

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Year A



*John declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world!'*

The Parish Mass

in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 18 January 2026

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-related 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 Mass on this Second Sunday of Epiphany.

In this season of revelation, we continue to reflect on how God makes himself known in the world and in our lives.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points beyond himself and bears witness to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Those first disciples respond not with full understanding, but with curiosity and trust and, in being named and called by Jesus, their lives begin to change. In our reading from Saint Paul, we are reminded that we too are called by God, held in grace, and drawn into fellowship with Christ and with one another.

As we gather, may our worship together help us to recognise Christ in our midst, to listen for his call, and to follow where he leads. Whether you are a regular member of this parish or visiting today, you are very welcome here. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God together.

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

Jesus, the gentle lamb of God, died for our sins.
Ours were the sufferings that he bore,
ours the sorrows that he carried.
For we had all gone astray like sheep,
and God burdened him with the sins of all of us.
Though harshly treated, he bore it humbly,
never opening his mouth to complain.
Nor was there anyone to plead his cause.
Through his sufferings he has won pardon for all of us,
and through his wounds we are healed.

Setting

The Salisbury Service

Grayston Ives b. 1948

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn

§ *The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense*

All **GOD is working his purpose out,
 As year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
 And the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
 The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea.**

**From utmost east to utmost west
 Where e'er man's foot hath trod,
By the mouth of many messengers
 Goes forth the voice of God,
'Give ear to me, ye continents,
 Ye isles, give ear to me,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea.'**

**What can we do to work God's work,
 To prosper and increase
The fellowship of all mankind,
 The reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
 The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea.**

**March we forth in the strength of God
With the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious Gospel of truth
May shine throughout the world;
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,
To set their captives free,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.**

**All we can do is nothing worth
Unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest tide
Till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.**

Words Arthur Campbell Ainger 1841-1919

*Music Banson
Millicent Douglas Kingham 1866-1927
Church Hymns, 1093*

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

The Greeting

**All The Lord of glory be with you
and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who has sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

Silence for reflection

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

Lord Jesus, you were pierced for our faults.
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

You bore our sufferings and sorrows.
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Through your wounds we are healed.
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

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

Gloria in Excelsis

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 God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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 First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Corinthians 1.1-9

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response

Philip Moore



I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He brought me out of the roaring pit,
out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure. **Response**

He has put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
many shall see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.
Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie. **Response**

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us!
There is none that can be compared with you.
If I were to proclaim them and tell of them
they would be more than I am able to express. **Response**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire
but my ears you have opened;
Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required;
then said I: 'Lo, I come. **Response**

'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God;
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.' **Response**

I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation;
behold, I did not restrain my lips,
and that, O Lord, you know. **Response**

Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth
from the great congregation.
Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord;
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me. **Response**

Psalms 40.1-12

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Choir Blessings of the King who comes in the name of the Lord:
peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

All **Alleluia.**

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

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

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



John saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus,

who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

John 1.29-42

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

At the end, a time of quiet 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 Let us pray that the light of God's salvation
may reach the ends of the earth.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, we pray to you:
you are our health and salvation.

After the final petition

Priest Father, we make all our prayers through Christ,
who came on earth to reconcile us to you and to one another,
and who now lives 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

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

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 presented at the dais step,
and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and laid at the foot of the altar.
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.*

All **O THOU, who at thy eucharist didst pray
That all thy Church might be for ever one,
Grant us at every eucharist to say
With longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done.'
O may we all one bread, one body be,
One through this sacrament of unity.**

**For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
Draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
By drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace:
Thus may we all one bread, one body be,
One through this sacrament of unity.**

**We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;
O bring them back, Good Shepherd of the sheep,
Back to the faith which saints believed of old,
Back to the Church which still that faith doth keep:
Soon may we all one bread, one body be,
One through this sacrament of unity.**

**So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
May we be one with all thy Church above,
One with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
One with thy saints in one unbounded love:
More blessed still, in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity in unity.**

Words William Henry Turton 1856-1938

Music Song I
Melody and bass by Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

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, grant that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
We ask this through 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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

For at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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 voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, and then a half note B. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with a half note C, followed by a quarter note D, and then a half note E. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are written below the second staff. The score includes dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte) above the first staff, *cresc.* (crescendo) above the second staff, and *f* (forte) above the final measure of the second staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
 this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
 and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
 in the presence of your divine majesty,
 renew us by your Spirit,
 inspire us with your love
 and unite us in the body of your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
 we worship you, Father almighty,
 in songs of everlasting praise:

All



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated, and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
 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

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:

All **we being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Into one body we were all baptized,

All **and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

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

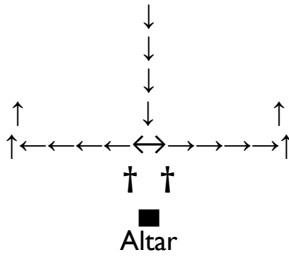
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Giving of Communion

We have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us.

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing as indicated below. If you wish to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.



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

Choir I give to you a new commandment

Peter Nardone b.1965

Hymn

All

**JUST as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Words Charlotte Elliott 1789-1871

Music Saffron Walden
Arthur Henry Brown 1830-1936

§ All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of 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 **THE race that long in darkness pined
Have seen a glorious light;
The people dwell in day, who dwelt
In death's surrounding night.**

**To hail thy rise, thou better sun,
The gathering nations come,
Joyous as when the reapers bear
The harvest-treasures home.**

**To us a child of hope is born,
To us a son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
Him all the hosts of heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
For evermore adored;
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
The great and mighty Lord.**

**His power increasing still shall spread;
His reign no end shall know:
Justice shall guard his throne above,
And peace abound below.**

Words John Morison 1750-1798
based on *Isaiah* 9:2-7

Music Dundee
Melody from *Scottish Psalter*, 1615
Harmony as in Thomas Ravenscroft c1588-1635 *Psalmes*, 1621

§ Sit

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May the Lord keep your feet from stumbling
and your hearts from straying.
Amen.

All May the Lord deliver you from your sins
so that you may walk in the joy and freedom of the children of God.
Amen.

All May the sufferings of Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God,
help you to bear your sufferings with patience and fortitude.
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 out into the world in peace,
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Finale

Alfred Hollins 1865-1942

- § *Please 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 4.00 pm

Epiphany Carol Service

followed by refreshments in the parish centre

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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