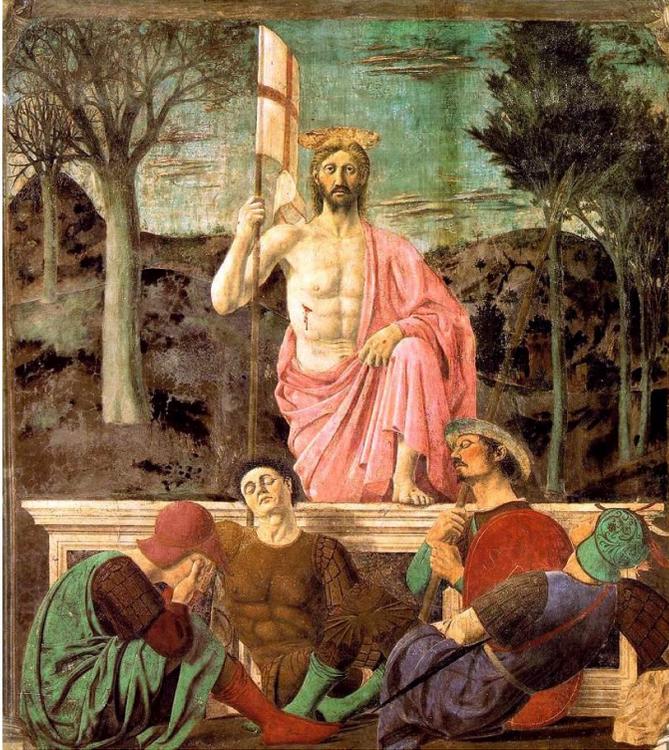


St Matthew's Westminster



The Sunday Mass

The Fifth Sunday
of Easter

May 2nd, 2021



It is a privilege to welcome visitors, pilgrims and regular worshippers to St Matthew's, and it is our duty to be concerned for the safety of everyone. Please wear a mask for the duration of the service.

During this time of heightened concern about possible infection, only the consecrated bread will be offered to the congregation at Mass. The Church teaches that Christ is fully present in each of the elements, and that receiving the bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

The congregation is currently not allowed to sing in church, so please participate by listening to the Choir's offering. Also we ask you to share the Peace by offering a gesture of peace rather than the traditional handshake.

St Matthew's is the house of God, it is a place of hope and of healing and we are delighted that here we can meet in confidence to give thanks to God in whom there is fullness of life.

Please ensure mobile telephones are switched off for the duration of the service.

For those who are hard of hearing the church has an inductive loop system. Please set your hearing aid to the T position during the liturgy.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who are gluten intolerant. Please ask for this before the service begins.

If you are new to St Matthew's and would like to know more about our life, please speak to one of the clergy.

The Mass is at the heart of our life together and the place where we encounter Christ in word and sacrament. Before the service begins we keep a time of silence, preparing quietly for the service.

Mass Setting

Missa Brevis in C

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Organ Prelude

No.1 from Six Introductory Improvisations.

'Beside the Still Waters'.

William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

When the bell rings, please stand for the entry of servers and clergy. As the Introit is sung, the Altar and the Book of The Gospels are blessed with incense.

Introit

*Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88

Music: Love Divine (CP 516), John Stainer (1840-1901)

INTRODUCTORY RITE

The Greeting

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The priest welcomes the people.

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The priest pronounces absolution.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Please stand for
The Collect

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 8. 26-end

A Reading from the Acts of The Apostles

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22. 25-end

My praise is of thee in the great congregation; my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him. The poor shall eat, and be satisfied, they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for ever. All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him. For the kingdom is the Lord's and he is the Governor among the people. All such as be fat upon earth have eaten, and worshipped. All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him, and no man hath quickened his own soul.

Second Reading

1 John 3. 16-24

A Reading from The First Letter of St John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Acclamation of The Gospel (*stand*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death:
and to those in the grave he has given life. Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

St John 15. 1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon Fr Philip Chester

The Nicene Creed

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.

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.

The Prayers of The People

(please stand or sit as preferred)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

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

All

We are invited to exchange a gesture of peace with our neighbour.

Offertory Anthem

Ubi caritas
Nils Greenhow

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

*Where charity and love are, there is God.
The love of Christ has brought us together into one flock.
Let us rejoice and be glad in that love. Let us fear and love the living God.
And let us love from a pure heart. Amen.*

during the anthem the Altar is prepared. Once prepared, the Altar, with the gifts of bread and wine upon it, is blessed with incense. The clergy & congregation are also censured.

Orate Fratres

Priest Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.
All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The priest says a prayer over the gifts of bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer *(please stand)*

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

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

... for ever praising you and saying:

Sanctus & Benedictus

Priest Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died;**

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Priest ... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A short time of silence is kept at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Holy Communion

*The Celebrant invites the congregation to receive Communion,
and all respond*

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

A note for visitors - anyone who receives Holy Communion at their own church is welcome to do so at this service. If for any reason you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Those joining us online are invited to make an Act of Spiritual Reception, saying the words of this prayer.

*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things,
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul so that
I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.*

Prayer of St Alphonsus

Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

Postcommunion Anthem

*From glory to glory
Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)*

We are singing this anthem in memory of Richard Lloyd who died last weekend. He began his musical life as a chorister at Lichfield Cathedral. At the age of 18 he became the organ scholar of Jesus College Cambridge. From there he moved to Salisbury Cathedral as Assistant Organist and then to Hereford as Organist and Master of the Choristers in 1966. In 1974 he took up a similar position at Durham Cathedral where he wrote the majority of his compositions. His liturgical music stands out as some of the most rewarding church music of our time. May he rest in peace and in the words of the anthem, advance from glory to glory.

The Postcommunion Prayer

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

the priest pronounces God's Blessing, which is followed by the Dismissal.

The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Regina Coeli

*This anthem to the Blessed Virgin Mary dates from the 12th century,
and it is sung every day from Easter to Pentecost.*

*Regina caeli, laetare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

*V Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
R For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

*O God, who by the resurrection of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, brought joy to the whole world:
grant that, aided by the prayers of his Mother,
the Virgin Mary,
we may know the joys of eternal life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear. Alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!)*

Organ Postlude

Fugue in G minor (transcribed by W.T. Best)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

BULLETIN

Ascension Day

Forty days after Christ's resurrection we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday 13th May at 18.30. Then begins a *Novena of Prayer* for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate at the feast of Pentecost. Resources will be available for this communal time of prayer.

Annual Church Meeting

On Pentecost Sunday we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting after Mass. This is an important moment in the life of our church, at which we present accounts for the year past and elect our Churchwardens, officers and members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Do please come to this meeting if you can, which will be followed by refreshments in the Courtyard.

Back to Church Sunday

With the expected lifting of Covid restrictions on 21st June we are proposing to have a *Back to Church Sunday* on 27th June, with special music and a reception after the service to celebrate the new normal. Make a note of the date, and bring your friends!

Oremus

Oremus is our weekly list of people and needs remembered in our daily prayer at St Matthew's. If there is anyone you would like to be included please give details to Daniel, in person or via email (Daniel@stmw.org).

Website

As our online presence grows our church website is more important than ever. It is currently having a Spring-clean to help make it more useful. Do have a look – www.stmw.org - any reactions, positive or negative, are welcome. Thanks to Daniel for helping keep it fresh.

Weekly Newsletter

If you would like to receive our E-Newsletter, which is sent out on Friday each week, please sign up via the website.

SERVICES AT SMW

Sunday

09.00 Low Mass (BCP) *St Michael's Chapel*

11.00 Solemn Mass *

Monday

09.00 Morning Prayer *Lady Chapel*

13.00 Low Mass *Lady Chapel*

Tuesday

09.00 Morning Prayer *Lady Chapel*

Wednesday

09.00 Morning Prayer *Lady Chapel*

13.00 Low Mass *Church*

18.30 Evensong (Plainsong) *Lady Chapel* *

Thursday

09.00 Morning Prayer *Lady Chapel*

Friday

09.00 Morning Prayer *Lady Chapel*

* Starred services are also live streamed, and can be accessed via our website or Facebook page

DIRECTORY

<i>Vicar</i>	Fr Philip Chester
<i>Assistant Priests</i>	Fr Peter Hanaway, Fr Jonathan Aitken, Mthr Sarah Lenton, Fr Michael Skinner
<i>Director of Music</i>	Nigel Groome
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Simon Lello, Mary Brown
<i>Pastoral Assistant</i>	Daniel Binder
<i>Operations Director</i>	Jon Siddall
<i>School Head Teacher</i>	Rachel Jewitt
<i>Conference Centre Manager</i>	Enver Sengul

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