 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Toccata in C

Johann Pachelbel 1653-1706

§ 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

Evening Prayer

said in Quire

*Our thanks are due to Mark and Mandy Ludlow
who have 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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