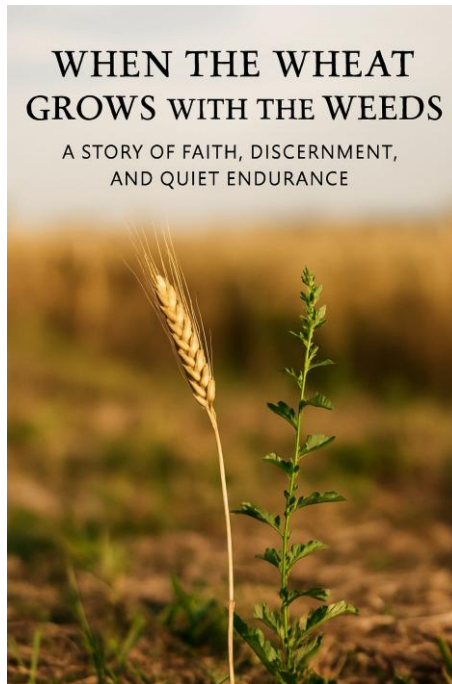


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Proper 11 Year A



The Parish Mass

Sunday 19 July 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ben Drouet safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk 01604 791251

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk 01733 887040

If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

If you would prefer not to appear online, please sit in one of the side aisles or speak to a welcomer or churchwarden, who will be happy to help you find seating outside the filmed area.

Where appropriate, consent is obtained for individuals who are intentionally featured in livestreams, recordings, photographs, or other church media. Please speak to a churchwarden or welcomer if you would like further information about livestreaming arrangements.

Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



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.



Good morning and a very warm welcome to St Matthew's, whether you are a regular member of our congregation or visiting us today.

As we gather around the Lord's altar, we come not because life is perfect or because our faith is complete, but because Christ calls us to himself. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that good and evil often grow side by side in the world, and even within our own hearts. Yet God is patient, merciful and slow to condemn. He is always at work, nurturing goodness until the day of his harvest.

As we worship this morning through word and sacrament, may the Holy Spirit deepen our trust in God's patient love, strengthen us to persevere in goodness, and renew us as faithful servants of Christ.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins and to save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments after Mass. The following prayer may be found helpful:

Heavenly Father,
you have called us into your presence
and gathered us as the family of your Church.
Quieten our hearts,
set aside the distractions of this passing world,
and open our ears to hear your living word.
As we worship you in spirit and in truth,
fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit,
that, receiving the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may be strengthened to serve you faithfully
and grow in the likeness of Christ,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

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*

All

**HAPPY are they, they that love God,
Whose hearts have Christ confessed,
Who by his cross have found their life,
And 'neath his yoke their rest.**

**Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs,
When they together sing;
And strong the prayers that bow the ear
Of heaven's eternal King.**

**Christ to their homes giveth his peace,
And makes their loves his own:
But ah, what tares the evil one
Hath in his garden sown!**

**Sad were our lot, evil this earth,
Did not its sorrows prove
The path whereby the sheep may find
The fold of Jesu's love.**

**Then shall they know, they that love him,
How all their pain is good;
And death itself cannot unbind
Their happy brotherhood.**

Words Robert Seymour Bridges 1844-1930
based in the Latin of Charles Coffin 1676-1749

Music Binchester
William Croft 1678-1727

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

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He knows our weakness,
yet never ceases to call us into the fullness of life.
Therefore, with confidence in his unfailing love,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and seek his forgiveness and peace.

Silence is kept

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 sow the good seed of your kingdom
and call us to bear fruit that will last:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are patient with our weakness
and never cease to call sinners home:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you will gather your faithful into your eternal kingdom;
keep us steadfast in hope until that day:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive † you your sins
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 Wisdom of Solomon.

There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people,
to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly.

For your strength is the source of righteousness,
and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

For you show your strength

 when people doubt the completeness of your power,
and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.

Although you are sovereign in strength,

 you judge with mildness,

and with great forbearance you govern us;

for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people

 that the righteous must be kind,

and you have filled your children with good hope,

 because you give repentance for sins.

Wisdom of Solomon 12.13, 16-19

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Response



Choir Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you,
that I may fear your name. **Response**

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore;
For great is your steadfast love towards me,
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. **Response**

O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.
But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth. **Response**

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me. **Response**

Psalm 86.11-17

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation

1. Choir only
2. Choir and Congregation



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

Choir May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!’

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

The musical notation is for a short piece in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody starts on a quarter note D4, followed by a quarter note E4, then a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a half note A4, then a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The piece ends with a half note D4. The word 'f' (forte) is written above the first half note A4. The lyrics 'Praise to you, O Christ.' are written below the notes, with 'Praise' under the first half note, 'to you,' under the next two quarter notes, 'O' under the next quarter note, and 'Christ.' under the final half note.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

§ At the end a time for personal 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 to our heavenly Father,
whose strength is always tempered by mercy,
and whose patient love never gives up on the world he has made.
Trusting in his goodness, let us bring before him the needs of the Church,
the world, and all for whom we pray.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father, on the day of death,
the harvest of our life will be poured out before you,
wheat and weeds together.
Let your wise hand sift through it;
then keep what is worth keeping,
and with the breath of your kindness blow the rest away.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

- § *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All

**ETERNAL ruler of the ceaseless round
Of circling planets singing on their way;
Guide of the nations from the night profound
Into the glory of the perfect day;
Rule in our hearts, that we may ever be
Guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.**

**We are of thee, children of thy love,
The brethren of thy well-belovèd Son;
Descend, O Holy Spirit, like a dove,
Into our hearts, that we may be as one:
As one with thee, to whom we ever tend;
As one with him, our brother and our friend.**

**We would be one in hatred of all wrong,
One in our love of all things sweet and fair,
One with the joy that breaketh into song,
One with the grief that trembleth into prayer,
One in the power that makes thy children free
To follow truth, and thus to follow thee.**

**O clothe us with thy heavenly armour, Lord,
Thy trusty shield, thy sword of love divine;
Our inspiration be thy constant word;
We ask no victories that are not thine:
Give or withhold, let pain or pleasure be;
Enough to know that we are serving thee.**

Words John White Chadwick 1840-1904

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

Lord God,
from your generous hand we have received
the bread and wine that we now offer at your altar.
Sanctify these gifts by your Holy Spirit,
that they may become for us the Body and Blood of your Son,
and grant that, nourished by this heavenly food,
we may bear the fruits of righteousness to the glory of your name;
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.

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

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 5/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second staff continues the melody, marked with a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) and the time signature changes to 4/4 for the final line. The lyrics are written below the 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,
St Matthew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

All

A- men.

The musical score for 'Amen' is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of a simple melody of four notes: A, Bb, A, and G, ending with a double bar line.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered around the Lord's table,
and trusting in the patient love of our heavenly Father,
let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour has given 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 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:
**We being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

All Into one body we were all baptized,
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.**

The clergy receive Holy communion

Giving of Communion

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
he appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds;
he gave food to those who feared him.

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 Lead me, Lord *Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876*

Hymn

Choir O most merciful! O most bountiful!
 God the Father almighty!
 By the Redeemer's sweet intercession,
 Hear us, help us when we cry.

Words Reginald Heber 1783-1826

Music Schönster Herr Jesu (Heber)
 Melody from *Münster Gesengbuch*, 1677

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
 ever giving himself that the world may live:
 may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion
 that, in his saving cup,
 we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
 for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

**Hope of our calling: hope through courage won
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.
Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,
Will bring his gospel to a waiting world.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,
To live for God in all we say and do.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,
From death's despair the gift of life restored;
Our call to serve, to wash each other's feet,
To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.**

**Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold
To sow God's righteousness throughout the world;
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,
The kingdom's harvest from the kingdom's seeds.**

**Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

Words Ally Barrett b.1975

Music Woodlands
Walter Greathorex 1877-1949

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May you go on growing in the knowledge and love
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

All May the Lord help you to resist evil and conquer it with good.
Amen.

All May you be filled with a joyful trust in God,
and never tire of doing what is right.
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

Concert Piece Op 52a

Flor Peeters 1903-1986

§ *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 served in church, please do join us
- § If you are a newcomer to the parish or area please introduce yourself to one of 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 Mandy and Mark 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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