

St Matthew's – Holy Communion

10.45am 26th January 2025

Service Leader: Jeremy Sargent

Preacher: Christine Barkley

Welcome to St Matthew's. Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. Children leave for Children's Church after the All Together song, returning at midday.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during our offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

Welcome & Notices

Opening Words

God in Christ has revealed his glory.
Come let us worship.



From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

Song

- Give thanks to our Lord



Saying Sorry (Confession)

St Paul says
'Be imitators of God;
love as Christ loved;
do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God,
who forgives us in Christ.



Father eternal, giver of light and grace,

we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,

in what we have thought,

in what we have said and done,

through ignorance,

through weakness,

through our own deliberate fault.

We have wounded your love,

and marred your image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed,

and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son

Jesus Christ,

who died for us,

forgive us all that is past;

and lead us out from darkness

to walk as children of light.

Amen.

Forgiveness (Absolution)

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Baptism

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**



Presentation of the Candidate

[The minister addresses the congregation]

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents, the Church receives these candidates with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents, baptism begins a journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

[Water is poured into the font]

Prayer Over the Water

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptised in the River Jordan, where your Spirit

came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptised in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Decision

Parents, in baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

[The sign of the cross is made on the candidate's forehead]

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

[The congregation stand]

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

[The congregation sit]

Baptism

[Name], I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

Giving of a Candle

Receive this light.

This is to show you have passed out of darkness into light.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith. We are children of the same heavenly Father.

We welcome you!

All Together Song

- **What kind of man is this?**



(Children leave for their groups.)

- **Worthy of every song**



Intercessions

These responses may be used
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.



At the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the
poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
Amen.



Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Song

- The splendour of the King

1st Bible Reading:

- Psalm 113

[at the end]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



2nd Bible Reading:

- 3 John 1:1-8

[at the end]

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



Sermon



Response/Offertory Song

- Bless my soul, O my soul



Offertory Prayer



Closing Words

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.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

**Blessing, honour and glory
be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.