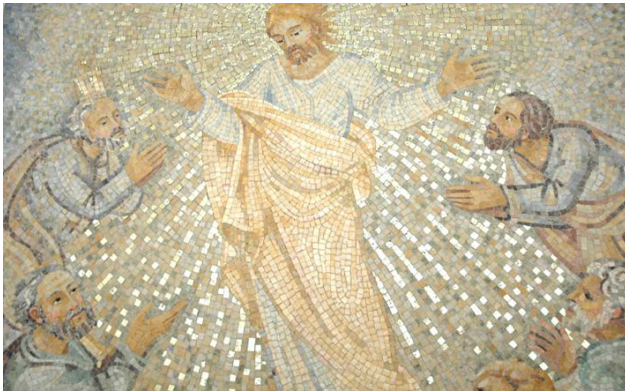


The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Year A



Waiting for the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Prayer

The Parish Mass

Sunday 17 May 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-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

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

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

This morning's Gospel reading is a solemn prayer, part of the 'farewell discourse' of Jesus at the Last Supper. In the first part Jesus talks about the 'hour', that is, the hour of his death and resurrection. During his life on earth Jesus' whole concern had been to make the Father known. Now it is the Father's turn to glorify him.

The second part is the opening part of Jesus' prayer for his disciples. He prays for those whom he leaves behind to carry on his work. He had made the Father known to them. Now he commits them to the Father's care and prays that they may know among themselves the warm communion of the Father and the Son.

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

Our spirit is our greatest source of energy.
However, whilst it can be very strong,
it can also be very brittle.
What is it that enables the spirit to soar,
and what is it that causes it to sink?
Sadness weighs it down; joy lifts it up.
Criticism erodes it; praise builds it up.
Failure shrinks it; success enlarges it.
Despair causes it to wilt; hope breathes new life into it.
Rejection wounds it; acceptance heals it.
Hatred poisons it; love purifies it.
Fear cripples it; solitude calms it;
prayer strengthens it.

Settings

The Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)

David Thorne b.1950

Communion Service in E

Harold Darke 1888-1976

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

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

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 within 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.**

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

Words John Ellerton 1826-1893

Music Praise my soul
John Goss 1800-1880

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Easter Acclamation

All Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

A pause for reflection

Confession

All **O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, through the gift of the Holy Spirit
you strengthen us in times of trial.
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

You console us in times of sorrow.
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

You guide us in times of darkness and doubt.
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † 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.

O God the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place
 where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
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,
to discover further the meaning of this joyful Eastertide,
let us listen attentively to the Good News of the risen
and ascended Lord.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

The Acts of the Apostles

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers

Acts 1.12-14

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

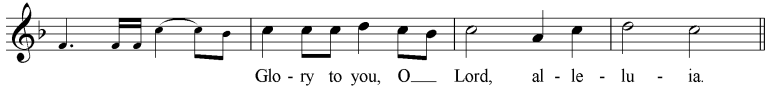
Psalm

Simon Lesley



Choir Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;
let those that hate him flee before him.
As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away;
as wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. **Response**

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



Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

John 17.1-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

At the end, a time for personal reflection

The Apostles' Creed

§ Stand

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Let us pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit on us,
on the Church, and on the world.

§ Kneel

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, with us always
All **hear us and help us.**

After the final petition

Priest God of love, open our hearts to the coming of the Holy Spirit,
so that we may follow your Son more faithfully on earth,
and come to share his glory in heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

The risen and ascended Lord now reigns at God's right hand.
He is the Prince of Peace. Alleluia.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and placed under the altar.
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All **AT the name of Jesus
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations,
Stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders,
In their great array.**

**Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed:**

**Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures,
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him;
There let him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
He is God the Saviour,
He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped,
Trusted, and adored.**

**Surely, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
In the Father's glory,
With his angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.**

Words Caroline Maria Noel 1817-1877

Music Evelyns
William Henry Monk 1823-1889

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 our prayers rise up before you as incense,
that, together with these fruits of your creation,
we may be purified by your gracious favour,
and conformed to the mystery of your love.
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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,
who calls us to be united in prayer
as were his disciples in the upper room
while they awaited his promised gift,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

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

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

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



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,
the apostles and 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



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated. Bells are rung.

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

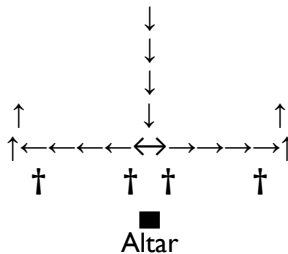
The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever, alleluia.

§ *Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion, as indicated below.*

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



Spiritual Communion – *for those watching 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 Coelos ascendit hodie
Jesus Christus Rex Gloriam:
Sedet ad Patris dexteram,
Gubernat coelum et terram.
Iam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina.
Iam Dominus cum Domino,
Sedet in Dei solio;
In hoc triumpho maximo
Benedicamus Domino.
Laudatur Sancta Trinitas,
Deo dicamus gratias,
Alleluia. Amen.

*Today into the heavens has ascended
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia!
He sits at the Father's right hand,
and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia!
Now have been fulfilled all of
Father David's songs,
Now God is with God, Alleluia!
He sits upon the royal throne of God,
in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia!
Let us bless the Lord:
Let the Holy Trinity be praised,
let us give thanks to the Lord,
Alleluia! Amen.*

Music Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924

Hymn

All

**O CHRIST, our hope, our hearts' desire,
Redemption's only spring;
Creator of the world art thou,
Its Saviour and its King.**

**How vast the mercy and the love
Which laid our sins on thee,
And led thee to a cruel death,
To set thy people free.**

**But now the bands of death are burst,
The ransom has been paid;
And thou art on thy Father's throne
In glorious robes arrayed.**

**O may thy mighty love prevail
Our sinful souls to spare;
O may we come before thy throne
And find acceptance there!**

**O Christ, be thou our present joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory may it be
To glory in the Lord.**

**All praise to thee, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity. Amen.**

Words Latin, c8th cent
tr John Chandler 1806-1876

Music Metzler's Redhead no. 66
Richard Redhead 1820-1901

Prayer after Communion

§ *All are seated for a period of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Eternal God,
giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

All **SING alleluia forth ye saints on high,
And let the Church on earth make glad reply:
To Christ the King, sing alleluia!**

**To him who is both Word of God and Son,
Who, out of love, our nature did put on:**

**To him who, born of Mary, shared our life,
And in our manhood triumphed in the strife:**

**To him who did for all our sins atone,
In naked majesty on Calvary's throne:**

**To him who rose victorious from the dead,
And reigns on high, his people's Lord and head:**

**To him who sent the Holy Spirit's grace,
To bear the Father's love to every race:**

**To him, the universal Saviour, now
Let every knee in adoration bow:
*To Christ the King, sing alleluia!***

Words George Boorne Timms 1910-1997

Music Martins
Percy Carter Buck 1871-1947

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
Amen.

All God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
Amen.

All God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Sung Dismissal

Deacon



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

All



In the name of Christ, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

§ Please turn to face the Madonna and Child sculpture

Regina Caeli

All **Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluya** (9 rings)
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluya
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluya
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluya.

All Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluya
for the Lord is risen indeed, alleluya.

God of life, you have given joy to the world (9 rings)
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,
bring us to the happiness of eternal life;
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.** Music The Easter Hymn

Organ Voluntary

Heut triumphiret Gottes Sohn BWV 630

J S Bach 1685-1750

- § *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 the parish centre, 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 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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